Alaska Sea Grant State & Knauss Fellowships
Career development opportunities in marine science and policy

Molly Cain
Alaska Sea Grant Associate Director
Knauss Alum

James Currie
2022 State Fellow

Sarah Pease
2022 Knauss Fellow
34 UNIVERSITY-BASED SEA GRANT PROGRAMS
DEAN JOHN A.
KNAAUSS MARINE
POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.
THE FELLOWSHIP

One-year hands on learning experience through a fully immersive work experience within the Washington DC region. Fellows should expect to be placed in the Executive or Legislative branches of the Federal Government.
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

(makes the laws)

Possible placements encompass committees and personal offices in both parties and chambers.

Many host offices have hosted fellows in the past and have a deep investment in the Sea Grant program.

Typically work on office hot topic, which may evolve, and may not always relate to ocean/Great Lakes.
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
(carries out the laws)

Possible Host Agencies: NOAA, USFWS, USEPA, Navy, USGS, DOI, NSF

Many host offices have hosted fellows and both mentors and colleagues are often alumni

May work on very specific topics as an expert or serve in a high level coordination role
## TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 16, 2023</strong> by 5pm AKT</td>
<td>Applications due to State Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>State Programs nominate up to 6 applicants for national level review</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Finalists notified</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Finalist commitments due and alternates notified</td>
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<tr>
<td>August–September</td>
<td>Public announcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>October &amp; January</td>
<td>Exec/Leg placement week</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 1, 2024</strong></td>
<td>12-month fellowship begins</td>
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OVERALL FELLOWSHIP AWARD

$68,000 salary/stipend (incl. health benefits and taxes when applicable)

$5,000 in allowable expenses (relocation, academic tuition, and academic- and fellowship-related travel)

$2,500 to support travel to the DC region for in-person placement process

$15,000 to support host office travel (*OPTIONAL, subject to host discretion)
Applicant Eligibility

Any student, regardless of citizenship, is eligible to submit to this opportunity if:

1. The student is enrolled towards a degree in a graduate program (Masters, Ph.D. or J.D.);

2. The graduate degree will be awarded through an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. Territories, and;

3. The student has an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

Application submission is through an application to the Sea Grant program in the state in which the student is earning their degree. If there is no Sea Grant program will be assigned.
Alaska applicants submit application packages via eSeaGrant

https://eseagrant.alaska.edu/
APPLICATION

• Curriculum vitae
• Personal education and career development response
  – Icebreaker
  – Career path and objectives
  – Career path experience
• Relevant coursework and future plans
• Letters of recommendation (2)
• Transcripts
APPLICATION RESOURCES

Visit alaskaseagrant.org/knauss

• Application instructions
• 2024 Knauss Fellowship Student Guide
• Student Applicant Guide to Sea Grant Fellowships
• Prospective Knauss Fellows page
2024 SEA GRANT KNAUSS FELLOWSHIP

Contact Us: (240) 507-3712
oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov
seagrant.noaa.gov.knauss
Knauss Fellowship Experience

Sarah Pease, 2022 fellow in the Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski
Why Knauss?

The “why” of science…and the “who”

Science Communication
- Policy needs scientists!
- Practice
- Listen
Knauss Experiences: Work on the Hill

- Constituent and agency meetings
- Preparing memos, press materials, and remarks for the Senator
- Developing and advancing legislation
- Appropriations
- Ping pong :)
Knauss Experiences: Beyond the Hill

- Travel Alaska!
  - Juneau, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Anchorage, Seward, Kodiak
- Professional Development
- Exploring DC with the rest of my cohort
- Taking advantage of the extensive alumni network—they are everywhere!
Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship

Modeled after the Knauss fellowship

12-month paid fellowship with an Alaska-based organization or state or federal agency

Geared towards soon-to-graduate or recently finished graduate students
Examples of hosts: 2022

NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center
NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region Aquaculture Program
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division
NOAA National Debris Program
Alaska Center for Energy and Power
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation
Indigenous Aquaculture Collaborative
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Alaska Mariculture Alliance
Alaska Sea Grant

*Apply for the fellowship, not a particular host
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Call for fellows and hosts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 9, 2023</strong> by 5pm AKT</td>
<td>Applications due via eSeaGrant</td>
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<tr>
<td>February–March</td>
<td>Alaska Sea Grant reviews applications &amp; invites a short list for interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>March–April</td>
<td>Match fellows with hosts</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Finalists and placements announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>June–September</td>
<td>12-month fellowship begins</td>
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Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship

$60,000 in stipend ($5,000/month; includes health benefits)

$5,000 for fellowship-related travel and professional development
Eligibility

1. Graduate students who are close to completing their degree or have a recently earned degree in a relevant discipline.
2. Must be U.S. citizens, and in good academic standing while completing their degree at an academic institution.

