

Position ID

E17-13

Position Title

Marine Debris Program Fellow

Office Name

Office of Response and Restoration Marine Debris Division, NOAA

Portfolio Summary

About the NOAA Marine Debris Division: The Marine Debris Division (MDD) is part of the National Ocean Services' Office of Response and Restoration. The MDD is the U.S. federal lead for addressing marine debris. Marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes. It is a global problem, and it is an everyday problem. There are five main areas in which the program focuses: prevention, removal, research, regional coordination, and emergency response. The MDD staff work in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry.

Job Responsibilities: We are a highly dynamic program whose activities are mandated under the Marine Debris Act, signed into law in 2006 and amended in 2012. The MDD has a dedicated staff, spread throughout the country that operates within a fast paced environment. The issue of marine debris has grown in visibility in recent years which has resulted in high level attention at both the national and international scale.

The Fellow in this position will have the opportunity to coordinate and lead a variety of projects to address critical marine debris issues. The Sea Grant fellow will work closely with the Marine Debris Division Chief and other staff members on a variety of projects. This work includes support of and participation in high-level meetings on marine debris such as the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee and international groups such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The fellow will assist in the implementation of the strategic initiatives of the Program such as evaluating the effectiveness of previous projects and providing recommendations to revise federal funding opportunities to prevent the introduction of new marine debris. There will be ample opportunities to participate in outreach and education activities and events and work with the Communications Team to advance messaging related to marine debris. There will be opportunities to engage with the Science Team to conduct exploratory analyses using data from the Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project as well as opportunities to help update project-specific fact sheets, one-pagers, etc. and participate in field site visits. The fellow will work on Congressional activities, such as providing briefing materials, and responding to policy taskers. A major focus of the MDD in 2017 will be planning a large (600 person) international marine debris conference. The fellow will be highly engaged in these planning activities. Some travel will be required and training opportunities will be available. Training will be available in skills needed to complete any projects if the Fellow does not have them.

Expertise Desired

Outstanding writing, verbal, and interpersonal skills. Ability to prioritize and manage multiple projects under tight deadlines. Strong personal initiative, problem-solving skills, creativity, and ability to work independently and as a member of a team. Skilled with Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.

Travel within DC (days per month)

3-5

Travel outside DC (days per month)

1-2 days per month, more likely to have week long trips on a less frequent duration

Accepts Foreign Nationals

No