



Outreach and Education Manager for Restoration of Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities in the Gulf of Mexico

Location: Galveston, TX

Supervisor: Vice President of Program Operations

Position Overview

The Gulf Restoration Outreach and Education Manager is a new position, designed to play a key role in supporting public awareness and stakeholder engagement for Gulf of Mexico habitat restoration, funded through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's (Foundation) cooperative agreement with NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC).

Specifically, the Outreach and Education Manager will support a cooperative agreement between the Foundation and the Gulf Restoration team at NOAA Restoration Center. The Gulf Restoration Education and Outreach Manager will coordinate public engagement related to implementation of restoration activities for mesophotic and deep benthic communities (MDBC) in the Gulf of Mexico injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

This coordination will extend education and outreach related to MDBC to the public generally, and engage agencies, their stakeholders, and advisory groups with MDBC science and restoration. The coordinator will participate in the MDBC portfolio data inventory working group; coordinate with Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (NMS), Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (FMC), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), US Department of Defense (DoD), US Coast Guard (USCG), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and others as needed to establish ongoing engagement mechanisms; create a project communication strategy and coordinate with other MDBC projects to ensure open communication with stakeholders regarding new results and findings; develop stakeholder lists and communications, outreach, and education strategies and plans for the public and for impacted stakeholders; and determine logistics requirements for telepresence cruises and high-traffic venue exhibitions.

The position reports to the Vice President of Program Operations but coordinates activities with Restoration Center staff. The position is currently offered as a one year term position, with the opportunity for extension based on availability of funding.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is committed to a culture of inclusion, equity, and belonging. We are dedicated to attracting and retaining a diverse staff. We honor experiences, perspectives, and unique identities, and welcome the contributions that you can bring to the dedicated team. With a diverse team of employees, we can grow and learn better together and achieve our mission to protect the health of the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes for current and future generations.

Background

The Active Management and Protection (AMP) project for Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities (MDBC) was established in Open Ocean Restoration Plan 2 (OORP2), published by the Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) in December 2019.

The project will provide education and outreach programs, activities and exhibits related to MDBC to the public generally, and engage agencies, their stakeholders, and advisory groups with MDBC science and restoration. The project will also apply a variety of techniques to assess and manage threats to MDB from visitors or resource users. Project implementation is led by NOAA with support from co-Trustee partners from DOI (BOEM, BSEE) and EPA. Project goals, objectives, and activities are defined in OORP2, the AMP project charter, and the AMP project planning phase work plan.

Responsibilities

In the first year of this new position, the Outreach and Education Manager will support Active Management and Protection of Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities by developing an Outreach and Communications Plan, and implementing the plan to engage the public to educate them about MDB habitats. In future years, once implementation plans are approved for the project, the Outreach and Education Manager can implement project work in close coordination with NOAA. This includes continuing to develop and expand partnerships developed at the onset of MDB stewardship work, but expanding on that work as well.

- Identify and develop partnerships with education venues to create and display educational exhibits and associated programs about MDBCs;
- Develop, produce and disseminate content for K-12 education programs, social media, and traditional media sources;
- Collaborate with researchers to interpret science and produce educational materials, inclusive of coordination of telepresence for shore-side participation and awareness during at-sea implementation of MDB portfolio activities;
- Assess educational and outreach outcomes with behavioral and attitudinal surveying techniques;
- Support evaluations of priority areas eligible for protection under various existing programs and mechanisms;
- Inform and support management and protection actions through data sharing and communications with strategic partners, developing mechanisms for dissemination of information generated by all four of the MDB projects being implemented pursuant to OORP2; and,
- Coordinate across the agencies involved in implementing protections and with multiple stakeholders through existing advisory groups and public review processes that are a part of establishing protections.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in an education- or communications-related discipline. Master's degree preferred.
- 7-9 years of progressive professional responsibility in public engagement roles.
- Experience working in marine science/conservation/restoration.
- Experience working with interpretation of resources and developing and disseminating key messages to the public.

- Function independently and demonstrate strong analytical, organizational, and communication skills.
- Experience managing a project team and the planning and managing aspects of multi-partner projects.
- Experience explaining scientifically complex concepts to a lay audience.
- A network that includes government and NGO contacts, at various levels of authority.
- Critical thinker with demonstrated problem-solving skills. Results driven.
- Experience working with budgets and tracking expenses.
- Meticulous attention to detail.
- Ability to perform under tight deadlines.
- Ability to communicate proficiently both verbally and in writing.
- Demonstrated initiative, ability to work both independently and with others.
- Flexible team member with a sense of humor and an ability to work quickly and prioritize multiple projects.

Why You Will Love Us

- Dedicated and passionate staff committed to marine and Great Lakes conservation.
- Two weeks paid annual leave, plus paid time off the week between December 25th and January 1st; and 12 paid holidays.
- Two weeks paid sick leave
- Health Benefits: Medical with an FSA option; dental, and vision
- Foundation paid Life and Disability Insurance
- Preparing for the Future: 403(B) with employer contribution after one year of service

Compensation and Benefits: Salary mid \$70s-high \$80s based on experience. The Foundation offers a competitive benefits package. Applicants should note salary range preference in their cover letter.

To Apply: [APPLY HERE](#) Applications received prior to September 10, 2021 will be preferred.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

This commitment applies to all employment practices within our organization, including hiring, recruiting, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, leave of absence, compensation, benefits, and training. The Foundation makes hiring decisions based solely on qualifications, merit, and business needs at the time.