Science Integration Fellow

California Ocean Science Trust & Partnership for the Interdisciplinary Study of Coastal Oceans

Updated and re-advertised with extended duration

Synopsis

The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) and the Partnership for the Interdisciplinary Study of Coastal Oceans, Santa Cruz (PISCO) are pleased to announce the availability of an 18-month Science Integration Fellowship, to be filled by a creative, skilled, outgoing individual with a demonstrated commitment to developing innovative approaches for science integration into ocean resource policy and management. This Fellowship represents an exciting opportunity to advance assessments of the nation's first statewide MPA network and foster new scientific approaches to integrate MPAs into ocean and coastal resource management in California.

With a new statewide network of MPAs in place, California has invested significantly in establishing baseline ecological and socioeconomic conditions - a benchmark of ocean ecosystem condition against which future changes can be measured. Data from regional MPA baseline programs add up to the most detailed picture yet created of current ocean conditions and can inform fisheries management, climate change adaptation and other ocean policy. The Science Integration Fellow will engage a diverse portfolio of agency, academic and citizen-science programs collecting information on California's marine ecosystems, with a focus on the North Central Coast region. S/he will identify and pursue opportunities for integrative analyses that link ecosystems and disciplines to deepen understanding of ocean ecosystem conditions, develop collaborative approaches to identify and answer management-relevant fisheries, climate and MPA questions, and develop creative and innovative mechanisms for communicating science findings including the use of ecosystem report cards.

We are looking for an interdisciplinary marine scientist with a strong foundation of ecological knowledge, and the skills and attributes to bring together teams of researchers to advance approaches for assessing marine ecosystem condition and synthesizing monitoring data into useful products that inform ocean resource policy and management decisions. The position is an 18-month, fixed-term appointment based in Santa Cruz, CA. Review of applications is ongoing and existing applicants need not re-apply. Salary will be commensurate with experience and is expected to be in the range of $50,000-$60,000. Generous benefits including medical, dental and vision insurance are included.

Background

The California Ocean Science Trust (OST, www.calost.org) is a non-profit organization established pursuant to the Coastal Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000 to provide scientific guidance to the state on ocean policy issues. Our mission is to advance a constructive role for science in decision-making by promoting collaboration and mutual understanding among scientists, citizens, managers and policymakers working towards sustained, healthy and productive coastal and ocean ecosystems. We work at the nexus between the state and scientific communities and hold ourselves dually accountable to these partners. By developing new tools and processes and synthesizing and translating scientific knowledge, we help decision-makers realize the full value of public investments in science and help scientists increase their relevance and impact on society.

The largest program within OST is the MPA Monitoring Enterprise (www.monitoringenterprise.org). Within this program we lead the design and implementation of scientifically rigorous and cost-effective monitoring of the network of MPAs established in California. We are pioneering scientific and practical assessments of the changing condition of ocean ecosystems and the performance of MPA networks, and developing innovative approaches for sharing monitoring results so that decision-makers and stakeholders have timely, credible information for making sound management decisions. We are developing new tools and approaches to facilitate broad citizen participation in monitoring and to ensure that MPA monitoring data can also support broader ocean management including fisheries, climate adaptation and water quality management.

The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO, www.piscoweb.org) is a long-term ecosystem research and monitoring program established with the goals of: understanding dynamics of the coastal ocean ecosystem along the U.S. West Coast; sharing that knowledge so ocean managers and policy makers can make science-based decisions regarding coastal and marine stewardship; and, producing a new generation of scientists trained in interdisciplinary collaborative approaches. Over the last 10 years, PISCO has successfully built a unique research program that combines complementary disciplines to answer critical environmental questions and inform management and policy. The program integrates studies of changes in the ocean environment through ecological monitoring and experiments. Scientists examine the causes and consequences of ecosystem changes over spatial scales that are the most relevant to marine species and management, but largely unstudied elsewhere.

Fellowship Description

OST Fellowships represent a unique opportunity to launch a career in science integration. Fellows experience the inner workings of policy and management and build valuable facilitation, communication, and strategic skills while drawing on and advancing their formal academic training. They engage a diverse landscape of partners including local, state and federal agencies, NGOs representing a wide variety of interests, and an interdisciplinary array of social and natural scientists. The Science Integration Fellow will join a dynamic and multi-disciplinary OST team united by a mission to design innovative ways for science to play a constructive role in decision making. In addition, based at the University of California Santa Cruz, the Fellow will have the opportunity to work alongside teams of academic researchers and to deepen our understanding of California's coastal ocean ecosystems.

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Qualifications

Skills and attributes

- Flexible thinker. Able to help build on existing tools and methods to develop and evaluate new ideas and approaches as needed to attain objectives.
- Strategic, analytic, and synthetic abilities. Able to set clear objectives and timelines, establish and follow priorities, analyze and synthesize complex and disparate data, and distill critical information from diverse and detailed sources.
- Ability to lead collaborative processes and technical working groups to generate timely products, and to work effectively with diverse public and private partners.
- Outcome-driven with sound project management skills.
- Strong communication skills. Able to translate scientific and technical concepts and ideas across disciplines and between technical experts and more general audiences.
- Strong interpersonal skills to professionally and effectively represent the collaborating organizations to all partners, funders, vendors, contractors and other external constituents.
- Authorized to work in the U.S.

Knowledge and experience:

- Ph.D. in marine ecology, natural resource management, or another relevant field required.
- Understanding of ecosystem science and ecosystem-based approaches to resource conservation and management required. Familiarity with California's marine and coastal ecosystems preferred.
- Familiarity with approaches and techniques for monitoring ecosystem and resource conditions and implementing adaptive management required, ideally including in a temperate marine context.
- Experience with sampling designs and statistical power analyses strongly preferred.
- Familiarity with resource management policy an asset.
- Familiarity with social science and its application to ecosystem management and/or resource conservation an asset.
- Prior experience working in a variety of roles with a diverse group of stakeholders preferred.

Location

The position will be based at University of California, Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz, California. Travel to OST offices in Oakland and elsewhere in California will be expected. Applicants must possess a valid drivers' license permitting driving within the US and may be required to use their own vehicle for travel, reimbursable at the state rate.

Start date

The preferred start date is as soon as possible and review of applications is ongoing.

Salary

The position is an 18-month, fixed-term appointment. The position is funded by OST with in-kind support from PISCO. Salary will be commensurate with experience and is expected to be in the range of $50,000-$60,000. Generous benefits including medical, dental and vision insurance are included.

Application information

Qualified applicants should apply via email to hr@calost.org, using a subject line of 'Science Integration Fellow – PISCO'. Please send a curriculum vitae and an application letter describing your interest and fit for this position relative to the skills and qualifications above.