

Research Assistant
“Climate-smart” Blue Foods

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 part-time 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](#) (BFA) showed that many blue food species (aquatic animals, plants, or algae caught or cultivated in freshwater and marine environments) can be produced with lower carbon emissions compared to many terrestrial animal-source foods and might therefore take a more prominent role in diets that are both more sustainable and nutritious especially by replacing red meat. The assessment 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. The Research Assistant (RA) will support a project that builds on the findings of the BFA to investigate how blue foods can be better integrated into national and international climate strategies.

Job Description & Duties

The primary responsibility of the RA is to conduct a literature review to map the different climate mitigation and adaptation pathways for blue foods, and their trade-offs against other sustainable development outcomes. Work will be conducted mostly under the supervision of COS staff as well as project partners from the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Specific tasks include:

- Review the literature to identify and assess the various pathways through which blue foods can contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation of food systems
- Score identified pathways for trade-offs and co-benefits with nutrition, biodiversity, equity, and other sustainable development outcomes
- Synthesize research findings in written materials for internal and external communication purposes

Qualifications

We seek a self-starting undergraduate student, graduate student, or recent graduate with the following interests and experience:

- Familiarity with blue foods, food systems and/or climate change issues
- Experience finding, accessing, and quickly reviewing scientific papers
- Strong communication and technology skills
- Detail-oriented work methods
- Ability to work independently, while also knowing when to seek guidance from colleagues
- Strong communication and technology skills (e.g., Microsoft suite, Google suite, Slack)
- Enthusiasm about unpacking wicked problems

Start Date and Working Hours

This position is targeted for 10–20 hours per week, between January 8 through April 30, 2024. Start date and working hours are negotiable. Compensation will be commensurate with experience following Stanford’s wage guidelines.

Location

This position will be based at the Center for Ocean Solutions office at Stanford University (Palo Alto). Work can be done remotely, yet an essential function of the position is to be available for intermittent meetings, either in-person or virtual.

To apply

Please email the following materials to applywithcos@stanford.edu and include “COS Climate-smart Blue Foods RA Application” in the email subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on November 29, 2023. 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

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.

The Stanford Woods Institute is a part of [Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability](#).