

# 2010 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT: COLLABORATIVE FISHERIES RESEARCH GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS



**Deadline: March 31, 2010.**      Applications emailed to: [vsgproposals@vims.edu](mailto:vsgproposals@vims.edu)

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***Introduction***

Virginia Sea Grant, in partnership with the Northeast Consortium at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth’s School of Marine Science and Technology, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), will administer a national demonstration pilot for a collaborative fisheries research graduate fellowship award program in fishing gear technology/conservation engineering. The graduate fellowship seeks to: 1) expand the capacity of marine and fisheries science professionals possessing collaborative research skills and experience; 2) cultivate a vibrant, enduring professional cohort of collaborative research scientists; 3) enhance the scientific capacity in conservation engineering/fishing gear technology design to reduce bycatch and minimize habitat impacts; and 4) advance professional standards for collaborative research and re-establish a professional culture of collaboration between fisheries scientists and industry.

***Highlights:***

- Fellows are provided with one academic year of support (tuition, stipend), plus \$15,000 of research support.
- e-Networking tools will be used to link fellows and faculty from multiple institutions through a distance-learning course, “Theory and Practice of Collaborative Fisheries Research” and to facilitate peer mentoring and coaching support throughout the Fellowship.
- Fellows will participate in a practicum in conservation engineering/fishing gear design to apply collaborative fisheries research principles. The program facilitates and enables effective collaborative research projects among science, industry, and resource management communities.
- Any student, regardless of citizenship, who is enrolled in a graduate or professional program in an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S., is eligible.
- Awards begin Fall semester 2010



Collaborative research is problem-focused, rigorously designed scientific research, conducted in real-world settings, and reflecting issues of mutual interest to the research partners. Partners can be drawn from the scientific, managerial, private, and/or nonprofit sectors.

### ***Fellowship Description***

The Collaborative Research Fellowship program will focus on capacity building, professional network creation, conservation engineering, and promotion of collaborative fisheries research standards. Fellows will attend marine and fisheries science programs throughout the U.S.; however, they will add a collaborative fisheries research focus to their degree by participating in the fellowship program. The program will use e-learning and social networking tools to build a collaborative research community that spans the country. The graduate fellowship award will provide two semesters of tuition and stipend support, followed by \$15,000 of research funding for the practicum, travel support, and safety gear.

The graduate Collaborative Research Fellowship in marine fisheries will include:

- *The Theory and Practice of Collaborative Research*, distance-learning based course
- Ongoing moderated e-networking to enable faculty coaching and foster peer mentoring
- Collaborative research practicum in fishing gear design/conservation engineering
- Final Collaborative Fisheries Research Graduate Student Symposium

***The Theory and Practice of Collaborative Fisheries Research*** will be a distance-learning course (3-credit hours), utilizing e-networking and e-learning technologies such as video conferencing, Skype and conference calls, and Blackboard. The course will use electronic social networking applications with facilitated chat-room, information-sharing and group-reflection capabilities. The course will be designed to increase understanding of the 1) basic *knowledge* underlying the theory and practice of collaborative research and the basic principles of conservation engineering, 2) *skills* needed to function effectively as a collaborative researcher, and 3) *professional standards* emerging in the field.

*Theory and Practice of Collaborative Fisheries Research* was designed and will be team taught by members of the core academic faculty team. Guest lecturers will be used to enhance students' understanding of the significance of various research topics, local industry and sector contexts, and other uniquely place-based cultural and institutional factors that influence the effectiveness of collaborative research. The core academic faculty team consists of Drs. Troy Hartley (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), Christopher Glass (University of New Hampshire), and Steven Cadrin (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth). Dr. Hartley provides extensive research experience in the human dimensions of collaborative research, as well as the administration of collaborative research programs ([http://www.vims.edu/about/directory/faculty/hartley\\_tw.php](http://www.vims.edu/about/directory/faculty/hartley_tw.php)). Dr. Glass has expertise in conservation engineering, conducting collaborative research, and administering collaborative research programming (<http://www.eos.unh.edu/Faculty/Glass>). Dr. Cadrin is a fisheries biologist, with experience conducting collaborative research in a stock assessment context ([http://www.umassmarine.net/faculty/showprofs.cfm?prof\\_ID=123](http://www.umassmarine.net/faculty/showprofs.cfm?prof_ID=123)).



***e-Networking.*** E-learning and e-networking applications and capacity will be an integral tool in the implementation of the Collaborative Research Fellowship. They will be used to conduct an initial program orientation, foster interaction among fellows and faculty in the course work, provide faculty coaching opportunities during the design of the collaborative research practicum, and supply an avenue for faculty coaching and peer mentoring during the implementation of the practicum. These technologies will also be used in on-going monitoring and evaluation of the pilot. The use of e-networking is intended to cultivate the growth of a professional cohort of collaborative researchers, advance professional standards in the field, and re-establish fractured professional relationships between industry and scientific communities.

