

Position ID

E17-12

Position Title

Communications and Policy Analyst

Office Name

U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission

Portfolio Summary

The Marine Mammal Commission (Commission) is an independent government agency charged by the Marine Mammal Protection Act to further the conservation of marine mammals and their environment. We work to ensure that marine mammal populations are restored and maintained as functioning elements of healthy marine ecosystems in the world's oceans. We meet our mission by providing independent, science-based oversight of domestic and international policies and actions of federal agencies addressing human impacts on marine mammals and their ecosystems. Our role is unique—we are the only government entity in the United States that provides comprehensive oversight of all science, policy, and management actions impacting marine mammals.

Because of our independent stature, we are on the cutting edge of marine science and conservation. We work to affect the evolution of policy decisions and help develop consensus among competing interests on the most controversial issues surrounding marine mammal conservation. We respond quickly to emerging issues, without the bureaucracy and procedural roadblocks that sometimes impede larger agencies. At the same time, being a small agency with a big mission means our staff must be flexible and informed on all aspects of the Commission's business.

We seek a Knauss Fellow who is willing to be part of our dynamic team and accept a level of responsibility equivalent to an employee. As a Fellow with the Commission, you will benefit from exposure to a broad range of issues, engage deeply in our policy and regulatory analyses, and be given the flexibility to become involved in projects of interest to you. In addition to learning about the challenges facing marine mammals, you will gain leadership, policy, legislative and communication skills. You will create or contribute to valuable written reports, including reports to Congress and the White House, that are used to guide conservation efforts. You will directly interact with our senior leadership, our presidentially-appointed Commissioners, our Committee of Scientific Advisors, staff from other federal agencies, Congressional staff, and representatives of non-governmental organizations on a variety of critical marine conservation issues. We are committed to you leaving the fellowship with a large network of contacts in the marine conservation community and a greater understanding of and appreciation for marine interactions on a global scale.

A general list of Fellow responsibilities is provided below. Final projects and responsibilities will be assigned based on your experience and interests. Some travel may be required depending on involvement in specific projects.

Support Commission's Strategic Objectives

- Assist with analyzing agency actions, such as permitting for scientific research, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. Develop Commission recommendations and draft comment letters.
- Serve as lead author of the Commission's quarterly electronic newsletter and develop content for the Commission's twitter account.

- Assist with managing the agency's Arctic portfolio. This includes developing policy documents and representing the Commission at meetings with Arctic constituents. This may include travel to Alaska.
- Help organize and participate in the 2017 Commission Annual Meeting in New England. This includes managing logistics of various speakers/panels, preparing summary notes of discussions and following up on action items.
- Support Commission's Legislative Affairs Agenda
- Attend Congressional briefings and help prepare Commission leadership and staff for interactions with Congress. Develop briefing summaries and assist with keeping track of Congressional requests and follow-ups.
- Take the lead on organizing an annual "Commission 101" with 2017 Knauss Legislative Fellows on Capitol Hill. Determine the date and venue in collaboration with Hill staff, set an agenda and provide support for other meeting logistics.
- Support the Commission's participation in Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW). Schedule Hill briefings and interagency meetings, and provide general support for our participation in CHOW seminars. Establish CHOW schedule, coordinate preparation of background documents and prepare summaries of events.

Knauss Fellow Special Project

- Select a marine mammal topic of particular interest to you that is relevant to the Marine Mammal Commission and prepare a report, article or another form of publication for dissemination to the public. Guidance and oversight by Commission staff will be provided based on the topic selected.
- Topic could be related to science, policy, or law – or some combination. Project ideas include: addressing marine mammal bycatch in small-scale coastal gillnet fisheries; developing policy options to address cumulative impacts of sound on marine mammal populations; explore long-term policy strategies for saving domestic and/or foreign species (e.g., the vaquita, Cook Inlet belugas, freshwater cetaceans); exploring legal and policy options for reducing duplicative seismic testing; and developing marine mammal education and outreach materials for use in schools and educational institutions.

Expertise Desired

Mandatory Skills: Strong oral and written communication skills, including editing skills. Familiarity with science and ability to analyze and disseminate scientific information to multiple audiences. Strong organizational skills and ability to take initiative and lead projects. You must work well both independently and in a team environment.

Desired Background Skills: Familiarity with science, policy and/or management issues related to marine mammals and/or their environment is a plus.

Travel within DC (days per month)

1-3 Days Days/Month

Travel outside DC (days per month)

1-3 Days Days/Month

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes