



2008 Long Island Sound Study Science and Technical Advisory Committee Fellowship

OPENING DATE: May 30, 2008

CLOSING DATE: June 27, 2008

Background

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) announces its intent to award partial fellowships to two graduate students to participate in and support the work of the LISS Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The purpose of the fellowships is to provide experience on Long Island Sound issues and programs to students interested in environmental management or policy careers. Successful applicants will be masters or doctoral students whose research focuses on a topic relevant to understanding and managing Long Island Sound and who have a strong interest in coastal environmental management. The fellowships will be administered by Connecticut Sea Grant and New York Sea Grant, in cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency - Long Island Sound Office (EPA-LISO). The period of the fellowships will run concurrent with the 2008-2009 academic year of the home university, plus summer. In addition to continuing his or her research in support of thesis or dissertation requirements, the LISS Fellows will work closely with the STAC co-chairs, providing an average of 10 hours per week of administrative and technical support to the STAC during the academic year and 20 hours per week during the summer. The LISS Fellows must attend STAC meetings (approximately three per year) and other LISS meetings, as appropriate, at various locations around the Sound; travel funds for this purpose are provided in the fellowship. The LISS Fellows will support the STAC by preparing meeting minutes, gathering background reports on topics, completing an independent project on a topic of interest to the STAC, and preparing an annual report of STAC activities and recommendations. The Fellows are also responsible for preparing progress reports to the Sea Grant programs about their Fellowship activities. If an appointed Fellow no longer has student status or otherwise defaults in his/her responsibilities prior to the end of the Fellowship period (in which case the Fellow's award will cease), that student's advisor is required to fulfill the responsibilities of the Fellow, without compensation, for the remainder of the award period.

The focus of the independent project for this period is to support the development of a Sentinel Site Monitoring Program that would monitor biotic and abiotic factors to help understand the impacts of changing climate on the Long Island Sound ecosystem. The Fellows will provide support to the STAC (preparing meeting summaries, conducting literature reviews, surveying and summarizing STAC technical input) to prepare a report that:

- develops questions that the sentinel site monitoring program is designed to address;
- evaluates the type of habitats that should be monitored (e.g., marsh, subtidal, intertidal);
- identifies the parameters that should be measured (e.g., biological, chemical, physical) and standard protocols for their measurement; and
- identifies a sustainable implementation strategy.

In 2008, the LISS will award half-time fellowships to two graduate students. One applicant will be selected from a Connecticut institution and one from a New York institution. Applicants must be enrolled and in good standing in an accredited masters or doctoral program. Awards will include half-time support for one year at a stipend level consistent with the policy of the student's graduate institution. Indirect costs and partial payment for health benefits will also be included. The student's advisor and home university will be expected to be the primary source of support for materials and expenses required to

support his or her thesis or dissertation research. The LISS will accept applications from former fellows. However, applications from new applicants will be given priority in the review process. Applications for these two graduate fellowships must be received by 4:00 P.M. EDT on June 27, 2008. Decisions will be made by July 25, 2008.

Proposal Design and Submission

The materials listed below must be included in an application.

- 1) A proposal cover page that includes the name of the student, the student's university and whether he or she is enrolled in a masters or doctoral program, and the name and title of the student's advisor.
- 2) A *description* (three pages maximum) of the student's interest in coastal management, how the student's research reflects this interest, and the significance and relevance of the student's research to the management of Long Island Sound.
- 3) The student's *resume*.
- 4) A *letter from the University* stating that the student is enrolled and in good standing in an accredited masters or doctoral program.
- 5) A *letter of support and commitment from the student's advisor* certifying that the advisor:
 - a) commits to the goals of the fellowship and supports the student's time commitment to participate in the Long Island Sound Study;
 - b) understands the conditions of the fellowship and verifies that the student will maintain active student status for the full year's duration of the award;
 - c) will notify the SG program immediately if the Fellow no longer has student status or otherwise defaults in his/her responsibilities prior to the end of the Fellowship period (in which case the Fellow's award will cease), and that the advisor will then fulfill the responsibilities of the Fellow, without compensation, for the remainder of the award period.
- 6) A *letter of recommendation* from someone other than the student's advisor who is familiar with the student's academic or professional qualifications.

Electronic submission of applications is required (except as noted below). Applications must be received no later than **4:00 P.M. EDT on June 27, 2008**. Attach a copy of the file in Word, WordPerfect, or pdf format and send it to nolfi.edna@epa.gov. Applicants will receive an email confirmation that the application was received. If you do not have the capacity to submit your proposal electronically or if you experience technical difficulties in attempting to do so, please contact Ms. Nolfi at 203-977-1541 for information on how you may still apply under this announcement. Incomplete application packages or applications received after the deadline will not be considered or reviewed.

Proposal Review and Award

Fellows will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience of the applicant;
2. Relevancy of the applicant's proposed research to LISS priority issues;
3. Demonstrated ability to write and communicate clearly;
4. Interest and commitment of the applicant to learn about and participate in Long Island Sound management programs; and
5. The advisor's letter of support and commitment.

Applicants may be contacted for telephone interviews. Fellowship awards will be made through the student's academic institution. Successful applicants and advisors may need to submit additional materials and appointment forms to Connecticut Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, or the University grant offices upon selection.

Information on the LISS, a partnership to restore and protect Long Island Sound, can be obtained at www.longislandsoundstudy.net.

The EPA-LISO, Connecticut Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant are cooperating to implement this program. Further information, if needed, may be obtained by contacting Mr. Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA-LISO, by email at tedesco.mark@epa.gov or telephone (203) 977-1541.