***Collaborative research practicum.*** A practicum will provide fellows an opportunity to put their new collaborative research knowledge, skills, and standards into practice; reflect upon their experience; and address a real-world fishing gear problem. It is strongly encouraged that the practicum link closely with the fellow's thesis requirement from his/her degree-awarding institution.

***Symposium.*** A graduate student symposium session will be held at the annual American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting in 2011 in Seattle. The core faculty will organize the session with AFS and Fellows will present their practicum research findings and experience. The cohort will celebrate their completion of the fellowship program. The symposium will provide a program evaluation opportunity and a facilitated debriefing with students and faculty will provide specific recommendations and input for future modifications.

### ***Funding Priorities & Levels***

The Collaborative Fisheries Research Fellowship will support highly qualified graduate students conducting course work and research in conservation engineering or fishing gear technology design to reduce bycatch and minimize habitat impacts from fishing gear or practices.

Applicants are eligible for the following three fully funded Fellowships:

- **Northeast Consortium, University of New Hampshire.** This fellow would be enrolled and conduct research through the University of New Hampshire. Students could be enrolled in several of the academic departments where fisheries science occurs, (for some possible departments, see [www.opal.sr.unh.edu/](http://www.opal.sr.unh.edu/), [marine.unh.edu/graduate/](http://marine.unh.edu/graduate/), and [www.northeastconsortium.org](http://www.northeastconsortium.org). The Northeast Consortium encourages and funds collaborative research and monitoring projects in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank that have effective, equal partnerships among fishermen, scientists, educators, and marine resource managers.
- **University of Massachusetts, School for Marine Science and Technology.** Up to two fellows would be enrolled and conduct research through the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology. See [www.smast.umassd.edu/](http://www.smast.umassd.edu/)



for more information about the School, its faculty, and the research currently underway. Funding is from the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute (MFI). The Mass MFI mission is “to develop innovative and practical fisheries management applications contributing to scientific understanding, management, and economic growth and sustainability of our oceans and communities of Massachusetts that border on the ocean.”

- **Virginia Sea Grant—NOAA Fisheries Bycatch Reduction Fellowship**. This fellow would be enrolled at a Virginia university and conduct research in cooperation with the NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center’s Pascagoula Laboratory, on turtle bycatch reduction, fish bycatch reduction devices (BRDs), and/or other issues of relevance to the southeast. We are particularly interested in the development, adoption, and sustained best-use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) by the fishing community and in management of small fisheries anywhere in the world where turtles are an issue. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Troy Hartley at [thartley@vims.edu](mailto:thartley@vims.edu).

***Funding levels.*** The fellowship supports a graduate student stipend, tuition, and fees for one academic year, plus \$15,000 in support for a collaborative fisheries research project.

### ***Eligible Applicants***

Any student, regardless of citizenship, who is enrolled in a graduate or professional program in an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S., is eligible.

### ***Application—Format***

The application will be used to evaluate the prospective student and his/her potential success in the Collaborative Fisheries Research Fellowship program. The application should be a concise description of the applicant’s interests, how the fellowship meets those interests, and the research topic of interest.

It is advisable to discuss your interests with VASG and/or the contacts for the specific fellowships listed prior to submitting an application.

***Format and Content.*** Adherence to the format requirements is mandatory and ensures fairness across all applicants. The maximum number of pages allowed for each section must not be exceeded. Font size can be no smaller than 11 point and margins must be at least 1 inch on standard 8.5x11 inch paper throughout the document. The text in the narrative may be single- or double-spaced. Proposals will be accepted electronically in Word or PDF format. Incomplete or inappropriately prepared proposals will not be considered and may be returned.

Items 1-3 should be submitted via email to [vsgproposals@vims.edu](mailto:vsgproposals@vims.edu). Items 4-5 should be sent directly to Troy Hartley at VASG and not included in the email submission.



1. Letter of Interest (2-page maximum) detailing educational and career interests, including how a Collaborative Fisheries Research Fellowship would contribute to those personal objectives. If an applicant has a preference for a specific fellowship, please note that in the Letter of Interest.
2. Research Intent (2-page maximum) detailing the collaborative fisheries research topic of interest. It is not necessary to have a specific collaborative research project pre-identified before entering the fellowship program; however, the research intent document should discuss the particular types of fishing gear and conservation engineering research that are of greatest interest to the applicant. Describe why this is an important topic for fisheries and fisheries management. Identify and discuss the scientific, industry, and management communities that would benefit from this research and its findings, and why.
3. Resume.
4. All undergraduate and graduate transcripts and test scores. Official transcripts are strongly preferred. Please provide copies of GRE scores, and if applicable, TOEFL scores.
5. Three letters of recommendation. Have three letters of recommendation sent directly to VASG.

