Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR)

Call for Applications:

CINAR FELLOWS IN QUANTITATIVE FISHERIES AND

ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE

Deadline: October 31, 2022  
Award Start Date: January 1, 2023  
Duration: 18 months

CINAR is a NOAA Cooperative Institute whose mission is to conduct and coordinate cutting-edge research engaging both NOAA and academic scientists to enable informed decisions by NOAA for sustainable and beneficial management of the Northeast U.S. Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem ([www.cinar.org](http://www.cinar.org)).

Applications are now being solicited for CINAR Fellows in Quantitative Fisheries and Ecosystem Science. This call is open to early-career scientists with appointments at CINAR partner institutions: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), University of Maine (UMaine), Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), Rutgers University, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies (UMCES), University of Rhode Island (URI), University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST). Information about our 2020 CINAR Fellows can be found here: https://website.whoi.edu/cinar/people/fellows/.

**Description**

Stock assessment scientists, ecosystem scientists, economists, and social scientists at NOAA Fisheries provide essential information for the sustainable management of living marine resources. They develop tools to evaluate the status of fish stocks, advise managers on the likely effects of alternate management policies, and are essential to avoiding overfishing and developing rebuilding strategies. These scientists are also essential to the implementation of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other mandates that guide the management and conservation of marine protected species. The NOAA Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training (QUEST) program provides education and training opportunities to ensure an adequate supply of future NOAA Fisheries scientists in mission-critical, quantitative-based disciplines required for effective living marine resource management.

In the Northeast region, there is a growing range of assessment and management approaches, and recognition of a more holistic, ecosystem perspective of both science and management. There are a number of activities underway in the region including ecosystem-based fisheries management, development of management strategy evaluations, and greater inclusion of stakeholders in scientific efforts. These activities complement current survey and assessment activities, all of which require quantitative skills related to data, analyses, assessments, and advice.

The goal of this fellowship program is to engage early career scientists in research to improve and enhance the assessment and management of living marine resources in the Northeast region. With support provided by NOAA’s QUEST program, fellowships will be awarded to early career faculty at CINAR partner institutions who are working on assessment and management related issues. Support provided by these fellowships will enhance research, teaching, and advising activities and will help to establish laboratories and programs that can develop and implement new technologies to improve the assessment and management of fisheries resources in the Northeast U.S. Large Marine Ecosystem region. In 2020, CINAR held a competition and awarded five, two-year fellowships (information about current CINAR fellows is available here: <https://website.whoi.edu/cinar/people/fellows>.

Fellowship funding will be provided to individual CINAR faculty who write successful proposals describing how they will use the funds in support of QUEST priorities. These faculty must be early career (i.e., Assistant or Associate Professor, Assistant or Associate Scientist, or Assistant Research Professor). Eligibility is not limited by time from degree or years in a tenure-track appointment. Faculty must work in stock assessments, ecosystem-based assessments, or socio-economics (e.g., economic / social sciences / policy research on use and management of fisheries by communities dependent on marine resources), with the goal of providing essential information for the sustainable management of living marine resources. They also should have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the QUEST mission. To foster increased collaboration between faculty at CINAR institutions and NOAA, the fellowship application should identify a host at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The host will (1) collaborate with the Fellow on the proposed work, (2) provide access to and context for NOAA data resources as appropriate, and (3) facilitate interactions between the agency and the CINAR fellow. If the Fellow does not have an existing collaboration with a host, the CINAR office will facilitate linking the Fellow with a suitable host.

Funding provided by CINAR fellowships can be used for salary support for the faculty Fellow, or for tuition and stipend of graduate students or for stipend for postdoctoral investigators working with that Fellow. Activities that can be supported include, but are not limited to: (1) development and application of numerical models for individual species and ecosystems; (2) development, refinement, and application of sensors or platforms for surveying species, or characterizing their physiologies/oceanographic habitat; and (3) policy efforts related to the economics or human dimensions of fisheries activities and regulations within the region. Support for equipment, supplies, and other miscellaneous costs are also acceptable, as is travel, including for participation in national and international conferences and workshops relevant to quantitative fisheries and ecosystem-based management. These funds can also be used to enhance start-up support for new faculty at CINAR partner institutions.

Multiple fellowships will be offered, with the number of awards and budget guidelines determined by a panel of representatives from each CINAR institution, with guidance from the Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the QUEST program. The initial duration of the CINAR Fellows will be 18 months.

Applications are solicited from all CINAR partner institutions. The criteria for selection include:

* Relevance of the proposed activities to the needs of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and its ongoing efforts to assess fishery stocks, develop and implement Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, and develop and implement Ecosystem Approaches to Management.
* Scientific excellence – past projects and proposed activities.
* Extent of ongoing or proposed collaborations with Northeast Fisheries Science Center.
* Plans for education and training of potential future NOAA scientists and staff through advising and teaching activities relevant to stock assessment or areas relevant to the central theme of quantitative fisheries science, including ecosystem based management.

*We seek to use these fellowships to promote diversity in the CINAR partner institutions and NOAA workforce, and strongly encourage applications from researchers who identify with groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in the marine sciences. This effort supports goals and objectives outlined in the “NOAA Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan” to promote the education and training of a diverse workforce that will comprise the next generation of NOAA scientists.*

Application Instructions

Applications should consist of a short (2 page maximum, 1 inch margin, 12 point Times New Roman font) letter describing the individual's research interests and specific plans for the fellowship, with a short (2 page) CV appended. If you use references and figures in your application, those can be on a separate (third) page. The applicant should state whether or not they have identified a Northeast Fisheries Science Center host and briefly describe existing or planned collaborative research with this host. A two-year budget should also be provided showing the anticipated cost categories and amounts. Requests should not exceed $150K for the 18-month period. Investigators from institutions other than WHOI are encouraged to use the budget template available on the CINAR website (budget spreadsheet available here: <https://website.whoi.edu/cinar/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2020/03/CINAR_budget_template__2022.xlsx>), but other formats will be accepted. Task 1 does NOT need to be included. This should be viewed as a draft budget and does not need to be an official institutional submission.

The statement should include information on the impact and readiness of proposed technologies or approaches for operational use by Northeast Fisheries Science Center personnel. High-risk proposals will also be considered. Another important component would be specific efforts for training of students or postdoctoral investigators. Applications that include a strong educational component are encouraged. The application should address the selection criteria and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluation metrics listed above.

Applications should be sent via email (PDF file preferred) to Mindy Richlen, CINAR Associate Director (mrichlen@whoi.edu) no later than 6:00 pm EDT on October 31, 2022. There will be no extensions to this deadline.

Applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee consisting of the CINAR Director, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Director and one additional center representative, and selected representatives from several of the CINAR partner institutions. Appointments of new Fellows will begin on January 1, 2023. CINAR expects to appoint 3-5 Fellows depending upon budget requests and funding availability.

**Additional details**:

* Funding will be provided one year at a time. Continued funding for this program is expected, but not guaranteed.
* Budgets should include travel to one relevant quantitative fisheries and ecosystems science conference, workshop, or working group meeting per year.
* No-cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Successful candidates will be required to write a brief progress report each year.
* The Northeast Fisheries Science Center will be evaluating the success of this program using a range of metrics that will include: 1) how the funded activity supports quantitative fisheries and ecosystem science; 2) extent of collaboration with NOAA scientists and managers; 3) other involvement with the fisheries management process (e.g., review panels, scientific and statistical committees for fisheries management councils); and 4) specific activities involved in the training of students in this specific topic area (students advised, courses taught, etc.).