

SUMMARY

We seek community-based researchers to lead local case studies on access challenges in their seafood system. Together, case study leads and the PI team at the University of Maine (Joshua Stoll, Hillary Smith, and Caroline Ferguson) will address cross-cutting access challenges in the U.S. seafood system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This research will combine a multi-sited case study approach with regional "dialogues" to understand 1) the benefits of accessing local and regional seafood systems, 2) the mechanisms or pathways enabling access (historically and at present) at different nodes in the food system, 3) the barriers to access, and 4) possibilities to enhance just and equitable access to local and regional seafood systems in the U.S., including its territories and internal sovereignties. Data collection will take place at both local and regional scales. At least one consultant will be recruited per region of the U.S., where each consultant involved in this project will be responsible for leading a salient local case study on a focal seafood(s) and for supporting the regional dialogue by recruiting participants from the seafood system (see RFP for details on each methodology). Each consultant should have existing ties or a relationship with the seafood community with whom they propose doing this work.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Through this multi-scale, multi-sited approach (e.g., combining local case studies and regional dialogues across all nine regions), we aim to answer the following research questions:

- What are the benefits of accessing local and regional seafood systems?
- Who benefits from access to local and regional seafood systems & how do intersecting identities mediate access?
- What are the strategies or pathways for accessing local and regional seafood systems?
- What are the barriers to accessing local and regional seafood systems?
- What are the possibilities for just and equitable access to local and regional seafood systems?

TASKS & OBJECTIVES

1. Develop appropriate case study protocol in collaboration with the research team (PIs and other case study leaders).

- Identify an appropriate case study (e.g., focal food, location, study participants) that fulfills research goals and objectives in collaboration with the PIs.
- Develop a locally appropriate plan for conducting research and engaging communities.
- Participate in a 2-day planning workshop with the research team to develop methods and case study approaches with other consultants.
- Participate in monthly 2-hour meetings with the research team.

2. Lead case study data collection, analysis, and local communication of results.

- Collect data following the approach developed with research and community participants (as appropriate).
- Report findings following the structure provided by PIs within 3 months of data collection, identifying current access benefits, barriers, pathways, and future possibilities for your case.
- Prepare locally appropriate communication of results.
- Consult with a photographer to produce a photo essay that helps to illustrate the case study.
- (Optional) Lead or support a peer-reviewed journal article(s) based on the local case study and co-author a peer-reviewed article comparing the findings across multiple cases.

3. Participate in planning and implementing a regional dialogue with participants in the seafood sector in your region.

- Participate in two planning meetings with the research team to plan the dialogue.
- Identify and recruit participants from the fisheries region where your case study is situated working in the small-scale seafood sector to attend a 1.5-hour dialogue discussing access issues affecting their fisheries.
- Attend the 1.5-hour dialogue and help PIs identify key access issues.
- Assist with notetaking and facilitation during the dialogue meeting.
- Meet with PIs after the dialogue to discuss the results and identify the emergent issues/opportunities affecting access. Assist the PI with the post-dialogue report, providing input and edits for the report.

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

1. Read the full RFP.

2. Contact the University of Maine with any questions.

- sourcing@maine.edu

3. Submit the following materials:

- 2 page CV.
- 1-2-page cover letter describing your:
 - Qualifications and experience for the role,
 - A proposed local case study and how it would fulfill the research objectives,
 - What outputs you envision to communicate case study results,
 - How you would recruit participants for the regional dialogue.
- Completed estimated budget table (Table 1) and 1-2 page narrative budget justification.

