ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OF ART + DESIGN

2024 AICAD/NOAA Fisheries Art+Science Fellowship
Application Guidelines

About the AICAD/NOAA Fisheries Art+Science Fellowship
The AICAD/NOAA Fisheries Art+Science Fellowship is a grant to support a 9-month engagement, up to ten-years post-graduation, for an artist/designer with a professional Bachelors or Masters degree including BFA/BDes/BArch or MAF/MDes/MArch from any US member school within the AICAD consortium. Participating member schools can be found at https://www.aicad.org/about/. The Fellow will be expected to produce artistic and/or design work in response to a specific concern or "challenge" presented by NOAA Fisheries. The selected artist/designer will be part of an interdisciplinary body of researchers, staff, and community groups addressing a specific ecological issue, defined as the "challenge" below.

The successful candidate will complete a 4 to 6-week residency embedded in community during summer/early fall 2024 in Portland, Oregon, followed by a six-month period from August 2024 to February 2025 in their home location to research, produce, and distribute creative work in response to the scientific and policy issues the artist/designer will be exposed to. Consideration of the experience as an open-ended artistic response with the option for multimedia practice, including but not limited to performance, print, painting, video, installation, social engaged art practices etc., and some combination of design and/or design communication can be expected of the Fellow. The Fellow will be expected to present a formal artist talk, produce some written materials, and document their experience and process. Potential publication of the artist's work and written experiences is anticipated. Specific communication materials will also be developed in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries communications team.

The AICAD/NOAA Fisheries Art + Science Fellowship aims to provide a hands-on opportunity for a recent graduate to apply their art & design education in addressing and communicating ecological and social concerns, and bridge communities around challenging resource issues. Potential outcomes will include public talks at various locations including: galleries and museums; educational settings including schools and colleges; and science/policy and art/design conferences. Work produced by the artist fellow in response to the described dilemma may be shown to the public in gallery settings or alternative artistic venues and NOAA Fisheries offices and headquarters. Documentation of the work and process as well as final finished work will be distributed through digital and print media and reach a variety of audiences including the national art & design and scientific communities, and the public at large. In the words of NOAA Fisheries administrator:

"The Art + Science fellowship benefits NOAA Fisheries and our mission not only through the beautiful and moving artistic pieces that are generated and which we can use to communicate the value of the work we do for years to come, but it helps our staff see their work in new and

different ways, and helps us to connect more deeply with the communities we serve with our natural resource work." - Ruth Howell, Branch Chief for Communications and External Affairs, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

About NOAA Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries is the federal agency responsible for stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat. On the West Coast, NOAA Fisheries focuses on recovering endangered salmon and steelhead species, protecting marine mammals, and managing ocean fisheries. Through our activities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California, we work with numerous agencies, organizations and citizens to promote science-based activities that sustain our marine resources.
NOAA Fisheries looks forward to hosting the artist selected in this competitive and prestigious fellowship. The agency is committed to mentoring the student, and will do so in part by connecting them with scientists, resource managers, and other community members to provide research and community engagement opportunities and set the stage for a successful project. NOAA employs a wide array of science, technical, and communications expertise which will be made available to advance the project as needed, such as data collection and analysis, media relations, economists, social scientists, policy analysts, videographers, etc.

The AICAD/NOAA Fisheries Art+Science Fellowship builds on the five-year relationship with the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) from 2013-2019 and aims to continue the successful production of artistic work through art and science collaboration at the national level.

About the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD):
AICAD – the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design – is a non-profit consortium of the leading art schools in the US and Canada. It was founded in 1991 by a group of 25 presidents who felt a need for the similarly structured art schools to come together so as to mutually develop their schools and programs. The mission is to help strengthen the member colleges individually and collectively, and to inform the public about these colleges and the value of studying art and design. AICAD colleges educate more than 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year, plus many thousands more in summer and continuing education programs. Students are drawn from all 50 US states and more than 60 foreign countries.

The Challenge

Use art and art practice to increase awareness of, and connect communities to, the reintroduction of salmon beyond Grand Coulee Dam in the Columbia River as led by the Upper Columbia River Tribes.

