



## Rhode Island Sea Grant Law Fellow Program

### What is the Law Fellow Program?

- The Sea Grant Law Fellow Program provides answers to marine law and policy questions by matching law students with requests from constituent groups.
- The Law Fellow Program is supported by Rhode Island Sea Grant.
- The Law Fellow Program is housed at the Marine Affairs Institute at the Roger Williams University School of Law, in Bristol, RI, in partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant and the University of Rhode Island.

### Who are Law Fellows and what do they do?

- Law Fellows are qualified law students with an interest in marine law, and excellent writing and research skills.
- Law Fellows respond to requests by government, nonprofit and private industry marine organizations for legal research and analysis on marine law and policy questions (see reverse for examples of projects).
- Law Fellows cannot provide legal advice or become involved in litigation.
- Law Fellows are paid, supervised, and dedicate 10 to 15 hours per week each semester to their assigned project.

### How are projects selected and administered?

- The Legal Program's Staff Attorney works with the requesting organization to identify appropriate marine law research topics suitable for Law Fellows.
- The Staff Attorney selects qualified students, matches them with projects, oversees each student's work, and is the point of contact for outside organizations.
- Typically, a one semester project involving one Law Fellow costs the requesting organization \$3,000, which includes student wages, supervision by the staff attorney, and access to complete legal research resources.
- Projects are typically one semester long with one Law Fellow assigned per project, however, projects can last longer and utilize more than one Law Fellow.
- The final work product is typically a memorandum but can also involve oral presentations or other dissemination of the Law Fellow's work as appropriate.

### To submit a request for a Law Fellow and for more information, please contact:

Read Porter, Staff Attorney, Marine Affairs Institute

ph: 401-254-5734 or email: [rporter@rwu.edu](mailto:rporter@rwu.edu)

<http://law.rwu.edu/academics/institutes-programs/marine-affairs-institute/sea-grant-law-fellows>

*\*Please see the reverse side for examples of Law Fellow projects\**

**Selected Law Fellow Projects:**

<b>Project Subject Matter</b>	<b>Requesting Organization(s)</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Healthy Coastal Ecosystems</b>	The Nature Conservancy’s Global Marine Team; Narragansett, RI	The Law Fellow analyzed the <i>Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference</i> policies and contributed research to a national shellfish conservation and restoration initiative.
	University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, University of Rhode Island Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials, and Save the Bay; Narragansett and Providence, RI	The Law Fellow researched legal authority related to the production of the document, “A Local Official’s Guide to Regulating Land Use in Wetland Buffers and High Water Tables to Protect Water Quality.”
<b>Sustainable Coastal Development</b>	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council; Wakefield, RI	The Law Fellow researched legal authorities in support of development of the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP).
	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office; Narragansett and Providence, RI	The Law Fellow researched the boundaries between private and public property for the state of Rhode Island to define areas of public beach access.
<b>Admiralty</b>	Quonset Development Corporation; North Kingston, RI	The Law Fellow researched the processes that must be considered and followed when engaging in a marine construction or dredging project, specifically related to the expansion of the Davisville Port in North Kingston, RI.
	Bluewater Wind; Hoboken, NJ	The Law Fellow researched the implications of U.S. Cabotage laws for offshore energy projects, primarily examining the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (Jones Act) and the Passenger Vessel Services Act.
<b>Safe and Sustainable Seafood</b>	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Division of Fish & Wildlife, Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office, and the Rhode Island Commercial Fisherman’s Association; Jamestown, Providence, and Kingston, RI	The Law Fellow assessed the legality of <i>Rhode Island Fluke Conservation Cooperative Sector Allocation Pilot Program</i> , a proposed pilot fishery management plan.
	National Marine Fisheries Service; Gloucester, MA	The Law Fellow researched fisheries agencies’ use of reservation authority to prescribe fishways under Section 18 of the Federal Power Act.
<b>Hazard Resiliency in Coastal Communities</b>	Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency; Cranston, RI	The Law Fellow researched legal authorities to assist in the development of StormSmart Coasts Rhode Island.
	Marine Affairs Institute; Bristol, RI	The Law Fellow researched sea level rise, erosion and accretion of beachfront property, and public nuisance laws, and presented findings at <i>The Coastal Society Conference 2008</i> .