

Plans for VASG-NCBO Postdoc Fellow

OBJECTIVES of the VASG—NCBO partnership:

- Advance EBFM in Chesapeake Bay by improving the understanding of linkages between fisheries, land-use changes, habitats, and the ecosystem services they provide.
- Develop and provide sound scientific information to decision-makers that support ecosystem-based approaches to managing the coastal and marine environment and enhancing ecosystem health, services, and resilience.
- Provide valuable training and professional development for a postgraduate student in science integration and synthesis, and the science-to-management process.
- Promote collaboration and communication among NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO), Virginia Sea Grant (VASG), and other key state and regional science organizations, such as the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC), Maryland Sea Grant, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

DRAFT CRITERIA for a FELLOW'S PROJECT/WORK PLAN:

1. Feasibility: The project must be feasible for a two-year post-graduate fellow to complete. The project could be phase one of a longer term, multi-fellows strategy, or it could be a distinct project and outcome of 2YR duration. The scope of the project must be manageable scientifically, i.e., adequately bounded. For example, boundaries could include:
 - a. A target species (or class of species) that has biological ranges that fall largely within the Chesapeake Bay region (i.e., not highly migratory)
 - b. A topic that has relatively limited and manageable knowledge gaps (i.e., there is enough known about the science of key land use, habitat and fish stocks issues that concrete, management-relevant suggestions or outcomes are possible). While identifying knowledge gaps is fine, there still must be enough scientific research to allow for some management action.
 2. Scientific and Management Merit: The topic must advance EBFM research and management. The project should not only have direct application to the way we currently manage fisheries, but should also broadly inform the science in support of EBFM and contribute toward an EBFM implementation roadmap.
 3. Output: The project should have clear deliverable(s) for resource managers as the primary audience for the product.
 4. Relevance: The project should have clear applicability Bay-wide.
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