

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Offshore Wind Team Support

Office: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, NOAA Fisheries) - West Coast Region

Position Title: NOAA West Coast Offshore Wind Team Support Lead

Position Location: Options for in-person, remote, or hybrid. NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region has offices in OR, WA, and CA ([see map here](#)).

Special Consideration: Must be a US citizen

Program Overview: [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service](#) (NMFS or NOAA Fisheries) is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat. Our role in offshore wind energy development (Offshore Wind) is focused on minimizing the impacts to living marine resources, their habitats and the ecosystem upon which they depend, and fishing opportunities throughout the planning, siting, and development stages and through our mandates. We do this by: providing scientific information; consultations with BOEM and other federal agencies to meet the requirements of various laws and regulations; providing recommendations during environmental assessments; conducting research and monitoring; and providing information on fisheries operations and the potential socioeconomic impacts of offshore wind projects on fishing communities. The NMFS [West Coast Regional Office](#), and [Northwest](#) and [Southwest](#) Fisheries Science Centers stood up an Offshore Wind team to work on these activities and help with internal coordination, priority setting, product development, and external engagement on our program areas of protected species, habitat, fish and fisheries, and ecosystem. The fellow would work with the Chair of this team and team members on a diverse suite of activities and be able to select a specific project for a deep-dive based on their skill set and interest.

How this position specifically relates to marine and coastal policy: NMFS' Offshore Wind work is focused largely on the marine environment, however, there will also be considerations of the nearshore environment because cables will run from offshore areas to land. Additionally, there will be operations to support Offshore Wind along the coast and related port expansions.

Summary of the fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope: At least half the time will be devoted to supporting our Offshore Wind team activities, including logistical and administrative support for that. The fellow would also select a specific focused project. There will be a mix of video calls with team members (full team and smaller groups of the team), project sponsor lead / Offshore Wind team Chair, and individual focused work. For work supporting the team, the fellow would work on crafting agendas, tracking follow up actions, planning and strategizing with the Chair, helping to pull together smaller team calls, potentially helping to coordinate input and comments on various documents, and working with mentors/leads of different divisions. The Fellow will also take on projects, at the direction of the team, to conduct policy reviews, compile information, analyze public comment letters, and draft documents.

Approximate breakdown of field/office work: All work is expected to be in the office (physically or virtually). However, there may be opportunities for some extracurricular learning activities in the field with some of our staff, depending on location and other logistics. We have a network of interns and fellows that often plan learning activities as well.

The communities or stakeholders with which the fellow may engage:

- fishing industry, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council

- tribes
- state agencies
- other federal agencies
- NGOs
- Offshore Wind developers

Desired products from the fellow:

- Logistical items for team administration and support, such as agendas, notes, project trackers, document editing and compilation.
- Other products will depend on the project selected and the various activities the team will work on during the fellowship term.
- A presentation (virtual or in-person) to the WCOA membership on Fellow's project(s)
- At least one blog post about the Fellow's experience

Potential benefits of this position to the fellow: (Bulleted list)

- Learn about Offshore Wind issues on the West Coast and support siting and environmental review processes;
- Experience (directly or indirectly) with implementation of federal laws including the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, and National Environmental Policy Act
- Learn about NMFS West Coast scientific enterprise; experience with supporting both large and small team work.
- Additional experience gained will depend on the nature of the project selected.
- Networking with Tribal, Federal, and State governments addressing coastal and ocean issues on the West Coast
- Attendance of WCOA in-person and virtual meetings
- Opportunity to amplify your work regionally, along the West Coast

Skills required:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Google docs and sheets
- Highly organized and detail-oriented
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Project management
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Experience or ability to work with people with diverse backgrounds.
- For other potential projects -- additional skills depending on the project of interest, and some examples include:
 - Objective, detailed, and creative research skills
 - Organizational skills with large sets of documents
 - Ability to synthesize and summarize large amounts of information

Skills preferred:

- Graduate degree in environmental studies, natural resource management, marine affairs, marine science, geography, public affairs, communications, or social sciences.
- For the Offshore Wind team support:
 - Conceptual understanding of the potential ecological and social effects of offshore wind energy development and/or marine resources issues along the U.S. West Coast

- For other potential projects -- additional skills depending on the project of interest, and some examples include:
 - Experience working with qualitative and quantitative data analysis software such as ATLAS.ti, R, Python, or other similar tools.
 - Experience with Federal Register public comment documents
 - Experience with environmental analyses (eg under NEPA, ESA, MSA)
 - Experience with West Coast fisheries