

Graduate Research

Exciting Research and Professional Development Opportunity

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve's

Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship



This two-year fellowship at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus on field research within one of the nation's most diverse estuaries. You will work with a mentor, fellow scientists and the local community to help address coastal challenges within the Apalachicola River Basin. The fellowship includes networking opportunities and career-readiness training.

- [Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship: coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html](https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html)
- **Point of Contact at Reserve: Jason Garwood, Research Coordinator, Jason.Garwood@FloridaDEP.gov, (850) 670-7705.**



Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

This competitive two-year, fellowship will be awarded to an exceptional student who is interested in research in any of the Reserve's identified three priority areas:

Priority Area 1: Our lower river marshes may be vulnerable to sea level rise and changes in riverine input. Our Sentinel Site Program aims to acquire a better understanding of the long-term impacts of climate change in this system, but the current methods of investigation only address changes in marsh surface and associated plant communities; therefore, we need additional information about how changes in climate and sea level may impact other communities in the Apalachicola system.



Priority Area 2: We have been able to link riverine input and our System Wide Monitoring Program data to some of our biological monitoring programs, showing significant patterns in spatial and temporal distributions in communities, which suggests there are definable linkages in food webs within the Apalachicola estuary. However, we have limited information on the trophic interactions of species within the system; therefore, we need directed research to better identify and define these key linkages.



Priority Area 3: We have seen changes in fisheries and their essential habitats in the Apalachicola Bay system, and much of those changes can be attributed to riverine input and anthropogenic impacts. But we don't have a good understanding of the how the resources can be managed more effectively from a biological and socio-economic standpoint; therefore, we need a management and recovery plan based on a new ecosystem services evaluation to help our community become more resilient to future impacts.



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