



NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship 2023-2025

Project Title: Systemic Change around justice and equity within state 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 3-5 state/territory CZMPs in their collaboration with frontline communities as a part of the CSO-NWF partnership.

State level:

- Co-create a series of technical assistance resources:
 - CSO EJ Policy
 - NOAA-OCM's DEIJA Inventory project
 - Peer-to-peer sharing on climate-driven relocation & coastal/ocean justice
 - Island/Territory specific resources
- Support the implementation of the DE Resilience Hub Digital Coast Connects Project

National level:

- Connect CSO & CZMPs to other organizations advancing environmental justice and develop mechanisms for reciprocal partnerships
- Redesign CSO's public-facing materials to center EJ

Project Work

Currently ~1/4 of the way through this fellowship. The below list is just a snapshot of what has been accomplished and what I hope to do for the duration of this fellowship.

Local level: In the initial stages of collaboration with VA & WA's CZMPs through the NWF-CSO technical assistance program. Hoping to find a couple more states interested in this opportunity.

State level: Identified the need for the creation of a CSO EJ policy (to guide any other work and legitimize the topic as a priority for our organization) and hoping to get input during the member meeting breakout session on what to include. Additionally, working to support the DE Resilience Hub team in their spending of the Digital Coast Connects Grant now that funding has been approved.

National level: Currently co-creating a partnership project alongside the Ocean Justice team at the Ocean Conservancy, potentially around coastal-specific metrics to track environmental justice progress.

Members, please reach out if you...

- Have insights/input on what should be incorporated into CSO's environmental justice policy
 - Would like support for your office's partnership with a frontline community (at any stage of partnership!)
 - Have interest in Ocean Conservancy's research services around coastal-specific environmental justice metrics
 - Would like to share any organizations and/or ongoing environmental justice efforts in your region
 - Or anything else, I'm happy to chat and brainstorm!
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CSO Point of Contact

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