

2026 South Atlantic Sea Grant Marine Fisheries Extension Fellowship



All application materials are due by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, September 25, 2026, on the [North Carolina soarant web portal](#).

South Atlantic Sea Grant programs (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council are now accepting applications for the 2026 South Atlantic Sea Grant Marine Fisheries Extension Fellowship. Applications are due by 5 p.m. ET on September 25, 2026. One fellowship is available.

The fellowship provides on-the-job education and training opportunities in fisheries extension and communication for an early-career professional in the southeast region.

The fellow will work under the advisement and supervision of Sea Grant fisheries extension specialists and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff. **This 12-month opportunity offers a competitive stipend of \$52,000**, a generous work-related travel expense budget, and the flexibility to pay for health insurance using a portion of those travel funds, if needed.

Specifically, the fellow will focus on recreational and commercial fishing industry engagement with emphasis on activities such as, but not limited to, tackle shop / commercial dock visits, outreach events / seminars, and educational resource development. The fellow also will work closely with SAFMC staff to support activities of the existing Citizen Science Program and Best Fishing Practices.

Minimum Qualifications

Applicants must have obtained at least a 4-year, undergraduate degree, from an accredited, public, or private institution of higher education in the U.S. at the time of application.

Applicants also must have outreach or communications experience, as well as an interest in marine fisheries and natural resource management.

In addition, applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The applicant must live in or around Charleston, South Carolina, to take advantage of peer mentorship, networking opportunities, and office space. (100% virtual engagement is not feasible for this fellowship.)

Additional/Preferred Qualifications

- Undergraduate or advanced degree in fisheries, biology, communication, or a related field.
- Experience as a science writer and communicator, with proficiency using a variety of traditional and/or web-based communication tools and techniques.
- Public speaking experience.
- Demonstrated understanding of current saltwater fisheries research and management issues in the Southeast United States.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit these materials via the [North Carolina eSeaGrant web portal](#):

1. Resume (not to exceed two pages using 12-point font and 1-inch margins).
2. A career-goal statement that emphasizes the applicant's expectations for the fellowship experience as it relates to future career endeavors (1,000 words or less, 12-point font, 1-inch margins).
3. Names and contact information from two professional or academic references, including one reference that can attest to applicant's skills as a communicator.
4. Unofficial copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

Review Process

A technical review panel will assess the applications received. The review panel will consist of Sea Grant Extension personnel from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as well as staff from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Additional topical experts will be solicited for the panel if needed. Virtual interviews will be conducted with finalists as part of the selection process.

Deadline

All application materials are due by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, September 25, 2026.

More Information

Contact Scott Baker at msbaker@ncsu.edu or 910-962-2492.

Details

Q: What qualifications and previous experience are desired?

A: Preference will be given to individuals with at least a basic understanding of marine fisheries issues and outreach experience. Multimedia and science communication experience are desirable. The most important prerequisite is a desire to improve stakeholders' understanding of important reef fishery issues. For instance, an applicant with limited science experience but strong communication skills may be preferred over an applicant with strong science skills and weak communication skills. Applicants are expected to have strong organizational skills, be independent and meet work deadlines.

Q: What is the length of a fellowship?

A: The fellowship is intended to last 12 months.

Q: What types of things will the fellow do during the fellowship?

A: The fellowship is an opportunity to learn about and engage in the work conducted by Sea Grant staff and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. As such, the fellow's tasks are to include, but not be limited to:

- Participate in outreach activities that support the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) <https://safmc.net/> Citizen Science Program and Best Fishing Practices.
- Engage with recreational and commercial fishers, tackle shops, fish houses, and regional fishing events to promote best fishing practices (barotrauma education, descending device use, etc.) and other educational initiatives.
- Attend regional meetings to discuss/plan pertinent outreach and communications strategies with partners and stakeholder groups.
- Attend quarterly SAFMC meetings as a staff member as time and resources allow.

Q: What is the salary for the Reef Fisheries Extension Fellowship?

A: The total stipend is \$52,000 for 12 months.

Q: How does the fellow get paid?

A: The fellow will be hired as vendor (not an employee) for North Carolina State University and will be paid monthly.

Q: What other benefits, in addition to salary, are included as part of the fellowship?

A: No benefits are provided and the fellow will not be an employee of North Carolina State University. The fellow has the flexibility to pay for health insurance using a portion of program development funds available, if needed. The fellow will receive work-related travel support (see below). While the fellow will not accrue sick and or annual leave, time away from work can be negotiated with the local supervisor.

Q: How much travel reimbursement does the fellow receive?

A: The fellow is expected to take part in several multi-day trips in the region to conduct extension and outreach programming. Separate funds will be set aside for travelling to specific meetings and conferences if required.

Q: Where will the fellowship be located?

A: The fellow will be conducting in-person and virtual extension and outreach programming in the South Atlantic region throughout the states of North Carolina through Florida. The fellow is required to live in the Charleston, South Carolina area for the duration of the fellowship. The fellow will work out of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) headquarters in North Charleston, SC, and be provided a laptop computer for business use.

Q: How much relocation reimbursement do fellows receive?

A: None.

Q: Who will supervise the fellow?

A: The fellow will be supervised on a day-to-day basis by the Outreach Coordinator for the SAFMC. Sea Grant fisheries extension specialists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida will provide ongoing support and guidance for the fellow.

Q: How much will the fellow be expected to work?

A: The fellow is expected to work 40 hours per week.

Q: How early can the fellowship start?

A: The fellowship is anticipated to begin as early as October 1, 2026.

Contact Scott Baker at msbaker@ncsu.edu or 910-962-2492.