

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

The candidate has a good undergraduate record and is doing well in her current graduate program. Her overall academic record is not as competitive as others in the applicant pool. Collectively, her reference letters and personal statement provide evidence of an enthusiastic, persistent, and dedicated student who is likely to excel in her research and career. Her research proposal is competitive in the applicant pool and provides a logical approach to an interesting scientific problem.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

The candidates personal statement and reference letters provide evidence of deep interest and experience in broader societal impacts of scientific research. Her broader impacts statement effectively integrates her experiences into clear outcomes that she will pursue during her fellowship.

Summary Comments

The applicant is highly competitive for a research fellowship. Only a lingering concern with academic ability keeps this application from the highest level of competitiveness in the applicant pool.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

Applicant received honorable mention last time, and has very strong letters, a well designed (e.g., includes a power analysis) research project, and multipel presentations. Applicant's undergraduate academic record is adequate but not great in science courses.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

Applicant has an exceptionally strong broader impacts experience and plan. This includes experience in developing STEM education for K-12, mentoring an undergraduate, and working at Ocean Connectors and a discovery center. Some of these activities will continue as part of the research project.

Summary Comments

Applicant has strong letters, a strong research project, and an exceptionally strong broader impacts plan. Undergraduate academic record is not as strong as the other aspects.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant proposes an explanation for alternative female reproductive tactics in the turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*. The research would focus on analysis of nesting behavior (synchronous and solitary) and foraging behavior. If successful, the research would help understanding of the unusual female nesting behavior in this turtle. The applicant has previous research experience, but it has not resulted in any publications, although some are in development. The references offer evidence of the applicants potential for success.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant has a strong background in STEM education, having worked as a Lead Educator for the Living Coast Discovery Center. Her efforts in STEM education, especially for K-12 students, would continue through this project and beyond. The outreach to minority communities is especially important.

Summary Comments

The proposed research would develop datasets to help understand an alternative reproductive behavior in Olive ridley sea turtles. The applicants strong background in STEM education suggests that this project would be used in educational outreach.