



**SEAFOOD
ENGINE**
In New England

Chief Innovation Officer

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Seafood Engine in New England is looking for an experienced, dynamic, and driven Chief Innovation Officer (CIO). Led by the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), the Seafood Engine is an emerging innovation ecosystem and the only blue economy program with the NSF Regional Innovation Engines program. The Engine brings together premier R&D universities and educational institutions; industry, economic development, and community organizations; and government agencies to stimulate transformative technological innovation across the seafood supply chain. In doing so, the Engine aims to advance competitiveness, profitability, and workforce development jointly in the U.S. seafood industry and blue tech sector, regionally and nationally. The CIO will lead the formation, evolution, and sustainability of the Engine innovation ecosystem, understanding and shaping its constituent components and integrating them into a more cohesive whole. A particular focus will be on deeper engagement with the blue tech sector, associated investor community, and supporting institutions, organizations, agencies, and programs. This position will report to the Engine CEO.

Core responsibilities include:

Innovation Ecosystem Building

- Serve on the Seafood Engine Leadership Team with particular emphasis on the design, assessment, and improvement of the overall structure and function of the innovation ecosystem.
- Support Engine Leadership Team co-leads of key components of the innovation ecosystem (Research, Development & Translation; Workforce Development; Strategic Regional Investment; Regional Engagement; Evaluation) to better integrate their goals, collaborators, and projects into the overall vision and direction of the Engine.
- Contribute to the planning and execution of events at which the Seafood Engine will have a presence, including those organized by the Engine itself and by other entities, to optimize outcomes for the development and strengthening of the innovation ecosystem.
- Work with the Engine's Evaluation Team on program assessment, evaluation, and sponsor reporting.
- Co-lead the development of Engine deliverables, including plans and progress reports.
- Participate in the grant writing and review process in response to requests for proposals to secure state, federal, and/or local funding to expand Engine programs.

Private Sector Engagement

- Identify, engage with, and, where appropriate, recruit blue tech companies from the start-up to established levels into Engine activities, programs, and governance bodies.
- Track industry trends regionally, nationally, and globally, determine the implications of those trends for near-term and long-term Engine directions, and channel that understanding into refinement of the Engine strategies and tactics.
- Build relationships with regional and national organizations and programs that support the blue tech sector, including governmental and quasi-governmental agencies,



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independent nonprofits, accelerators, incubators, and others, forming collaborations where there are promising opportunities and ensuring that Engine activities and investments are synergistic and not duplicative otherwise.

- Identify, engage, and organize blue tech investors, including public, private, and philanthropic sources, and mobilize new investments that complement NSF funding support through joint and parallel programs.

Outreach, Communications & Engagement

- Support leaders of the Engine ecosystem drivers in outreach efforts to external industry stakeholders, government agencies, research institutions, and nonprofit organizations, and cultivate new partnerships through this outreach to grow the innovation ecosystem.
- Leverage an existing portfolio of relationships with major industry players, blue tech startups, government agencies, and research institutions to foster strategic alliances and investment opportunities.
- Engage with members of fellow NSF Regional Innovation Engines, agency staff, program advisors, and others to channel experiences and best practices from other regions into the Seafood Engine and ensure that the Seafood Engine is an active and constructive member of the national NSF Engines community.
- Serve as an ambassador for the Engine when needed with a variety of audiences in government, business, industry, academia, and others.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field such engineering, science, or business administration.
- Minimum of ten years of programmatic and strategic management experience within a complex organization, ideally one operating at the intersection of business and emerging technology.
- Strong background in strategic planning, process improvement, and organizational development.
- Experience building sustainable and adaptable organizational models across multiple institutions needed to meet strategic goals.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively at all levels, including at the board and senior-executive level
- Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse coalition of academic, industry, government and non-profit organizations. public- and private-sector stakeholders, including startup companies and industry partners.
- Ability to work under pressure and collaborate effectively with the team, industry partners, and governance board to achieve the organization's mission.
- Demonstrated ability to respond to rapidly changing environments.
- High level analytical skills, excellent judgement, and creative problem-solving skills.



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Preferred:

- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) or similar advanced degree highly preferred.
- Corporate or entrepreneurial/startup experience in the seafood industry, tech sector, or related industries.
- Established network of strategic industry partners to advance Engine's programmatic and financial sustainability goals.
- Experience with technology transfer, regional economic development, or community development.

Additional Information:

Salary: This is a grant-funded position, with a budgeted salary up to \$175,000, commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. The initial appointment is subject to renewal of the Engine for its second award period commencing on, or around, September 1, 2027, with the potential for subsequent renewal up to a total program duration of ten years based on performance and availability of funds. The ideal candidate will be instrumental in driving the development and success of the organization, with the opportunity to transition into a longer-term role over the full ten-year duration of the Engine if key milestones are achieved.

Benefits: NERACOOS offers a benefits package that includes medical insurance and a health savings account, a simplified employee pension following three years of service, professional development opportunities, and flex work schedules.

Location: The successful candidate will be a NERACOOS employee and ideally be based close to the NERACOOS office in Portsmouth, NH. Other locations within the Engine region of service (Rhode Island to Maine) can be considered, contingent upon the ability to periodically travel to Portsmouth for face-to-face interactions with colleagues. Additional travel regionally, nationally (especially to Washington, DC), and possibly internationally will be required up to approximately 25% of work time.

To apply, please send a cover letter of no more than two pages describing interest and qualifications, along with a resume including names and contact information for three professional references to Seafood.Engine@neracoos.org. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Thinking about applying?

If you're reading this and you have some of the qualifications listed, we encourage you to apply! Let us know how your experience and passion make you the right person for this job.