*Fellows are required to be based in Alaska during the fellowship*
To be submitted via eSeaGrant

1. Personal education and career goal statement (1,000 words max)
2. Curriculum vitae (2 pages max)
3. Undergraduate and graduate student transcripts
4. Two signed letters of recommendation (one from faculty member familiar with your academic performance) - request from within eSeaGrant
Detailed Information and Application Instructions

Visit [alaskaseagrant.org/state-fellowship](alaskaseagrant.org/state-fellowship)

mrcain@alaska.edu
Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship Experience

Alaska Sea Grant Fellow James Currie
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Aquaculture

- Alaska Regional Office
- Alaska Fisheries Science Center
- Working for the NMFS Alaska Regional Aquaculture Coordinator
Project Goals

- Aquaculture Outreach and Science Communication
- Aquaculture Permitting Portal updates
- Regional Strategic Plan
- Alaska Mariculture Alliance coordination
- Conferences & workshops
Alaska Sea Grant Benefits

- Live in Alaska!
- Find out early about fellowship status
- Rapid host pairing
- Uniquely Alaskan opportunities
- Networking possibilities both in state and out of state
Above and Beyond Experiences

- Workshop in Anchorage to meet our cohort
- Aquaculture workshop in Tampa, FL
- Meeting the regional staff in Washington, D.C.
Information & Links

- https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/aquaculture/alaska-region-aquaculture

Questions?
Phone: (207) 232-2463
Email: james.currie@noaa.gov
Questions?

alaskaseagrant.org/fellowships

mrcain@alaska.edu
BACKUP SLIDES
MARCH
State Sea Grant programs nominate UP TO 6 applications each to the national competition
March 30, 2023 by 11:59 EDT

APRIL
NSGO review packages, check for minimum requirements, review redaction

Review panel webinar

MAY
Paper Reviews Completed
NATIONAL LEVEL REVIEW PROCESS

JUNE
Sea Grant Programs Notified
Finalists and alternates notified
Finalist welcome workshop on June 21, 2023 12:00-6:00 EST

JULY
Finalist information/commitment due by July 12, 2023
All alternates notified on July 28, 2023
FOREIGN NATIONAL DETAILS

- Foreign nationals are eligible for both the Executive and Legislative cohort
- Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining the appropriate Visa to allow them to work in the DMV
  - Visa Types (most common)
    - Student-F1 Visa
    - Graduate-Optional Practical Training (OPT) Extension
- The fellowship is open to all eligible students regardless of nationality, a significant number of participating Federal hosts offices are unable to accept foreign nationals or dual citizens as fellows. This may reduce the number of placement opportunities available to foreign nationals and dual citizens.
CURRICULUM VITAE

- The student should not include personal contact information or web links to external resources (e.g. LinkedIn, articles, blogs, etc.).
  - If included, programs should redact excess materials prior to submission to grants.gov
PERSONAL EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

SECTION 1: ICEBREAKER

SECTION 2: CAREER PATH & OBJECTIVES

SECTION 3: CAREER PATH EXPERIENCE

- The student should emphasize their abilities and expectations of the fellowship experience in terms of their career development.
- Each section and subsequent subsection should be answered separately.
- The entire personal education and career development section should not exceed 1,500 words total; suggested word counts will be included with each subsection below.
  - Section headers will count as part of the overall word count.

The student should not include personal contact information or web links to external resources (e.g., LinkedIn, articles, blogs, etc.). If included, programs should redact prior to submission.
The student should:

Use one sentence to describe themselves. **(Suggested 20 words)**.

List five adjectives that someone with a close personal connection would use to describe them. **(5 words MAX)**.
The student should discuss:

Any experience(s) supporting or relating to the mission of the NSGO or the state SG program. Emphasizing (if relevant) experience with extending and distilling science for non-scientific audiences. (Suggest 250 words).

Their interest in the Knauss Fellowship with a specific focus on how Knauss supports the student’s career pathway, and how it would further support their professional development. (Suggest 250 words).

Transferable skills they would bring to the Knauss Fellowship. Highlighting experiences from their personal, professional and academic background. (Suggest 200 words).
SECTION 3: CAREER PATH EXPERIENCE

The student should discuss:

(i) how they have collaborated or engaged with diverse community members and/or interested partners AND/OR (2) how they would be an ambassador for the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, justice and accessibility throughout the Knauss program. *(Suggested 300 words).*

A situation in which they overcame a challenge specifically as it relates to how they took a leadership role. The student should consider including a reflection on what they learned from this experience. *(Suggested 400 words).*
RELEVANT COURSEWORK AND FUTURE YEAR PLANS

The student should discuss the following:

Relevant coursework: Any completed or in progress classes that they deem relevant to their success in the Knauss Fellowship Program.

Future year activities: Include a listing of classes and/or plans for spring 2023, summer 2023, and fall 2023.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation from individuals who have worked with the student.

