2024 Spring Internship on Resilient Commercial Fishing Communities

I. Background

The National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN) and the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) are pleased to announce an **internship opportunity for graduate students from an academic institution in the United States during the winter/spring of 2024.** The internship will be coordinated and funded by the NWWN through a grant provided by the Walton Family Foundation. The student will be paid directly through the University of Massachusetts Boston.

The internship project will be focused on applied research that advances the resiliency of commercial fishing communities in the context of working waterfronts**.** This internship will provide students with an opportunity to address real-world needs of commercial fishing communities and work directly with a commercial fishing industry partner within a specific region. There are three opportunities with details about each beginning on page 2.

II. Eligibility

All graduate students currently enrolled in a graduate program at a United States academic institution. Students from all majors are eligible to apply. The NWWN and UHI are dedicated to practicing commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and allyship. We encourage applications from all backgrounds and are committed to allowing all interns to be comfortable in their identities and participate fully in their research.

III. Skills and qualifications

All interns must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong organizational and time management skills, ability to work effectively in both independent and team-based work environments, interest in community building and engagement, interest/experience with problem-solving oriented and applied research tools, willingness to learn from diverse audiences. Additional skills may be specified for each internship opportunity, as described below.

IV. Internship Length Timeframe

Tentative dates for the internship run from mid-February through the end of May (dependent on the student's academic calendar). We anticipate that the internship will be up to 7.5/hours a week (flexible) for the duration of the internship, with each lasting approximately four months. **All the internships have been designed to primarily be conducted remotely, but please read each description carefully for additional pertinent information.**

VI. Stipend

Interns will be compensated at the rate of $25/hour.

VII. How to Apply

Please submit the following materials to apply for a Spring 2024 NWWN Applied Research Internship: a) Resume (1-2 pages), b) Cover Letter/State of Interest (1 page), and c) Recommendation letter from your faculty advisor.

Please combine all required materials into a single Microsoft Word document or PDF file, with file name: *LastName_FirstInitial_NWWN_Internship_SP24*

Be sure to specify in your cover letter the specific internship for which you are applying.

Applicants can apply for more than one internship but must submit a separate application package for each project for which they would like to be considered (application package refers to resume, cover letter, and letter of recommendation).

VIII. Submission and Due Date

Please send all application materials as an email attachment to Shannon Hogan, shannon.hogan@umb.edu by 6 pm, Eastern Time on December 14th, 2023. Write "2024 NWWN Internship Application" in the email subject line.

Questions? Feel free to contact Shannon Hogan (email above), Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston, School for the Environment.

IV. Internship Descriptions

The following **three internships** are available for the Spring 2024 and begin in February 2024. You may apply for up to two of them. Remember to indicate which internship you are applying for in your cover letter.

I. Internship partner: NOAA Fisheries

Description: This project will address the need for seafood hubs and the revitalization of working waterfront infrastructure supporting commercial fisheries. In the United States, seafood supports approximately 1.2 million jobs and $165 billion in sales across the economy. However, the seafood sector faces a variety of challenges, including climate change resulting in changes in species availability, and damage to essential infrastructure due to increased storms; aging infrastructure (ports, seafood processing and fishing vessels) and workforce labor shortages; and competition with seafood imports. Further, small- and medium-scale seafood businesses need cold storage and are interested in alternative market channels.

Resilience of the seafood sector and commercial fishing industry depends both on the structural state of infrastructure and diverse opportunities for all business scales. Food hubs, businesses providing aggregation, distribution, storage, or marketing for food producers, are important for small- and mid-sized producers. While they are common for agricultural products, they are rare for seafood. A comprehensive national plan for seafood security and equity will include a plan for infrastructure resilience and support for small- and medium-scale seafood businesses. This project looks to provide

guidance on creating seafood hubs and developing infrastructure projects and partnerships while identifying priority areas the federal government can or should support.

Objectives and intern duties: The intern would work directly with NOAA Fisheries' Southwest Fisheries Science Center and their National Seafood Strategy Coordinator to develop case studies of existing or past seafood hubs and/or seafood infrastructure initiatives. Duties will include conducting research and interviews, collecting information on seafood hubs or seafood infrastructure revitalization projects across the country (depending on intern's interest). **This work will be conducted remotely in the intern's current state of residence.**

The final case study/studies will include tools useful for commercial fishing communities looking to develop a seafood hub and/or revitalize their seafood infrastructure, in addition to recommendations for other hubs or infrastructure projects to examine. The internship would last approximately 4 months, and it is expected at least 7.5 hours per week would be contributed to this work.

