



2025-26 West Coast Ocean Alliance Fellowship 2025 Host Position Descriptions

The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA), in partnership with the Oregon Sea Grant College Program (ORSG), is soliciting applications for the 2025-2026 West Coast Ocean Alliance Fellowship program. These are full-time, one-year fellowship positions designed to provide firsthand experience in ocean policy, science, and planning activities of Tribal and State host offices participating in WCOA, in coordination with WCOA federal partners, aligned with the regional priorities of WCOA. Oregon Sea Grant oversees all administrative activities of the fellowship program, with fellowship projects and mentorship provided by Tribal and State government members of WCOA, with support and engagement with the WCOA contract staff team. This iteration of our fellowship program will place up to five fellows with a Tribal or State host office located on the U.S. West Coast, focused on priorities of WCOA and aligned with the needs of the respective host government. This year's position descriptions are provided below. For additional details visit: <https://seagrants.oregonstate.edu/fellowships/scholars-special-opportunities>

Position #	Host Government / Office	Position Title	Location	Page #
1	Yurok Tribe Marine Department	Yurok Marine Programs Fellow	Eureka, CA*	2
2	Blue Lake Rancheria Sustainability & Resilience Department and Environmental Department	Coastal Development and Sustainability Fellow	Blue Lake, CA*	6
3	Quileute Tribe	Quileute Marine Program Fellow	La Push, WA	11
4	Washington State Department of Ecology	Ocean Science Fellow	Olympia, WA*	16
5	Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission	Estuary and Ocean Climatology Analysis	Portland, OR*	20
6	Oregon Coastal Management Program	Oregon Ocean Data Fellow	Salem, OR*	24
7	West Coast Ocean Data Portal, via the California Ocean Protection Council	West Coast Ocean Data Portal Fellow	CA (Remote)*	27

*Hybrid and remote fellowship options may be available

Position 3: Quileute Marine Program Fellow

Government / Agency / Office: Quileute Indian Tribe, Department of Natural Resources, Marine Program

Position Location: La Push, Washington/Hybrid (approx. 70%/30%)

Fellowship Overview Scope: The Fellow at the Quileute Department of Natural Resources host site will serve both the Tribe and West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) in gathering data, information, and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) as well as drafting recommendations and reports. The Quileute Tribe is a federally recognized Treaty Tribe located in La Push, Washington. Quileute has been actively participating in the West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) and prior iterations of the group, for over a decade and contributes to the various intergovernmental forums including the Tribal Caucus group, various working groups and attends WCOA quarterly calls. The TEK component will be specific to the ancestral territory of the Quileute Tribe. The Tribe represents a small coastal community located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean where the Quillayute River meets the sea. The area features over seventy miles of protected saltwater shores, over two hundred miles of wild rivers. Glacier-capped Olympic Mountains including old growth temperate forests. Quileute's have flourished in the territory for millennia to this day and still experiences a strong stewardship relationship with the natural resources of the territory. Despite the changes that occurred through colonialism, Quileute lifestyle strives to continue open access to all the lands and ocean of the territory especially so, the community remains deeply tied to the resources provided through the ocean for not only the communities well-being but also the bounty which provides the economic base of the village.

Quileute Tribe is located on the rural coast of Washington whose economy and culture is based on resources provided by the natural environment. The Tribe, like many west coast tribes, is located where land meets sea. Understandably both the economy and the connection to place are very prominent in the everyday life of this tribal community. The ebb and flow of the resources from the sea both along the shore and offshore have traditionally provided an abundance of resources not only for the fishing-based economy of the La Push village, but also a connection to place through the seasons of the ocean. This reality serves as the primary driver in the priorities of the Quileute Natural Resources Program (QNR). The Quileute's ancestral territory includes some 850 square miles of watersheds for its fishery and a larger area for game and traditional gathering. From the top of the Olympic Mountains west to a point forty miles from the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean. This area as defined through its Treaty with the United States and subsequent court decisions has preserved for the Quileute Tribe access to hunt, fish and gather throughout their ancestral territory (Quileute's U & A). This access, however, is not without its challenges as both the needs of the human and natural environment change. Specific to the ocean, as a sovereign, this includes both ownership and management authority of all marine resources in partnership with state and federal governments. Since the Boldt decision (U.S. V. Washington) in 1974 the Quileute Tribe has exercised an active role in natural resource management. The top priority of QNR is to manage resources sustainably to ensure that tribal members can continually have access to these important resources in

