Internship available  
Fall semester

Supervisor/Sponsor: Nadine Heck, Postdoctoral Research Associate  
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Interns needed for quarters:  
Fall

National Science Foundation  
Coastal SEES

Brine discharge from desalination plants - Impacts on coastal ecology,  
public perception, and public policy

Research project:  
This project is funded by the National Science Foundation under the Coastal Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability program. In response to freshwater water shortages and ongoing droughts in California, there is an increasing interest to tap into the ocean to supplement fresh water supply via desalination. The project aims to improve the understanding of impacts of desalination plants on coastal ecosystems in California, and how these impacts influence public perceptions of desalination plants. We have conducted a questionnaire-based survey in communities around Monterey Bay to elicit coastal residents’ and stakeholders’ knowledge about desalination and its impacts on marine ecosystems, and their opinions and support for proposed desalination plants around Monterey Bay.

Role of the Intern:  
The intern would get first hand experience on how to conduct a large scale survey and learn to deal with survey administration, questionnaire coding, data entry, and multi-criteria analysis. Main tasks will be data entry of returned questionnaires into SPSS and Expert Choice software.

Desired skills:  
- A punctual, reliable, and highly organized individual with an eye for detail  
- Capable of taking the initiative to identify and complete tasks with minimal supervision  
- Timely and able to meet assignments and deadlines  
- Ability to communicate effectively and professionally via phone and email  
- Experience in MS office; experience in SPSS for data entry a plus  
- Excellent written and oral skills

If interested, please forward a resume to Nadine Heck at nheck@ucsc.edu

If you have any questions about the internship, please contact:  
Nadine Heck  
Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz  
607-379-5982 or nheck@ucsc.edu