Internship goals: The goals of this internship are to provide real-world experience and education to a well-qualified graduate student regarding issues facing commercial fishing communities. This internship will provide a graduate student with the opportunity to work directly with NOAA Fisheries and other related stakeholders. The intern will gain valuable experience in conducting applied research with the commercial fishing community and their work will help NOAA develop valuable recommendations that could act as a template for national case studies used to develop lessons learned for successfully creating a seafood hub or revitalizing seafood infrastructure.

II. Internship Partner: University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

Description: This internship will assist with identifying policy gaps to help make Georgia's commercial fishing working waterfronts more resilient in the face of climate change and other stressors. As in many coastal states, Georgia's commercial fishing working waterfronts are threatened by increased development, greying of the fleet issues, environmental changes, and market uncertainties; as a result, they try to remain viable. An in-depth assessment on the status of Georgia's commercial fishing working waterfronts has recently begun but it does not include a comprehensive policy analysis that could further help support, sustain and/or preserve the state's commercial fishing working waterfronts. Comparing this information with examples of successful working waterfront policies from other parts of the country is critically needed to help identify gaps, opportunities, and potential strategies for enacting more working waterfront-friendly legislation in Georgia.

Objective and intern duties: The selected intern will complete their project under the guidance of the Associate Marine Extension Director with University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. The intern will be provided with background on the Georgia coast including an overview of its commercial fishing industry as well as past and ongoing projects supporting the state's commercial fishing working waterfronts. The intern's primary objectives will be to:

I. Conduct an initial review and analysis of existing legislation and policies at the local and state level that can help sustain commercial fishing working waterfronts in Georgia, and
II. Research policy examples in other states, particularly in the southeast aimed at preserving commercial fishing working waterfronts.

The intern will compile and summarize these findings to help identify current policy gaps and provide recommendations for implementing future working waterfront-supportive policies in Georgia. With the help of the supervisor, the intern will organize a virtual seminar to present their findings to key stakeholders to raise awareness of policy opportunities (and potential challenges) relevant to supporting the state's commercial fishing working waterfronts. The internship would last approximately 4 months, and it is expected at least 7.5 hours per week would be contributed to this work. **This work will be conducted remotely in the intern's current state of residence, however, for applicants applying from/in close proximity to Georgia's coast there may be opportunity for a trip to the waterfront and/or to meetings with industry stakeholders.**

Internship Goals: The goals of this internship are to provide real-world experience and education to a well-qualified graduate student regarding issues facing commercial fishing communities. The intern will learn how to conduct a policy analysis and develop policy recommendations for the future of Georgia's working waterfront that could act as a model for other parts of the country. The intern will gain experience speaking directly with stakeholders.

III. Internship Partner: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

Description: The focus of this internship will be to address the lack of information on the changing economic and social impacts of hurricanes on Florida's working waterfronts and commercial fishing industry. Recent Hurricanes Idalia and Ian, intensified by climate change, damaged working waterfronts and critical commercial fishing infrastructure across the state. Like all natural disasters, these hurricanes were particularly damaging to working waterfronts in impoverished areas, which have a limited capital cushion available for repairs or rebuilding. Researchers have evaluated Florida fishermen perspectives on sea level rise and adaptation and the explicit impacts of hurricanes on the Gulf of Mexico grouper fishery, however, research to explicitly link changing hurricane patterns over time with changing economic and social impacts to working waterfronts is lacking.

Objective and intern duties: The intern will assist with conducting semi-structured phone and in-person interviews with fishers and dock owners in Western Florida focusing on areas impacted by the last four major hurricanes (Idalia, Ian, Michael, and Irma). The interviews will be used to collect information on economic and social impacts of these hurricanes (immediate and long-term); and fishers and dock owner perspectives on changing severity of hurricanes and their threat to livelihoods. The intern will also help to analyze data from the interviews with the hopes of isolating major themes and identifying changing impacts over time, disseminating findings through a final report and infographic.

The internship would last approximately 4 months, and it is expected at least 7.5 hours per week would be contributed to this work. **This work will be conducted remotely in the intern's current state of residence, however, for applicants applying from/in close proximity to Florida there are opportunities to conduct in-person interviews and site visits.**

Internship goals: The goals of this internship are to provide real-world experience and education to a well-qualified graduate student regarding issues facing commercial fishing communities. The intern will gain experience in applied research by conducting interviews with members of the commercial fishing industry and analyzing qualitative data. The intern will also gain experience in community engagement and assessments of the social and economic impacts of hurricanes.