perpetuity. This role includes activities that range from Management plans, regulations, intergovernmental dialogue, and actions to conserve a multitude of species. Housed within the Quileute Natural Resources program is the Marine Program. The Quileute Marine Program is actively engaged in topical areas that range from development of marine resource management plans (i.e., Fisheries harvest management, changing ocean uses) to monitoring ocean conditions (biotoxin producing phytoplankton, hypoxia). The Marine program works in partnership with tribal, federal, state agencies as well as academic institutions to ensure coastal and ocean resources are managed and conserved sustainably. The demand for human uses of marine waters is changing and what is emerging is the potential for uses that may or may not be compatible with current ocean uses such as a source of well-being and economic vitality.

Our objective is to develop a Marine Resource Inventory that will serve as a precursor to the development of an Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area (IMSA) for coastal protection and management. This will require a compilation of existing data on important ecological and cultural habitats and species within the Quileute's U & A. This inventory must also include an analysis of ocean conditions/trends and potential implications for keystone species; this will build on earlier studies conducted by the tribe in partnership with the University of Washington and Oregon State University. Ocean Acidification (OA), hypoxia, marine heatwaves (MHW), and harmful algal blooms (HAB) have emerged as leading environmental stressors in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. These stressors can impact fisheries, coastal communities, and ecosystems. In recent years, the scale of the impacts has become particularly pronounced as seen in the west coast Dungeness crab fishery. Fishery delays and closures can be directly attributed to OA, MHA, Hypoxia and HABs. The need is not only to complete an inventory but also to inform future prioritization dialogue informed by acknowledgement of data gaps and appropriate scales. We hope this will also directly serve WCOA's goals, and particularly the west coast tribes in achieving a more integrated approach to improving management of ocean resources. The intent is to generally support all of WCOA's Goals and Objectives but more specifically support WCOA goals of "compatible and sustainable ocean uses" and "comprehensive ocean and coastal data" by providing data and perspective to inform discussions and information directly relevant to West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

How this position specifically relates to marine and coastal issues: The development of Marine Stewardship Area cannot be developed in isolation; the Fellow will assist in identifying opportunities for Quileute Government leadership to engage with other marine resource managers and deepen relationships, including in WCOA forums, in the implementation of policies that support conservation objectives. Changes in ocean uses will require guidance on ecosystem functions that support existing uses while allowing for other compatible uses. To inform this dialogue, significant capacity and information will need to be developed; the Fellow can support this endeavor by digesting the plethora of information that is currently available and prioritizing information gaps. The Fellow would also assist in monitoring ongoing processes for the development of Outer Continental Shelf lease areas and summarizing implications for each proposal, making these summaries available for other Tribes through presentations or document sharing.

Currently the Marine Program has archived data as well as ongoing data agreements with outside agencies and organizations that are inaccessible due to formatting and the program lacks the capacity to organize the data so that it is useful both internally and externally. Activities for the Fellow will be to provide technical and organizational support for Quileute Tribe marine inventory leading to a marine planning process. This will also include the initial preparation of planning documents needed to develop an Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area (IPCAs). These planning reports/documents will serve to build support for decision-making initiatives and processes that will be required and made available to other WCOA Tribes.

- The Fellow will support the Marine Program Manager in the development of a data inventory of marine resources within Quileute's U & A. Data will be prioritized by keystone species and a monitoring plan will be identified (this is built upon existing monitoring plans). Methodology and strategies for creating the inventory can be shared with the other Tribes in support of WCOA priorities.
- The Fellow will also engage with technical staff in other west coast marine regions on marine planning initiatives (tribal, state, federal) to ensure alignment with tribal, federal, and state conservation objectives and policies.
- Continuing and expanding the relationship with academia (Oregon State University, University of Washington, others) and regional agency science efforts in coastal and marine environments guided through tribal priorities. This can include analysis and accessing baseline data as well as identifying collaborative future research study efforts.

Summary of the Fellow's day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope: The Fellow will help coordinate and assist the Marine Program Manager to develop archiving methods so that tribal data can be incorporated into a common database for inclusion in multiple west coast ocean planning processes (examples are West Coast Data Portal, NANOOS, California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment development). In addition, the Fellow will participate in regular QNR and WCOA meetings as well as meetings with other tribal departments, state, federal, and local government agencies. The Fellow will be provided the opportunity to attend regional summits and conferences. The Fellow will also be expected to share a final memorandum of an analysis lessons learned with QNR staff as well as sharing appropriate portions with the WCOA Tribal Caucus. In addition to attending/participating in meetings approximately 50% of the Fellows' time will be spent on gathering and organizing information, data and reports while also developing data sharing agreements as guided by QNR.

