

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

Office Name: Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Position Title: Fishery Management Specialist

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

1-5	
6-10	
> 10	X

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

Yes	X
No	

If yes, how many? 3

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

Name	Mike Clark
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Email	Michael.Clark@noaa.gov

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

Yes	X
No	

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**Organizational Overview**

***Mission Statement:*** (Please limit to 30 words.)

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division is responsible for the day-to-day management of Atlantic tuna, swordfish, billfish, and shark fisheries and for the domestic implementation of international agreements.

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

The HMS Division offers hands-on experience in real world fisheries management. HMS fisheries issues are controversial, high profile, and representative of the challenges facing NOAA Fisheries agency-wide. HMS is often at the forefront of developing short and long term solutions and setting fisheries policy. HMS staff participate in the entire management process including data collection and research, stock assessments, biological and socio-economic analyses, rulemaking, domestic and international meetings, and litigation. Day-to-day activities include interpreting scientific information, developing management measures (fishing seasons, quotas, bag limits, permitting and reporting systems), participating in policy discussions, answering phone calls, attending public meetings, writing regulations and supporting documents,

and conducting analyses. HMS staff interact with other NOAA Fisheries offices and regions, the HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels, commercial and recreational fishermen, environmental groups, domestic and international scientists, regional fishery management councils, Atlantic and Gulf States, and other government agencies.

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

Department of State
Department of Justice
Office of Protected Resources
Office of Science and Technology
Office of Habitat Conservation
Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Regional Office
Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Regional Office
Southwest Fisheries Science Center and Regional Office
U.S. Bureau of Customs

**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	X
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	X
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

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

Yes	
No	X

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

Strong written and oral communication skills
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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.

The HMS Division is a fast-paced environment with many controversial issues. These issues range from data collection programs and scientific analyses to fishing regulations to international trade. Given the wide range of HMS fisheries management issues, a Fellow would be able to select from any number of projects of interest.

A Fellow would work closely with HMS staff to identify projects of interest in which the Fellow could either be the lead staff person or be part of a team. Regardless of project(s) selected, a Fellow would be considered a full member of the HMS Division. Opportunities to visit regional offices, attend/hold meetings, and conduct research would also be available.

In the upcoming year, the HMS Division will be focused on Amendment 2 to the HMS Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 2 will revisit bluefin tuna quota allocations, review essential fish habitat (EFH) identifications, review the results of and need for time/area closures, reduce mortality on Atlantic billfish, and implement educational workshops for fishermen.

Other current issues in HMS fisheries include:

- Reducing the bycatch of protected species in HMS fisheries;
- Minimizing gear impacts on EFH;
- Implementing international agreements;
- Reviewing the socio-economic impacts of existing regulations;
- Reviewing State regulations for consistency with Federal regulations;
- Revising tournament registration and reporting requirements; and
- Improving reporting requirements for fishermen and dealers.

In the HMS Division, a Fellow can expect to gain:

- In-depth knowledge of the fishery management process, objectives, and current issues;
- Contacts with other NOAA Fisheries offices/regions/centers;
- Improved written and oral communication skills; and
- Contacts with State, recreational, commercial, and environmental constituents.

In the HMS Division, a Fellow can expect to produce documents supporting rulemaking (environmental assessment, environmental impact statement) as well as publication of outreach materials (pamphlets, brochures).