

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

Office Name: Biogeography Program (NOS/NCCOS/CCMA)

Position Title: Knauss Fellow

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?

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

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

Yes	x
No	

Organizational Overview

Mission Statement: (Please limit to 30 words.)

The goal of the Biogeography Program is to develop knowledge and products on living marine resource distributions and ecology throughout the Nation's estuarine, coastal and marine environments and to provide managers and scientists with an improved ecosystem basis for making decisions.

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

The Biogeography Program has numerous projects that focus on determining the spatial distributions of marine organisms and habitats within the US and monitoring changes within those habitats. In the next 5 years, a major portion of our work will be directed toward assisting the National Marine Sanctuaries in the management of living marine resources by providing biogeographic assessments of areas within and around each sanctuary. The Biogeography Program has also spearheaded an effort to map nearshore benthic habitats in the USVI, Puerto Rico, the 'main 8' Hawaiian Islands, and American Samoa. This work will continue and will include the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, Palau and Florida. The benthic habitat maps provide essential information for ongoing projects that seek to better understand reef fish ecology and

habitat utilization. All of our work products (maps, aerial photography, reports, etc.) are posted on our website and are freely available to the public (see <http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/>).

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

Biogeography Program personnel commonly work with other groups within NOAA, such as the National Marine Sanctuary Program and Regional NMFS offices, as well as with outside agencies (e.g. National Park Service), organizations and people in academia (e.g. University of Hawaii and University of Puerto Rico), and private contractors. The program occasionally hosts workshops that are attended by people who can provide particular expertise in an area, such as in the case our nearshore benthic mapping projects.

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	
4-7 days / month	x
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.).

We are looking for someone who can have fun working in a team environment! Ideally, we'd like someone with a few of the following: a background in fisheries biology, well-developed analytical abilities, a solid grasp on statistics, experience with GIS, a propensity for critical thinking, and clear communication skills. More importantly, we need a person who's sharp and eager to learn. Basic computer skills are important (i.e. MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), and experience with the following software would be very useful: ArcView 3.2/8.x (GIS), JMP and/or SAS (or other statistical software), Web/HTML/Database programming and desktop publishing (e.g. Adobe InDesign). SCUBA certification at the advanced level or higher is desirable but not essential.

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 specific projects that the fellow will work on depend on the interests and experience of the fellow and the needs of the office. Tasks and duties that are common to many projects include: representing the biogeography program at meetings with project partners, developing GIS databases for the display and analysis of data, researching data availability and published literature, and writing reports.

Regardless of the specific projects, the fellow will gain a better understanding of marine biogeography, quantitative spatial analysis, and ecological metrics. If involved with the field component of our work, the fellow would likely become a NOAA Scientific Diver if they possess a strong diving background and are proficient in identifying numerous reef organisms (fish, coral, algae, etc.).

The office frequently publishes completed research (~6 publications per year) and past fellows have coauthored articles submitted to peer reviewed journals. A fellow's collaboration on publications will depend on their interests and project assignments. Other deliverables that fellows have helped produce include CD-ROMs of benthic habitat maps, assessment reports, and a website that includes a functional ArcIMS system.