

Postdoctoral Research Position

Expanding Understanding of the Contributions of Small-Scale Fisheries A Duke–FAO Partnership

Small-scale fisheries play an important role in food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and local and national economies. This study aims to document the global, national and subnational contributions of small-scale fisheries, and through this understanding help facilitate the implementation of the [*Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*](#) (*the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines*), adopted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014.

The Division of Marine Science and Conservation, part of the [Nicholas School of the Environment](#) at Duke University, invites applications for a full time postdoctoral associate for a two-and-a-half year fellowship, available immediately to work with an interdisciplinary team to evaluate the social, environmental, economic, and governance contributions of small-scale fisheries using available subnational, national and global data as well as data generated from case studies. The fellow will be in residence at the [Duke Marine Laboratory](#) on the North Carolina coast and will also spend time at FAO headquarters in Rome as needed. The Postdoc Associate will be mentored by Professor Xavier Basurto, in coordination with Nicole Franz, FAO and will be part of a larger team at Duke working on social and natural science fisheries and small-scale fisheries issues in particular.

To apply, submit a single pdf that includes: (1) cover letter describing your interest in and qualifications for the position; (2) a detailed curriculum vitae; (3) Up to three scholarly works; (4) names and contact information for three references. For earliest consideration apply by November 1st, 2017 Applications should be submitted at Academic Jobs Online: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo> See Job # 9964 Further inquiries may be directed to Dr. Xavier Basurto (t: 252-504-7540) xavier.basurto@duke.edu

Major Duties & Responsibilities

In collaboration with the mentoring team, the postdoctoral associate will:

1. Assume leadership for the day-to-day management of the SSF contributions partnership and results delivery.
2. Refine conceptual models, develop analytic approaches, and implement practical methods for documenting the social, environmental, economic and governance contributions of SSFs.
3. Develop, test, and analyze databases, building off ideas from workshops, judicious consolidation or harmonization of data from disparate databases, and synthesis of large, potentially incomplete secondary datasets.
4. Explore ways to incentivize data sharing to increase the statistical power of that data and to facilitate collaboration.
5. Prepare first draft of overall study.

6. Work with Duke and FAO on how best to communicate results from the above and other related work for target audiences, peer-review publications and other relevant communication products and outlets.

Required Qualifications, Skills & Competencies

1. PhD in the natural, environmental, or social sciences, or related discipline.
2. An interest in, commitment to, and proven ability to using data-driven, quantitative approaches to solving policy-relevant problems.
3. Strong research and writing skills.
4. Excellent command of English; other languages an asset.
5. Ability to work both independently and in a team.
6. Fisheries: marine and/or inland (preferable social science) background.

Strongly Preferred

1. Competence in R, Matlab, or other programming environments.
2. Experience in statistics, modelling, and/or analytics.
3. Experience with relational database design, construction, management, and/or analysis.
4. Experience working with large, incomplete (i.e., with missing data), and/or heterogeneous datasets.
5. Experience sourcing data from multiple countries and regions.
6. Experience in data management (preparing meta-data).

Duke has been named as a [Great College to Work For](#) by the Chronicle of Higher Education. We seek to recruit and retain a diverse workforce to maintain the excellence of the University. [The Duke University Marine Lab](#), a coastal campus in Beaufort, NC, has a distinguished record of research and education in marine science, conservation and governance, and a strong international reputation with research interests spanning diverse taxa and include both human and natural systems. The mission of the laboratory is to be at the forefront of understanding marine environmental systems, their conservation, and governance through leadership in research, training, communication, inclusion, and diversity. In 2015 the Duke Marine Lab was recipient of the [Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education](#). For more information about living in Beaufort, NC visit: <http://www.beaufortnc.org/live-here>.

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