Internship available  
Winter/Spring/Summer

Supervisor/Sponsor: Nadine Heck, Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Address: ENVS/IMS Email: nheck@ucsc.edu Phone: 6073795982  
Interns needed for quarters: Winter, Spring, Summer

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 construction of desalination plants, however, is not always seen as favorable and while a number of plants have been proposed along the California coastline, very few have plants have been approved due to economic and environmental concerns among politician makers and the public. 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. In addition, the project explores the policy decision-making process for desalination plants in California and the role of environmental impacts in the decision to approve a new desalination plant.

Role of the Intern:
The intern would get first hand experience on how to conduct a large scale mail survey and learn to deal with survey administration, questionnaire coding, data entry, and non-response follow up. Main tasks will include but might not be limited to: assist with administration of the mail survey; follow up phone interviews to correct for non-responses; data entry of returned questionnaires.

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