

**Executive Host Information 2005  
Placement Week November 15-19, 2004**

Office Name: Office of Response & Restoration  
Position Title: OR&R Habitat Program Liaison

How many total staff are in your immediate office / branch? (Select one option, mark with X)

1-5	
6-10	
> 10	X

Have you previously hosted a Sea Grant fellow (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	X
No	

If yes, how many? The Coral Reef Conservation Program in OR&R has had 2 fellows recently (see current one below).

If fellow is currently on assignment, please provide contact information.

Name	Adrienne Harris (with the Coral Reef Conservation Program within OR&R)
Tel	301-713-2989 x205
Email	Adrienne.Harris@noaa.gov

Does your office accept non-United States (foreign) citizens? (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	X
No	

**Organizational Overview**

***Mission Statement:*** (Please limit to 30 words.)

The Office of Response and Restoration protects and restores coastal resources by countering and responding to environmental threats, and promoting sound decision-making in the coastal zone.

***Brief Overview of Your Office's work:*** (Please limit to 150 words.)

The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) addresses environmental threats from emergencies, including oil and chemical spills, and chronic releases from Superfund sites, and is the focal point within NOAA for spill preparedness and response, hazardous waste site investigation, and natural resource damage assessment. OR&R helps emergency planners prepare for potential accidents; develops tools; finds remedies for environmental harm caused by coastal hazardous waste sites; assesses injury to coastal resources from oil and hazardous material releases; pursues restoration from responsible parties; and restores injured resources. OR&R participates in the NOAA Habitat Program (which coordinates habitat restoration activities across NOAA), including implementing activities under the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA), such as the development of the National Estuaries Restoration Database. OR&R leads

the NOAA-wide Coral Reef Conservation Program and the Emergency Response Program. Within the Coral Program, OR&R leads NOAA participation in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and manages program activities.

Do you have partnership projects, multi-agency workgroups, or working relationships with other offices? Please list.

NOAA Habitat Program – A cross-NOAA program that includes OR&R, the National Marine Fisheries Service’s Office of Habitat Conservation, and Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, including Sea Grant.
Damage Assessment and Restoration Program – This cooperative program of the National Ocean Service’s Damage Assessment Center (within OR&R) and National Marine Fisheries Service’s Restoration Center (within the Office of Habitat Conservation) assesses natural resource damages and restores habitat.
OR&R has numerous strong working relationships within the National Ocean Service and NOAA, as well as outside the agency with federal and state agencies, local governments, NGO’s, tribes, industry, and academia.
Estuaries Restoration Act Council and Working Group – NOAA (for the Department of Commerce), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for the Department of the Interior), US Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service (for the US Department of Agriculture), Environmental Protection Agency

**Assignment Description.**

*It is understood that the fellow’s specific responsibilities will be tailored to his / her unique skills and interests. Please articulate probable assignments and duties and the education / professional development that these tasks will bring to the fellow.*

Estimated Fellow Travel, Out-of-Office: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	X
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Estimated DC-Area Travel: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	X
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Does this position require mandatory skills: (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	X
No	

If yes, please list. (e.g. SCUBA certification, Spanish fluency, etc.).

Strong interpersonal, communication, and coordination skills.
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Desired Background Skills: Please list. (e.g. strong written / communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint software, etc.).

Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
Strong organizational and creative problem solving skills.
General knowledge of habitat restoration science and policy issues.
Ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint software, e-mail, and general internet applications.
Ability to effectively deal with quick response requests on policy issues and information inquiries.

In 300 words or less, please describe the tasks, duties, or projects the fellow will undertake, the skills a fellow will gain, and the deliverables a fellow can expect to produce from completing these tasks.

**Duties:**

This position provides an opportunity to become familiar with habitat restoration and protection activities across NOAA, as well as activities within the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). The fellow will have the opportunity to establish contacts, pursue interests, develop new skills, and become familiar with the NOAA budget, planning, and program implementation process. In addition, this is a position of responsibility, in which the fellow will have an opportunity to lead the development of initiatives within NOAA Habitat Program, demonstrate their abilities, and implement creative problem solving.

\*\*The primary duties of this position are: 1) to support the National Ocean Service’s (NOS) involvement in the NOAA Habitat Program and 2) to support the implementation of the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA). OR&R is a key player in the multi-office NOAA Habitat Program, which coordinates habitat protection and restoration activities across NOAA, and the NOS representative (from OR&R) sits on the Habitat Program’s final decision-making body. The ERA sets a goal of restoring one million acres of estuary habitat by 2010, and mandated the ERA Council to develop an Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy. In addition, NOAA was directed to develop monitoring protocols for estuary habitat restoration projects, and to create and maintain a national database of restoration projects.

Activities in support of the NOAA Habitat Program include: 1) Serving as the principle point of contact for OR&R’s involvement in the Habitat Program – keeping staff up-to-date and coordinating information; 2) developing budget initiatives; 3) serving on focused program subcommittees; 4) coordinating with NOS offices involved in Habitat related activities; and 5) supporting the NOS representative to the Habitat Program.

Activities in support of the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) include: 1) participating in the ERA interagency working group as a NOAA representative; 2) helping refine the National Estuaries Restoration Inventory (an on-line database of habitat restoration projects); and 3) assisting with regional restoration planning project implementation.