How this fellow will engage with communities during their fellowship: We envision the Fellow engaging with numerous communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Information gathered in these forums will serve to inform the Fellow's direction such as the core task of the information inventory to inform management priorities and objectives. This will occur through attendance with the Marine Program Manager, QNR Director and at times with our leadership Quileute Tribal Council (QTC) and the Quileute Natural Resources Committee (QNRC) at appropriate forums and discussions. As a tribal government our stakeholder group is the Quileute Tribal Community of La Push.

In general, the wider definition of stakeholder groups that we would also include the Fellow in dialogue with are:

- WCOA members governments (regular meetings, summits, special workshops).
- Washington Coastal Treaty Tribes (Hoh and Makah Tribes, Quinault Nation).
- Quileute Community (Quileute Tribal School Science Program, Elders Week, Special gatherings).
- Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Washington Coastal Treaty Tribes, and Washington State.
- First Nations (Haida Nation).
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (tribal organizations).
- Federal Agencies through their resource trust obligations.
- Pacific Fishery Management Council, specifically Ecosystem Workgroups.
- Stakeholder:
 - Washington State North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee.
 - Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee.
 - Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Working group.
 - Washington State Marine Resource Advisory Committee.
 - Northwest Area of Networked Ocean Observing Systems.
 - Academic institutions

Desired products from the Fellow:

Host-focused products.

- Create a library of organized data including meta data, reports, and presentations relevant to Quileute Ancestral Territory of the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula.
- Identify data gaps and prioritize future research study needs based on compiled information.
- Outlines and presentations (point, poster, web content) on coastal marine conditions and trends.
- Additional and improvement of existing relationships with community and others.

WCOA-focused elements (x3) and products (quarterly blogs or similar and final report)

- Depending on the content, data will be made available to WCOA via the data portal or other appropriate platforms.
- Improve, review, or engage in WCOA projects (Dashboard, Data Portal, Engagement training, Summits)
- Provide planning and in person support for a WCOA Summit (Tribal -OR- all Member)
- Build upon quarterly products- such as a blog, presentation(s) (virtual or in-person) to the WCOA membership and/or Caucuses on Fellow's project(s)
- Methodology or reports may be made available as described to share with the Tribal Caucus in support of WCOA engagement goals.
- Summary of final project/prepare a report to WCOA.
- Summary products will be posted and shared on WCOA website or via newsletter.

Potential benefits of this position to the Fellow:**Benefits (Tribe)**

- Fellow will have the opportunity to engage in a small remote coastal community, and develop skills and understanding of Tribal community, rights, priorities, and government operations.
- Opportunity to understand the connection of a community and ocean through subsistence and cultural practices.
- Develop deep understanding of tribal treaty rights and what it entails with off-reservation roles and responsibilities.
- Fellow will be guided and mentored by coastal natural resource staff that have decades of experience in this location.

Benefits (WCOA)

- Greater exposure to and awareness through networking with Tribal, Federal and State Ocean resource management experts and understanding of the current issues through discussions.
- Participation at WCOA meetings, ability to bring new perspectives to a discussion.
- Provides springboard for early career in ocean management.

Skills required:

- Ability to work independently.
- Listening acuity and critical thinking skills
- GIS – proficiency with ArcGIS.
- Technical writing, statistical and data analysis (database development).
- Ability to critically think and synthesize natural resources data.
- Some experience in communication and public speaking.
- Degree: Master's degree or a bachelor's in science plus 2-4 years' experience.
- Highly organized

Skills preferred:

- Familiarity with tribal governments and Treaty Right implications- especially Pacific Northwest.
- Experience/Coursework Native American History, governments, Treaties, tribal communities.
- Knowledge of the changing landscape of ocean management over the last 2 decades (Pew Commission, U.S. Ocean Policy Council)
- U.S. West Coast coastal and marine management issues
- Familiarity with Ocean Research Programs along the west coast
- Experience developing outreach materials including web content.
- Experience engaging with or communicating with Tribal governments.
- Tribal citizens encouraged to apply.