### ***Application—Evaluation***

***Evaluation procedures and criteria.*** VASG will assemble a peer review panel with the appropriate disciplinary and professional expertise to enable a thorough review of the applicants' achievements and potential in collaborative fisheries research. The panel may be composed of researchers, extension staff, resource managers, fishing industry members, and/or additional stakeholders familiar with the collaborative research and fisheries issues. VASG employs a stringent conflict of interest policy throughout the proposal review process. The criteria for review are:

- Applicant's Merit—technical capacity of the applicant (academic record, test scores, and statement of goals and objectives).
- Importance of Research Field—significance and relevance of collaborative fisheries research topic area and student's interests.
- Recommendations—content of external recommendations.
- Opportunity for Impact—the potential feasibility and effectiveness of science-industry partnership, science-to-management impacts, and dissemination of results from the research. Is the applicant's proposed work consistent with the mission and interests of



the primary funders, Northeast Consortium, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth SMAS, VASG, and VIMS?

- *Additional relevant experience*—e.g., educational experiences, extra-curricular activities, honors and awards, communication skills.

Comments and recommendations from the reviewers will be the basis for discussion at the panel review, which will provide advice to VASG, the Northeast Consortium, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth SMAS leaders of the Collaborative Fisheries Research program. Phone interviews with finalists will be conducted.

### ***Deadline and Submission Information***

Proposals must be submitted via email to [vsgproposals@vims.edu](mailto:vsgproposals@vims.edu) by 5:00pm EST on March 31, 2010 in Word or PDF format. Insert “Collaborative Fisheries Research Fellowship” in the email subject line. Confirmation of proposal receipt will be sent by return email to the originating mailbox only. If you do not have email access, please contact VASG at the phone numbers listed in this announcement.

Materials to be submitted from third parties (e.g., transcripts from academic institutions, letters from references) should be mailed directly to:

Susan Park, Assistant Director for Research  
Virginia Sea Grant  
P.O. Box 1346  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Ph. 804-684-7436  
Fax. 804-684-7269  
Email. [spark@vims.edu](mailto:spark@vims.edu)

***Timetable:*** VASG will conduct its review and notification on the following schedule:

- Proposals due: March 31, 2010
- Peer review panel: early/mid April 2010
- Phone interviews of Finalists: late April/early April
- Notification to applicants: early/mid May 2010
- Funding available: Fall semester 2010
- Project duration: 2010/2011 AY, plus field research support to be scheduled.



***For Additional Information***

For application and background information please contact Troy Hartley, VASG Director ([thartley@vims.edu](mailto:thartley@vims.edu)), (804) 684-7248 or Susan Park, Assistant Director for Research, ([spark@vims.edu](mailto:spark@vims.edu)), (804)684-7436. For additional background information, applicants can also contact co-sponsoring partners and course instructors:

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## ***Core Faculty***

***Steve Cadrin.*** Director of the NOAA/UMass Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program and a Professor of Fisheries Oceanography at the School for Marine Science and Technology in New Bedford MA. Steve has been a stock assessment scientist for twenty years with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries, and New York Department of Environmental Conservation. He has extensive experience with collaborative fisheries research on fish tagging programs, research on population modeling of fishery resources, and spatial population structure and movement. He has chaired several international working groups and convened symposia for the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, National Marine Fisheries Service, American Fisheries Society, and the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. Steve has a Ph.D. from University of Rhode Island



***Christopher Glass.*** Director of the Northeast Consortium and Research Professor in the Ocean Process Analysis Laboratory, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS), University of New Hampshire. A specialist in animal behavior and marine biology, Chris has a long record of conservation gear research in New England’s Fisheries and globally. He is the chair of the WWF Smart Gear competition judges panel. He served for 9 years as Director of Marine Conservation at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, where he specialized in the study of fish behavior and applied knowledge of this subject to the development of more selective fishing gears directed at reducing bycatch and discard in commercial fisheries. Previously Chris worked for 14 years at the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen, Scotland and has worked extensively on bycatch reduction and

conservation engineering programs throughout Europe and North America. His education includes a Ph.D. from The University of Glasgow.

***Troy Hartley.*** Director, Virginia Sea Grant, Research Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), and Research Associate Professor, Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Program, College of William & Mary. Troy is a coastal and marine policy scholar whose recent research has focused on 1) the design, implementation, and benefits of collaborative fisheries research, and 2) integrated governance systems, particularly network analysis and stakeholder processes in ecosystem-based management. Troy is widely published on collaborative research, is the president of the socioeconomic section of the American Fisheries Society, and a senior advisor on the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management pilot project. Troy has a Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan.

