

POST-DOCTORAL POSITION: RESOURCE ECONOMIST

Through a partnership with the **Chesapeake Research Consortium**, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service** seeks a postdoctoral researcher in resource economics. In its work in the Natural Capital Project, we are developing tools to model and map the distribution of biodiversity and the flow of multiple ecosystem services across land- and seascapes, with a focus on Chesapeake Bay, U.S. east coast, Galveston Bay, Texas, and Puget Sound, Washington.

We seek an imaginative individual for a 2-year post-doc to support further development and application of the InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs) models*. The successful applicant will work in a team to help design, adapt, document, and implement a series of marine and terrestrial biophysical and socio-economic models of ecosystem services (e.g., food from fisheries and aquaculture, nursery habitat, coastal protection, recreation, agricultural crop production, irrigation water). The post-doctoral researcher will analyze data to parameterize and validate these models for one-two of the three focal systems – Chesapeake Bay, Galveston Bay, or Puget Sound. The post-doctoral researcher and other project collaborators will apply these models in all three systems. Together, these models will provide a spatially explicit tool that tracks the production and valuation of ecosystem services. The models will be used to assess the importance of including the effects of watershed-based activities in managing marine coastal resources. The models are also intended to aid in the support of coastal and marine management decisions, so applicants must be passionate about creating simple, elegant, scientifically robust models for decision-making purposes.

The researcher will be located in Oxford, MD at NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office and will require extensive interaction with interdisciplinary teams and travel to facilitate collaboration among team members. The post-doctoral researcher would be part of a team that includes Mary Ruckelshaus (The Natural Capital Project), Gretchen Daily (The Natural Capital Project), Phil Levin (NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center), Mark Plummer (NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center), and Howard Townsend (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office).

Preferred Qualifications

- A Ph.D. in environmental or agricultural and natural resource economics or a closely related field
- Experience developing spatially-explicit economic models in the context of natural resource and or land-use management
- Experience building and calibrating models, confronting them with limited data and expressing uncertainty
- Experience integrating economic models with other biological, physical or social models
- Experience conducting empirical analyses related to market and non-market valuation
- Experience working with collaborators from diverse backgrounds and capacity and interest to work with interdisciplinary teams
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong programming skills

How to Apply: For full consideration, please submit a cover letter, CV, and the names of three references to Kevin Sellner (sellnerk@si.edu) with "POSTDOCTORAL RESOURCE ECONOMIST" listed in the subject line. We will begin reviewing applications September 15, 2010 and the position will remain open until filled.

* More information on existing InVEST models can be found at www.naturalcapitalproject.org/InVEST.html