



Coastal Policy and Restoration Internship: Designing Educational Tools

The [North Carolina Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) and the [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#) have partnered to offer a summer internship as part of the federation's Coastal Policy and Restoration Internship program.

Coastal Policy and Restoration Internship: The North Carolina Coastal Federation is a member-supported nonprofit environmental organization committed to protecting and restoring the North Carolina coast. The Coastal Federation provides an exciting opportunity for students to work with our established and successful organization. Working alongside dedicated professional staff, interns will engage in:

- Coastal policy and advocacy
- Coastal habitat protection and restoration
- Environmental education
- Community collaboration

Interns will also learn about the inner workings of nonprofit management, including public relations, strategic planning, marketing, board of directors' management, communications, fundraising and nonprofit governance. Learn more about the [internship program](#).

Project: Refining the Watershed Game, a hands-on educational tool used to enhance water quality outreach for coastal decision-makers.

Project Description: The Coastal Reserve's [Coastal Training Program](#) uses an interactive game to help coastal-decision makers understand how land use choices affect water quality and how best management practices to prevent adverse effects. The game needs updating to improve water quality workshops and outreach efforts.

Dates: May 11 – July 31, 2020

Location: N.C Coastal Federation, 3609 N.C. 24, Newport (Ocean), NC 28570

Eligibility: students must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application.

How to apply: Please send a resume and a cover letter to [Whitney Jenkins](#) by **March 1, 2020**.

The student will be paid through the N.C. Coastal Reserve and housed at the N.C. Coastal Federation. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as an individual with a disability, or status as a protected veteran.

Contact:

N.C. Coastal Reserve – Whitney Jenkins, (252) 838-0882 or whitney.jenkins@ncdenr.gov

N.C. Coastal Federation – Ana Zivanovic-Nenadovic, (252) 393-8185 or anaz@nccoast.org

Coastal Policy and Restoration Internship

Project: Refining the Watershed Game to enhance water quality outreach for coastal-decision makers

What is the North Carolina Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve?

The N.C. Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, a division of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. The N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed through a federal-state partnership between NOAA and the N.C. Division of Coastal Management. The Reserve is a network of 10 protected sites established for long-term research, education and stewardship. This program protects more than 44,000 acres of estuarine land and water, which provides essential habitat for wildlife; offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serves as living laboratories for scientists.

What are the specific activities that students will undertake to complete the project?

- Using focus group(s), engage current users of the game, including N.C. Coastal Federation and NC Sea Grant staff, to generate ideas on how to improve the game.
- Contact staff from Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, who were recently working to develop coastal zone version Watershed Game, to see how they have adapted the game and if any of their ideas would be appropriate for the N.C. version update.
- Update the game, in collaboration with the reserve's Coastal Training Program (CTP) coordinator, based on feedback from the focus group and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.
- Work with a graphic designer to update the game files.
- Schedule, advertise, facilitate, and evaluate a coastal decision-maker workshop on water quality protection using the updated game, in collaboration with the Reserve's CTP coordinator.

What skills should students possess to complete a successful project?

- Knowledge of water quality issues, including stormwater management and low impact development.
- An interest in stakeholder engagement and adult outreach.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills; attention to detail; strong written and verbal communication skills; creativity, initiative and problem solving capability; and works well in a team environment.

What professional career development benefits will students receive from working on this project?

- Learn and implement stakeholder engagement skills.
- Hands-on experience developing and implementing decision-maker outreach.
- Exposure to other reserve programs, including research, stewardship, and K-12 education. There may be opportunities for the student to assist with other Reserve activities related to these programs.

What types of documents, products or/and reports will the student(s) deliver upon completion of this project?

The updated version of the watershed game and a summary of the workshop evaluations.



Picture of the game being used at a recent workshop

How will the final project be used by the Coastal Reserve?

The updated watershed game will be used in all future water quality workshops and we will provide the updated game to partners who use the game in their outreach.