***Consider:** As an artist/designer, can you imagine ways to engage residents, landowners, water users, and other user groups upstream of Grand Coulee dam on the Columbia River in supporting the reintroduction of salmon to their historical habitat?*

Overview

For thousands of years, salmon have been an integral part of the Columbia basin. They provide food to humans and animals and carry nutrients from the sea to ecosystems far inland. In many ways they define the Columbia Basin, occupying the vast majority of rivers and streams, limited only by impassable natural barriers to the health of humans, wildlife, fish, habitat and water quality in the Columbia River Basin. Salmon were once abundant in the upper Columbia, Sanpoil, and Spokane Rivers but have disappeared because their habitats were blocked by the construction of hydroelectric dams. This loss wounded the region, the Columbia Basin, and even the Pacific Ocean, changing the lands, water, and people, altering ecologies and economies. NOAA Fisheries is supporting a tribally-led effort working to restore salmon by supporting their reintroduction into the upper Columbia River.

The Upper Columbia River Basin historically supported abundant wild salmon, steelhead, and resident fish such as sturgeon, which critically supported thriving tribal cultures and communities. Since time immemorial, members of these tribes and their ancestors have managed these species. The tribes rely upon their abundance to this day as staples of their diet as well as a strong spiritual connection between salmon and Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest. The connection is celebrated in ceremonies including the First Salmon Ceremony, weddings, funerals, and long house gatherings. Salmon are recognized as a keystone species essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem. They are a keystone of Native American culture and spirituality as well.

In 2015, the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) – which include Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Spokane Tribe of Indians – with support from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), initiated an investigation into the reintroduction of anadromous fish to accessible habitats upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. The first phase of this effort concluded in 2019 and found that reintroduction of salmon could be successful. The effort now is its second phase: Phase 2

Implementation Plan (P2IP) that describes research needed to resolve remaining uncertainties and the tools that will be used to guide and evaluate management actions.

In September 2023, the Biden Harris Administration announced an historic agreement to support Tribally-led efforts to restore salmon populations in the Upper Columbia River Basin, including $200M over 20 years to advance the P2IP.

The reintroduction of salmon beyond Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams will reconnect cultural practices and ecological processes. Expansion into historical habitats will help ensure their continued survival in the face of climate change. The return of salmon to the blocked areas has been the dream of the Upper Columbia Tribes for many years and would represent a cultural and spiritual renewal as well a source of sustenance. However, not all of the residents of the region share this enthusiasm

The Columbia River and its tributaries in the upper Columbia Basin are the lifeblood of the region. These waters make dryland agriculture possible, provide water for towns and cities, and pass through dams to generate electricity for farms, homes and industry. Many residents fear that the return of salmon to the blocked areas will mean that their use of water will be controlled or curtailed. To them it is a threat to the way of life that they have built. They view the return of salmon not with anticipation, but with dread. Fearing that the return of salmon will also bring heavy government regulation that will stifle their way of life.

The UCUT tribes have been very clear about not adding additional regulatory burden to the region's residents. The current plan is to use fish not protected by the Endangered Species Act for the reintroductions. Thus the regulations in place to protect species listed under the ESA would not be in effect. Even so, there is still worry and skepticism amongst landowners, water users, and other groups. Addressing these concerns and increasing general awareness and support for the project through artistic practice will help advance the work and heal the affected communities and ecosystems.

