

MSF Job Description 2026

Maine Service Fellow: Sunrise County Economic Council Fellow, Machias, Maine

About the position

We seek a Maine Service Fellow to work with the Sunrise County Economic Council on projects related to resilience for fishing-dependent coastal communities in Washington and Hancock counties that are facing a variety of intersecting challenges. Most coastal communities in the Downeast and Acadia regions rely heavily on fisheries and related maritime industries. Their culture and way of life are also tightly entwined with the region's fishing heritage. SCEC is leading an array of programs aimed at supporting the region's fishing communities as they grapple with changes in climate, fisheries regulations, technology, stocks, global economics and social determinants of health. The fellow will assist with working waterfront and shore access inventories and needs assessment, community conversations about the future of fishing communities, and other community outreach activities.

The coastal communities of eastern Maine are beautiful and rugged with lots of outdoor recreation options like hiking, boating, winter sports and more. In the Machias region where SCEC is located, local community events and classes happen year-round, there are a few restaurants and night spots to choose from, and the University of Maine at Machias has a fitness center and pool. That said, the region is deeply rural and remote, so it won't appeal to people who prefer a bustling urban setting.

The Fellow will work closely with a group of SCEC employees involved in fisheries- and community development-related work, all with strong and deep relationships with the local community. The Fellow will join this close-knit team of out-going, deeply embedded people who live and work in the coastal communities they serve. They are eager to involve the Fellow in their work and social networks.

Position duties:

The Fellow will undertake the following activities:

- Working waterfront infrastructure and access inventories and needs assessments: This project will expand inventories of working waterfront resources, as well as documenting needed upgrades and maintenance, potential threats to infrastructure and access, and financial and technical assistance requirements. This work will expand on a Working Waterfront Trust feasibility initiative (partner: Gulf of Maine Research Institute), a working waterfront access conservation effort (partner: Downeast Conservation Network), and a statewide working waterfront inventory pilot project (partners: Maine Coastal Program and Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries).
- Assisting with facilitating community conversations and outreach activities with fisheries harvesters and their communities centered on regulatory changes in response to lobster stock assessments and the need to reduce entanglement risks for endangered large whales. A key focus of these initiatives will be to support self-determination and engage youth in shaping the future of their communities. This project will support on-going efforts on alternative lobster gear testing (partner: Maine Department of Marine Resources), fishing community outreach on imminent changes to the lobster industry (partners: Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries and Maine DMR), and a Future of Fishing initiative (partner: Island Institute).
- Assisting with fisheries and fishing community outreach events (depending on timing) in support of fishing community resilience, including the Downeast Fishing Family Forum, the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and safety training and health screening events, and more.

Minimum requirements:

- Must be at least 20 years of age.
- Within the last 5 years, have completed a college degree (associates, bachelors, or graduate).
- Be eligible to work in the United States and pass a background check that includes a criminal history record check.
- Commit to devoting full-time effort to the assignment (1700 hours total over 43 weeks).
- Agree to live in the community impacted by the project.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Valid driver's license
- Willingness to travel and engage with community members and partners across the two counties (mileage will be reimbursed)
- Basic familiarity with spreadsheets
- Ability to work with a variety of people with different backgrounds and interests with dignity and respect
- Ability to conduct field data collection in a coastal environment under a variety of weather conditions
- Interest in Maine's fisheries and fishing communities
- Strong attention to detail

Strong applicants will enjoy and have relevant experience in:

- Connection and collaboration with Maine's fisheries and fishing communities
- Field data collection
- Basic data management, geographic information systems work
- Community organizing and event logistics

About Us:

Maine Service Fellows is a statewide service program designed to help rural communities tackle their most critical needs, with a focus on building climate resilience. The program increases the opportunities for recent college graduates to devote a year of service, use their skills to make a difference, and strengthen civic engagement and community resilience through engaging community residents in volunteer-based solutions. Maine Service Fellows recruits individuals who completed a post-secondary degree with the last 5 years.

Compensation and benefits:

- Living allowance of approximately \$27,100 per term (10 months)
- Educational award for student loans of ~\$5,420
- Full health care coverage
- Paid time off
- Housing stipend of \$500 per month will be provided by SCEC

Start Date: mid-May to mid-June, 2026