



NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship 2023-2025

Project Title: Supporting the institutionalization of justice and equity within state & territory coastal zone management programs

Fellow: Natalie Cross

Partners and Funders: CSO, NOAA OCM

Purpose

The goal of this fellowship position is to provide technical assistance, capacity and relationship building support to drive systemic change around justice and equity within state/territory coastal zone management programs.

Approach

I've broken down this expansive goal into specific tasks intended to bolster existing efforts and institutionalize themes of justice and equity within the CSO community.

Local level:

- Support CZMPs in their community engagement efforts as a part of the CSO-NWF partnership.

State level:

- Lead the drafting, work group & consensus building process for CSO's Environmental Justice policy
- Co-create a series of technical assistance resources:
 - EJ Resources connected to the EJ policy & NOAA-OCM's DEIJA Inventory project
 - Island/Territory specific resources
 - Case studies on climate-driven relocation
- Grant management support for the DE Resilience Hub's use of the Digital Coast Connects Grant

National level:

- Connect CSO & CZMPs to other organizations advancing environmental justice and develop mechanisms for reciprocal partnerships

Project Updates

- Developed a final draft of CSO EJ's policy, incorporating work group, ExComm & partner feedback **[up for a vote this Fall Member meeting]**
 - Co-presented about the CSO-NWF partnership & ways to de-silo and enhance community engagement efforts at the 2024 Restore America's Estuaries Conference
 - Continuing to support the DE Resilience Hub in their spending of the Digital Coast Connects Grant funds
 - Co-developing case studies on climate-driven relocation w/ other CSO fellows
 - Continuing to develop relationships w/ other organizations through a number of events:
 - National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference
 - Upwell: Wave of Ocean Justice at Capitol Hill Ocean Week
 - Rising Voices Workshop
 - UC Santa Cruz Coastal Climate Resilience Course
 - Chisholm Legacy Project – Black Liberation & Just Transition Institute *[was a contributor to their module on sea level rise]*
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Members, please reach out if you...

- Have insights on how to best publicly communicate the key themes of the EJ policy
 - Would like support from the NWF-CSO partnership
 - Have EJ or climate-driven relocation projects/examples you'd like CSO to highlight!
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CSO Point of Contact

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