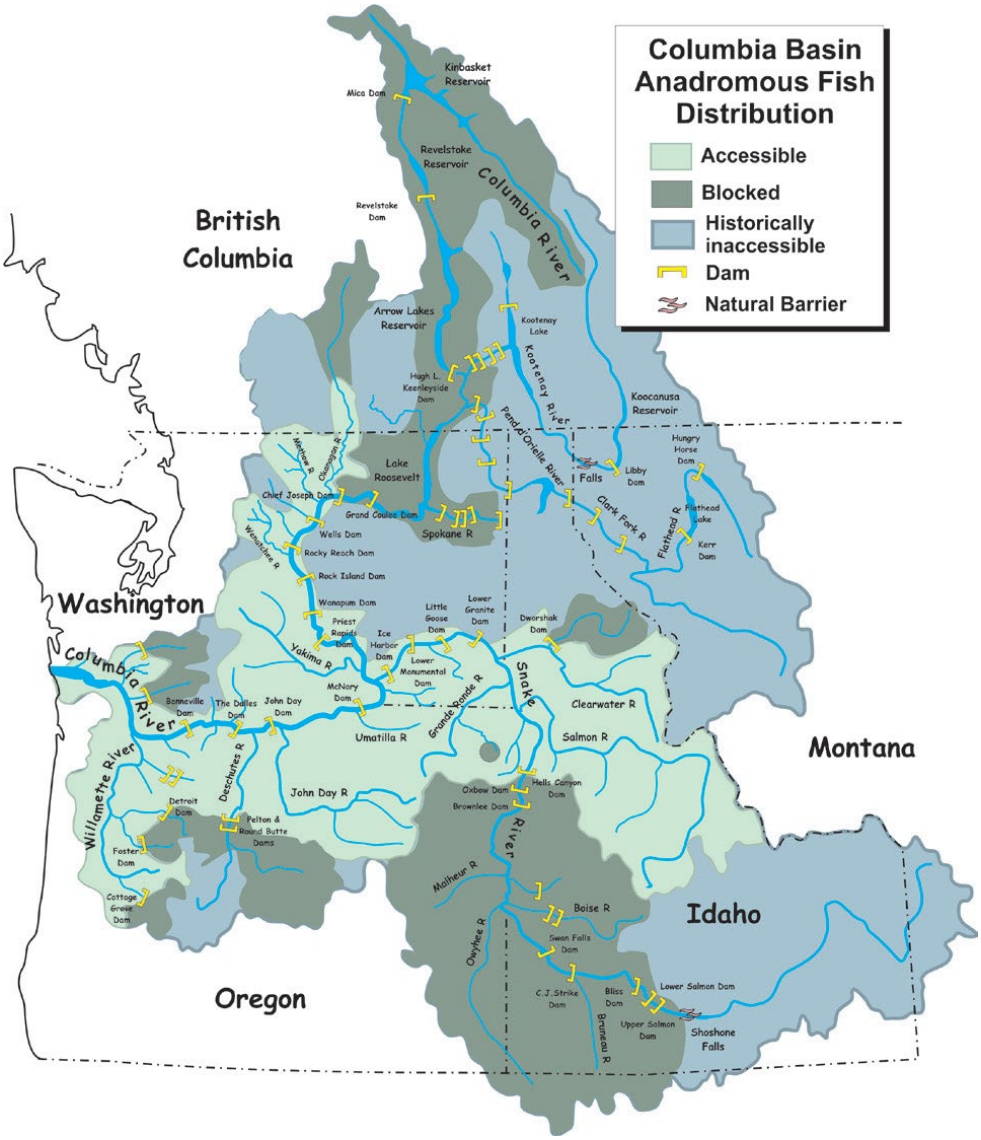

Figure 1: Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead distribution and accessible habitat.

How Does NOAA Fisheries Help Salmon?

From floodplains to estuaries, nearshore habitats to kelp forests, urban waterways to rural streams, NOAA Fisheries (NOAA) is responsible for the stewardship of our nation's living marine resources and their habitats (NOAA WCR Website).

NOAA is the federal agency under the Endangered Species Act responsible for protection, conservation, and recovery of endangered and threatened marine and anadromous species, including salmon and Southern Resident killer whales.

NOAA Fisheries has a special role in protecting and restoring nearshore habitat because it is so important to species listed under the Endangered Species Act. It is also crucial for fish stocks

important to commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We review actions by other federal agencies that affect nearshore habitat and help them find ways to offset, or mitigate, the effects of those actions.

