Program Overview

The department of Environmental Science and Policy offers undergraduate and graduate fellowships in the Fish and Wildlife Adaptation Program with the US Geological Survey’s National Climate Adaptation Science Center (NCASC). In this program, fellows learn to develop policy-informing products to manage the impacts of climate change on fish and/or wildlife resources. This program provides fellows with the opportunity to acquire professional experience outside of academia, while simultaneously advancing in their degree program.

The fellowship comprises the summer, fall, and spring semesters in 2024-2025. During the summer semester, this position is fully remote part-time (25-30 hours/week), but fellows may work at NCASC’ headquarters in Reston, VA. During the fall and spring semesters, fellows will collaborate with mentors virtually or in-person at NCASC headquarters for 10-18 hours per week. As this is a fully remote position, there is no expectation for fellows to come into headquarters unless requested by their mentor. Fellows will focus on the background of current issues of climate change and fish and/or wildlife resources and learn the process by which policy-informing tools are produced at NCASC. Projects focus on understanding climate change impacts to fish and wildlife, primarily supporting existing research projects with NCASC PI's. The fellowship program also includes environmental and climate policy data analytic workshops to provide students with hands-on experiences in data analysis tools, such as R or ArcGIS, etc. Each fellow will work on one project (below), working directly with the project Principal Investigator (PI) at NCASC.

Potential projects are as follows:

Projects

1) National Synthesis of Species Responses to Climate Change (Range Shifts)

This internship will involve collecting and analyzing documented effects of climate change on fish and wildlife, with an emphasis on range shifts. As part of an effort to assess the body of evidence about range shifts in response to climate change, this project will involve working with USGS staff to review peer-reviewed articles on species’ range shift in response to climate change; articulate and assess hypotheses related to climate change-related range shifts in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems; and depending on interest and project progress, participate in a journal publication process.

This project will require strong skills in statistical analysis; experience reading and interpreting scientific publications; data management; and the ability to work independently.

2) Aquatic Conservation Communications

This internship will focus on developing communication products (e.g., social media posts, website content, blog series, newsletters) in support of NCASC-facilitated aquatic
conservation projects and groups, including the American Fisheries Society Climate Change Committee, the international 'InFish' network, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Freshwater Fish Specialist Group. The intern will learn about current issues in aquatic conservation and expand his/her/their professional network through interactions with global colleagues.

3) **Inland Fisheries and Climate Data Informatics**  
This internship will focus on supporting NCASC databases related to climate change and inland fish including the Fish and Climate Change Database (FiCli) and the U.S. Inland Creel and Angler Survey Catalog (CreelCat). The intern will learn about systematic literature review approaches and tools and may have an opportunity to contribute to scientific publications.

4) **Wildlife Responses to a Changing Climate**  
This internship will focus on synthesizing responses of wildlife populations to a changing climate. Duties may include database searches of the scientific literature, compiling information from published studies, analysis of data, and writing up results in preparation for publication. There may also be opportunities to develop science communication products that can be used for engaging natural resource practitioners.

**Compensation**
- Undergraduate students will be funded with $8,400/year (summer 2024, fall 2024-spring 2025) and graduate students will be funded with a $11,000/year (summer 2024, fall 2024-spring 2025).
- Students who will earn fellowships may want to register for EVPP 494 Internship or EVPP 894 Supervised Internship.

**Eligibility**
- Active undergraduate or graduate students in either the Environmental Science or Environmental and Sustainability Studies program.
- This position is fully remote. However, students may come in to the USGS office in Reston, VA for multiple days a week, as coordinated with their PI.

**Application materials**
- Letter of interest (1 page)
- Current resume
- (Un)official transcripts

**Application submissions and contact**
- Professor Younsung Kim via ykih@gmu.edu

**Application deadline**
- March 15, 2024, Friday, 11:59 pm (EST)