Research Assistant  
Blue Foods at COP 27

Are you interested in the intersection of ocean science and policy and want to be part of building solutions for current and future ocean issues? If so, the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, an initiative of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, invites you to apply as a Research Assistant (RA) within our Oceans and Food Security initiative.

The Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) catalyzes research innovation and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most. COS capitalizes on Stanford’s broad expertise in ocean science and in the many other disciplines crucial to developing ocean solutions including engineering, computer science, political science, design and business. Our core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders in the data revolution.

Background
The Blue Food Assessment showed that many blue food species (aquatic animals, plants, or algae caught or cultivated in freshwater and marine environments) can be produced with environmental footprints that are lower than terrestrial animal-source foods and might therefore take a prominent role in diets that are both more sustainable and nutritious. It also highlighted the many ways in which climate change places blue food contributions at risk, especially in already vulnerable countries across Africa, South and South-East Asia, the Indo-Pacific and Small Island Developing States.

Job Description & Duties
This RA position will contribute to our efforts to assess the roles and opportunities for blue foods in climate-resilient, net-zero food systems. It will conduct a scoping analysis to map net-zero options for blue food systems, which include dietary shifts to low-impact species, decarbonizing blue food production and infrastructure, and reducing and reusing food loss and waste. This work will lay the foundation for food system modeling that will quantify these options; for bringing blue foods to upcoming international climate convenings, in particular COP 27 in Egypt; and for developing guidelines for countries to include blue foods in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Stanford is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.
Specific tasks include:

- Review process for and scope of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans
- Conduct scoping analysis of the various ways in which blue foods might contribute to net-zero food systems, including but not limited to: dietary change, decarbonization of supply chains, ‘blue carbon’, sustainable feed ingredients, and circular economies
- Work with team to turn findings into white paper, brief for COP27, and other communication materials

Qualifications
We seek a self-starting undergraduate or graduate student at Stanford University with the following interests and experience:

- Familiarity with blue foods, food systems and/or climate mitigation issues
- Experience finding, accessing, and quickly reviewing scientific papers
- Strong communication and technology skills
- Detail-oriented, self-starter working methods
- Ability to work independently, while also knowing when to seek guidance
- Attention to detail in organizing research and work products
- Broad policy analysis, writing, and referencing experience
- Thorough experience with Microsoft Suite (doc, ppt, excel), Google Suite (drive, docs, slides, sheets), as well as some experience with Adobe Suite is preferable (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop)
- Enthusiasm about unpacking wicked problems

Start Date and Working Hours
This position is targeted for 10–20 hours per week, between September 6 through November 4, 2022. Start date and working hours are negotiable. Compensation will be commensurate with experience following Stanford’s student wage guidelines.

Location
This position will be based at the Center for Ocean Solutions office at Stanford University (Palo Alto). Some work can be done remotely, yet an essential function of the position is to be available for intermittent in-person or virtual meetings. The in-person, remote, or hybrid work distinctions will follow Stanford University’s current COVID guidance.

To apply
Please email the following materials to Dr. Michelle Tigchelaar (mtigch@stanford.edu) and include “COS BF@COP27 Assistant Application” in the email subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on August 15, 2022. The position will remain open until filled.

1) Letter of interest providing background on your experience and applicable skills
2) Resume or CV outlining your education and professional experience
3) Contact information for three references