NOAA Fisheries also supports salmon habitat restoration through its Restoration Center and by administering the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. These programs invest millions of dollars a year in restoring nearshore habitat, especially in estuaries that are especially important to Puget Sound Chinook salmon. We work with partners, such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We also use the latest science to focus restoration funding where it will do the most good for Southern Resident killer whales.

What is NOAA's Role in Columbia River Salmon Reintroductions?
Today efforts are underway to recover endangered Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon. To increase their numbers and distribution, thus facilitating the species' long-term recovery, NOAA Fisheries designated a "non-essential experimental population" of spring-run Chinook in the Okanogan River sub-basin under Section 10(j) of the ESA. The reintroduction is an action that will lower the species' risk of extinction and contribute to its recovery, as identified in the 2007 Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon & Steelhead Recovery Plan, but the ESA 10(j) designation allows for more flexible management of the population. Landowners conducting otherwise lawful activities, for instance, will not be subject to additional regulatory restrictions.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation requested the designation of an experimental spring-run Chinook population in 2010. After careful evaluation, NOAA Fisheries released a 2013 rule proposing to move forward with the 10(j) designation and a final rule in July of 2014. Reintroduction efforts began in 2015. Fish from the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery will be used to establish the experimental population. These fish are from the neighboring river sub-basin and most genetically similar to the historical Okanogan population.

Status of Upper Columbia River Salmon
Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon once ranged throughout north-central Washington and Canada, inhabiting the waters of the Upper Columbia River sub-basin. Construction of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams displaced salmon from much of their historic habitat, and this loss of range, combined with other challenges, contributed to the species' decline. In 1999, NOAA Fisheries listed Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There currently are three remaining populations of Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook: the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee. A fourth population historically inhabited the Okanogan River sub-basin, but was extirpated in the 1930s.

How to Apply

Solicitation of Fellowship Applications:
Submit the following materials to Slideroom by February 16, 2024. The selection process will be administered by a committee drawn from a national representation of artists and educators as well as NOAA staff to review portfolios and deliberate the merits of the candidates.

All submissions must include the following:

1. **Statement of Intent**: What are you hoping to achieve in this experience?
2. **Write a short, one page response to the following**: How as an artist/designer might you approach this challenge? And why would you make these choices, including methods of documentation of the experience.
3. **A current portfolio of at least six and no more than ten images of work**. Clearly title and caption your work within the application.
4. **Two letters of recommendation.** These should be from colleagues or faculty members familiar with you and your work/process. Not a family member or friend.

Deadline:
Applications are due on February 16, 2024

Application Link:
https://aicadgrad.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/76487

Eligibility:
Any BFA/MFA/ BDes/MDes or BArch/MArch alumni from any United States AICAD member school who has graduated between spring/summer 2014-spring/summer 2024 and who are US citizens are eligible to apply. All disciplines from the eligible degree types are eligible to apply.

REFERENCES:

Upper Columbia United Tribes. Phase 2 Implementation Plan. https://ucut.org/water/phase-2-implementation-plan-testing-feasibility-of-reintroduced-salmon/

Department of Interior. Press Release. Biden-Harris Administration, Tribes Reach Historic Agreement Supporting Efforts to Restore Healthy and Abundant Salmon Populations to Upper Columbia River Basin

Baldwin, C. et al. "Cultural and educational releases of salmon in areas blocked by major hydroelectric projects on the Columbia River." Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management, 25(1): 16–26, 2022.

Fish Passage and Reintroduction into U.S. and Canadian Upper Columbia River Basin. Brochure.

Fish Passage and Reintroduction into U.S. and Canadian Upper Columbia River Basin. A Joint Paper of the Columbia Basin Tribes and First Nations. 2015.

"Frequently Asked Questions: Salmon Reintroduction Upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams." Upper Columbia River United Tribes. https://ucut.org/culture/frequently-asked-questions-salmon-reintroduction-upstream-of-chief-joseph-and-grand-coulee-dams/

"NOAA Fisheries paves way for reintroduction of spring Chinook population to Washington's Okanogan River." Fact Sheet. NOAA Fisheries. Summer 2014.