



Internship Opportunity Ballast Water Policy

Internship Announcement

Florida Sea Grant (FSG) is pleased to announce a paid, part-time, fully remote internship opportunity for current undergraduates, graduate/law students, or recent graduates focused on ballast water and aquatic nuisance species policy. The duties of the internship include reviewing ballast water and biosecurity policies aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species and pathogens, with a consideration of how they may help reduce or prevent the transmission of coral disease.

Internship Dates

Desired internship dates are mid-August 2021 to mid-November 2021. However, the start and end dates can be flexible based on the needs and schedule of the selected candidate.

Compensation and Schedule

The intern will be established as an OPS employee at the University of Florida with a set salary of \$14.00 per hour. The intern will work approximately 15 hours per week for a total of 200 hours (about three months).

Job Description

Coral reefs are among the most ecologically rich and economically robust ecosystems on the planet. They are also among the most threatened. Recognizing the importance of coral health to community health, Florida Sea Grant is committed to pursuing activities that support the protection of coral reefs and bolster ecosystem sustainability and resilience over the long-term. Specifically, Florida Sea Grant is providing leadership to the U.S. national effort to respond to an unprecedented coral disease outbreak that has devastated reefs throughout Florida and the wider Caribbean.

Stony coral tissue loss disease was originally detected in Florida in 2014 and has since spread throughout the Caribbean. While the exact mechanisms of transmission are unknown, it is possible that human activities, like vessel traffic, may play a role in its transmission. As such, it is important to understand how various policies may reduce the risk of continued transmission of the disease and how such policies have been used in other instances to address biosecurity concerns with invasive species or pathogens.

The intern will examine policies aimed at reducing the spread of aquatic nuisance species and pathogens and consider how these policies may inform efforts to stem further spread of stony coral tissue loss disease. Specifically, the intern will:

- Conduct research related to national and international ballast water and biofouling regulations, policies, and voluntary best management practices and the institutions that play a role in developing/implementing such policies

- Synthesize research/recommendations from experts and managers regarding policies needed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and pathogens
- Engage with experts and resource managers focused on understanding the potential link between ballast water and the transmission of stony coral tissue loss disease and support coordination efforts
- Summarize research findings into a policy memo

In this position, the intern will contribute to the protection of the marine environment, improve their research and policy analysis skills, and develop relationships with professionals specializing in environmental policy and natural resource management. The intern will interface with colleagues throughout U.S. coral reef jurisdictions (Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), government agencies, academic institutions, and nongovernmental partners.

Desired Qualifications and Skills

- Advanced undergraduate student (Junior or Senior), graduate or law student, or college graduate
- Outstanding written communication, research, and policy analysis skills
- Academic background in political science, environmental policy, international affairs, law, or a similar field preferred but not required
- Ability to synthesize complex, technical information into succinct, clear content
- Background or interest in environmental science and/or policy
- Positive attitude, enthusiasm, and interest in learning new things
- Self-directed and able to work remotely

How to Apply

Submit a cover letter, resume, and a brief writing sample to Caroline McLaughlin at cmclaughlin1@ufl.edu. Please send materials in one email with the email subject line “Ballast Water Policy Internship Application.” Applicants with incomplete applications or who send separate emails will not be considered. Review of applications will occur beginning July 23, 2021. Please email Ms. McLaughlin with any questions.

Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States. The University of Florida is a public institution and subject to all requirements under Florida Sunshine and Public Record laws. The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The University of Florida is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity, and expression.