

**Executive Host Information 2005
Placement Week November 15-19, 2004**

Office Name: Ecosystem Assessment Division, Office of Habitat Conservation
NOAA Fisheries

Position Title: Coral Reef Program Officer

How many total staff are in your immediate office / branch? (Select one option, mark with X)

1-5	
6-10	X
> 10	

Have you previously hosted a Sea Grant fellow? (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	X
No	

If yes, how many? 4

If fellow is currently on assignment, please provide contact information.

Name	Ms. Shauna Slingsby
Tel	301-713-3459
Email	Shauna.Slingsby@NOAA.GOV

Does your office accept non-United States (foreign) citizens? (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	XX
No	

Organizational Overview

Mission Statement: (Please limit to 30 words.)

The Ecosystem Assessment Division is responsible for promoting holistic ecosystem approaches to characterizing fish habitats within shallow and deep coral ecosystems, evaluating the cumulative aspects of threats to habitats and integrating appropriate conservation and restoration measures.

Brief Overview of Your Office's work: (Please limit to 150 words.)

The Office of Habitat Conservation, leads NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) efforts to manage, conserve and enhance habitats for fishery resources, protected species, and other living marine resources. As part of this responsibility, the Ecosystem Assessment Division (EAD) leads the development of NMFS coral reef conservation programs and coordination with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. This program is supported NOAA-wide at a level of about \$27 Million. Beginning in 2004, EAD has assumed major responsibilities for the NOAA Deep-sea Coral Team – leading conservation efforts in these newly discovered ecosystems. The Sea Grant Fellow will have an opportunity to help shape these programs in close coordination with our Regional Offices and Science Centers, and have responsibility for innovative activities that are being developed by the Office of Habitat Conservation.

Do you have partnership projects, multi-agency workgroups, or working relationships with other offices? Please list.

This position is an integral part of the NOAA Fisheries Coral reef Conservation Program which is part of a larger NOAA and interagency effort that has extensive partnerships with all parts of NOAA, other Federal Agencies, States, Territories, nongovernmental groups and the private Sector.

Assignment Description.

It is understood that the fellow's specific responsibilities will be tailored to his / her unique skills and interests. Please articulate probable assignments and duties and the education / professional development that these tasks will bring to the fellow.

Estimated Fellow Travel, Out-of-Office: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	XX
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Estimated DC-Area Travel: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	
4-7 days / month	XX
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Does this position require mandatory skills: (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	
No	XX

Desired Background Skills: Please list. (e.g. strong written / communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint software, etc.).

Strong writing and communication skills; Microsoft Office; PowerPoint, Excel, Word, etc

In 300 words or less, please describe the tasks, duties, or projects the fellow will undertake, the skills a fellow will gain, and the deliverables a fellow can expect to produce from completing these tasks.

Issue Area: Coral Reef Conservation

Some of the potential opportunities and responsibilities may include:

- Deep-Sea Coral Ecosystems. NOAA has been a leader in discovering and exploring deep-sea (cold-water) coral communities. Our newfound appreciation of their importance as biodiversity hotspots have increased pressure to better protect these resources. In 2005, the Ecosystem Assessment Division will be leading development of a major report on the *State of Cold-Water Coral Ecosystems of the United States* as well as a major effort to craft a NOAA

Strategic Plan for cold-water coral conservation in coordination with other NOAA Offices and Regional Fishery management Councils. In November 2005, the U.S. will host *the 3rd International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals*. The Sea Grant Fellow would have the opportunity to help advance this new frontier in marine conservation.

- *Coordination of NMFS Coral Reef Program Implementation:* NMFS is conducting a broad range of coral reef programs from Florida and Puerto Rico to Hawaii and American Samoa and covering areas as diverse as fisheries, habitat restoration, research into ecosystem processes and relationships, coral reef monitoring, and the implementation of marine protected areas. NMFS is working closely with the National Ocean Service and other U.S. Agencies to implement a coordinated U.S. Coral Reef Conservation Strategy.
- *Implementation of Coral Reef Local Action Strategies.* NMFS is working with States and Territories in the Pacific and Caribbean to implement local action strategies to alleviate threats to coral reef ecosystems, particularly those threats related to recreational and commercial fishing. Development and implementation of these strategies provides opportunities to work closely with these partners in the field to develop innovative conservation approaches.

We're looking for someone with:

- Ability to integrate science, conservation and policy;
- Enthusiasm and good communication skills (written and oral); and
- Interest in biology, ecology and conservation.

We can offer you:

- Opportunity for project ownership in the development of new or expanding programs;
- Likely opportunities for travel to field locations where the coral reef programs are implemented.
- Interactions with the national and international coral reef policy and scientific communities; and
- Training opportunities and flexibility to attend seminars, meetings, hearings