



## National Marine Sanctuary Paid Internship Program Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

**Location:** Scituate, MA (hybrid)

**Mentor:** Caitlin Fitzmaurice, Program Assistant, [caitlin.fitzmaurice@noaa.gov](mailto:caitlin.fitzmaurice@noaa.gov)

**Internship Dates:** May 18-July 24, 2026

**Eligibility:** U.S. citizen, permanent resident or a citizen of a U.S. territory (as defined by 16 U.S.C. 6602(9))

**Experience Level:** Graduate student

**Time Commitment:** 31-40 hours/week

**Equipment Requirements:** Intern must provide their own laptop

**Total Stipend Amount:** \$5,780

### Who We Are

#### National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Overview

The [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#) is the official non-profit partner of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, supporting its system of 18 marine environments from Massachusetts to American Samoa and the Great Lakes to the Florida Keys. We protect these iconic places, care for marine wildlife and habitats, honor our nation's maritime history and cultural traditions, and promote the enjoyment of these public waters through a combination of coalition-building, private fundraising and federal support.

In a quarter of a century, we've expanded and deepened people's connections and access to our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, and built partnerships with coastal communities and businesses alongside the over 629,000 square miles of public waters that belong to all Americans.

#### NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Overview



Managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the [National Marine Sanctuary System](#) includes 18 national marine sanctuaries. This system encompasses more than 629,000 square miles of underwater parks in the ocean and Great Lakes from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. Since 1972, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has worked cooperatively with the public and federal, state, local and tribal officials to promote conservation while allowing compatible commercial and recreational activities. By investing in innovative solutions, we strengthen these iconic places to address 21st-century challenges while supporting America's commerce and tourism. These unique locations inspire people to visit, value, and steward our nation's iconic ocean and Great Lakes waters.

National marine sanctuaries are places where anyone can go to experience the power and beauty of the ocean and Great Lakes and participate in recreational activities in protected natural settings. They are sources of inspiration, recreation, rejuvenation, and discovery and they enhance our understanding of our cultural connections to the ocean and Great Lakes. Increasing public awareness of our marine heritage, scientific research, monitoring, exploration, education, and outreach programs are just a few of the ways NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries fulfills its mission to the American people. Our nation's sanctuaries can provide a safe habitat for species close to extinction or protect historically significant shipwrecks. Natural classrooms, cherished recreational spots and valuable commercial industries – marine sanctuaries represent many things to many people.

## What We Need

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in support of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is seeking a graduate student for a 10-week paid summer internship broadly supporting a variety of activities, such as [conservation science](#), [maritime heritage](#), [education and outreach](#), and [communication and media efforts](#) efforts of [Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#) under the guidance of an experienced mentor.

National marine sanctuaries offer unique opportunities for monitoring and research efforts to enhance our understanding of natural and historical resources and how to better protect and manage them. National marine sanctuaries are living laboratories where scientists study ocean resilience, ecosystem health, and the economic benefits of



protected waters. From assessing the impact of conservation on coastal habitats and economies to researching sustainable recreation and blue carbon storage, these studies help communities thrive while safeguarding marine ecosystems.

The greatest relics representing America's past as a seafaring nation lie at the bottom of the sea and lakes. National marine sanctuaries preserve shipwrecks, naval battlefields, and prehistoric sites, safeguarding our maritime heritage. This heritage comes from thousands of years of settlement, exploration, fishing, and building coastal communities and maritime traditions. Through the study, protection and promotion of this legacy, these protected places offer opportunities for exploration, discovery, and a deeper connection to our nation's seafaring past.

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries education vision is to create an ocean-literate public making informed environmental decisions. The mission is to inspire ocean and climate literacy and conservation through national marine sanctuaries. National marine sanctuaries are living classrooms where people can see, touch, and learn about the nation's spectacular marine life and rich maritime heritage. The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is charged with conserving and managing special ocean areas deemed to be of irreplaceable national significance. Education plays a key role in fulfilling this mandate. Over the past decade, sanctuary education programs have been a powerful force in building stewardship for these unique places and in stimulating marine education. In coordination and cooperation with numerous partners, we hope to inspire our nation's citizens to greater levels of personal responsibility for the marine and freshwater environments and greater stewardship of America's underwater treasures—national marine sanctuaries.

The Communications Team produces and distributes NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries messages through a variety of channels to a diverse audience, such as Capitol Hill legislators and staff, agency departments, news media and the public. As an intern, you'll work on a variety of projects focusing on media outreach and public engagement, and you may have the opportunity to participate in staff meetings; fine-tune writing, editing and proofreading skills; develop targeted media lists and media kits; learn media outreach strategies; contribute to our social media efforts; and attend special events.

## What You'll Do

Primary responsibilities include:

- Research and develop a draft manuscript for a perspectives or commentary paper focused on changes in types and spatial scale of disturbance to seafloor habitats in a marine protected area using data and results from multiple studies conducted in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The intern will be a co-author. SBNMS staff and scientific collaborators will provide assistance and guidance throughout the process.
- Support existing education and outreach programs through engaging with the public at in-person events, primarily through info tables or tours of Salt, the life-sized inflatable whale.
- Review underwater video footage from Stellwagen Mapping Initiative research cruises, documenting key features of shipwrecks, helping to identify wildlife, and noting interesting timestamps that may be helpful for social media engagement and raising public awareness.
- Draft social media posts using existing content on the website, or using photos and videos from previous outreach events and research cruises.
- Assist with data collection, entry and analysis for our S4 (Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards) Program as needed.
- Provide support on research cruises as needed.
- Provide administrative support to staff as needed.

## Who You Are

- Graduate-level degree (in-progress or recent grad) in biological, marine, or environmental sciences.
- Strong interest or background in spatial ecology and species interactions in marine environments.
- Exceptional writing and analytical skills.
- Comfortable reviewing scientific literature, summarizing and visualizing both data and ecological concepts.
- Experience creating project documents and communications materials.
- Demonstrated initiative and ability to work both independently and with others.



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DISCOVER WONDER

- Familiarity with a range of software, including Google Suite, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, GIS, R Studio, or other coding familiarity is helpful but not required.
- Flexibility to accommodate for occasional weekend hours or long days on the water. These will be communicated in advance with consideration to your commitments outside of this internship.
- Attention to detail and highly organized.

## Time Commitment and Stipend Amount

Interns are expected to work 31-40 hours per week and will receive two stipends, each in the amount of **\$2,890**.

Internship stipends will be disbursed in two separate payments and will be paid upon proper submission of invoices to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

## How to Apply

Please submit your resume and cover letter under the email subject Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Internship Application to [internships@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:internships@marinesanctuary.org) by **April 24, 2026**.

***Please make sure the subject line of your email reads: Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Internship Application, otherwise your application may not be accepted.***

You will be notified of selection by May 11, 2026.