- These letters should discuss the following attributes of the student:
  - self-motivation;
  - response to setbacks;
  - skills and involvement in teamwork;
  - collaborative leadership skills;
  - willingness to learn a new skill or topic;
  - academic and performance and potential.

Letters should speak to anything else the review panel should know about the strengths that the student will bring to the fellowship.
TRANSCRIPTS

Clear digital or scanned copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts (unofficial are acceptable).
OUT OF STATE LETTER*

If applicable, for applicants in a state or territory not served by an eligible Sea Grant program, but applying through an eligible Sea Grant program, a written statement from the Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship Program Manager referring the applicant to the most appropriate eligible Sea Grant program must be included as part of that applicant’s application package to the Sea Grant program.
DIRECTOR LETTER

- A signed letter of recommendation from the state Sea Grant director, which is built from an interview with the applicant. As part of that interview and subsequent letter, the director shall:
  - demonstrate why the student is a good fit for the Knauss program;
  - highlight the skills the student emphasizes in the interview;
  - explain any gaps in the CV or personal education and career development response or anything that the student feels they were unable to include in the application that they feel is important for the review panel to know; and
  - advocate for why this student belongs in the Knauss Fellowship Program.
# EVALUATION CRITERIA

## Relevant Experience
- Curriculum vitae
  - Icebreaker: 5 Points
  - Career Path & Objectives: 25 Points
  - Career Path Experience: 25 Points
- Relevant Coursework and Future Year Plans: 10 Points

## Recommendations and/or Endorsements
- Letters of Recommendation: 5 Points
- Director Letter: 5 Points

## Overall Application Cohesion
- All aspects of the application materials (CV, education and career development responses, coursework and future year plans, letters of recommendation and directors letter): 10 Points
CURRICULUM VITAE

The student has:

- Employment, volunteer, or extracurricular activities in academic, applied, research, administration, outreach, or policy positions;
- Education and experience (personal and professional) in the student’s area of expertise are appropriate to the career stage;
- Demonstrated academic, professional or personal experiences that are relevant and applicable to serving the American people;
- Experiences that show prior leadership roles relevant to their career stage (e.g., student government, faculty committees, advisory committees, professional societies, community initiatives, etc.).
PERSONAL EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

The student has:

- Demonstrated creative thinking and a willingness to think outside the box.
PERSONAL EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

The student has:

- Path and objectives which are specific, direct, and concise while discussing what the student would bring to and gain from the Knauss fellowship;
- Clearly articulates their career or professional goal;
- Demonstrates
  - A diverse personal and professional background;
  - Creative thinking, analytical skill, and/or indicates their capacity and willingness to make connections between science and broader economic, social, and political issues;
  - An ability to convey scientific knowledge in broader, non-scientific contexts;
- Aligned materials with the broader mission of the Sea Grant program and NOAA.
PERSONAL EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

The student has:

- Shown interest in working with diverse collaborators, community members;
- Demonstrated:
  - an interest in or commitment to the Sea Grant values of DEIAJ,
  - creativity and willingness to navigate a challenging situation,
  - leadership and problem solving initiative;
- Experience demonstrating a commitment to apply expertise to serve science and society.
RELEVANT COURSEWORK AND FUTURE YEAR PLANS

The student has:

- Activities in academic, applied, research, administration, outreach, or policy;
- Education and experience (personal or professional) that support the student’s goals or provide further experiences applicable to the Knauss Program.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The letter writer:

- Demonstrates knowledge of the student and their abilities;
- Speaks to the leadership potential, confidence, maturity, and self-direction of the student;
- Provided evidence of the student’s:
  - willingness and flexibility to tackle issues beyond their area of expertise and an openness and capacity to expand experiences;
  - ability to convey scientific knowledge in broader, non-scientific contexts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points: 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does not adequately address the expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adequately addresses expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds expectations</td>
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</table>
DIRECTOR LETTER

The Director has:

• Demonstrated how the student fits with the Knauss Program, including any discussion of why the student belongs in the Knauss Program;
• Highlighted the skills (academic, professional or personal) that the student would bring to the Knauss program;
• Elaborates on information not specifically addressed by the student in their application package.

Total Points: 5

| Does not adequately address the expectations | 0-1 points |
| Adequately addresses expectations | 2-3 points |
| Exceeds expectations | 4-5 points |
OVERALL COHESION

The student has:

- Ensured the application materials complement each other;
- Demonstrated how they bring a diverse perspective to the program;
- Provided a clear picture of what the student would gain from receiving the Knauss Fellowship;
- Provided a clear picture of what the student would bring to the Knauss Fellowship
APPLICATION TIPS

- Request that you be connected to an alumni (or two) that may be able to answer your questions about the program
- Re-read: The application requirements and your application materials.
- Letters of rec: Prep your letter writers about the opportunity. Give them time to provide meaningful comment about you.
- Start early: Collecting all the pieces can take time!
- Stay true to yourself, this is your application, let your character and goals be the focus!
- PROOFREAD