

**Position ID**

E17-24

**Position Title**

OMC Knauss Sea Grant Fellow

**Office Name**

Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State

**Portfolio Summary**

The Office of Marine Conservation (OMC) is a part of the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES). The mission of OES is to coordinate U.S. Government agencies and departments in developing positions on international oceans, environment, science and health issues; to negotiate bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements that together establish the framework of an international environmental regime; and to develop targeted activities that ensure U.S. Government programs support foreign policy objectives.

OMC is responsible for formulating and implementing U.S. policy on a broad range of international issues concerning living marine resources. In executing this responsibility, the office negotiates bilateral and multilateral fisheries agreements, participates in international fisheries conservation and management organizations and arrangements, and represents the United States in a variety of other international fora associated with the conservation and management of living marine resources.

During 2017, a Sea Grant Fellow serving in OES/OMC would provide professional staff support in a number of areas. Specific assignments will vary depending on the needs of the office and taking into account personal interests of the individual. The following is an illustrative list of the type of activities in which the Fellow might be involved in: Multilateral negotiations and discussions in conjunction with annual and intersessional meetings of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMOs); bilateral meetings with key fishing nations, such as Canada, Norway, the European Union, Japan, China, and Russia; supporting ongoing negotiations and development of international guidance and criteria for assessing flag State performance; trade and environment issues, including seafood traceability, eco-labeling, the role of subsidies, and the use of market-based measures to achieve environmental objectives; implementation of international plans of action adopted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (managing fishing capacity; reducing seabird bycatch in longline fisheries; managing sharks; deterring illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activity; and the improvement of the status and trends of reporting); and working collaboratively with other U.S. government agencies on marine debris-related issues.

**Expertise Desired**

OMC welcomes enthusiastic and collaborative Fellows with a capacity to engage with people and on issues at varying levels. Work or educational experience in fisheries or marine conservation is useful, but not required. Interested Fellows should have strong writing, communication and analytical skills, and a particular interest in foreign affairs. Foreign language skill (esp. Russian, Japanese, Spanish or Chinese) is useful, but not required.

Fellows must be U.S. citizens and be able to receive a Secret-level security clearance.

**Travel within DC (days per month)**

1-5, varying month to month

**Travel outside DC (days per month)**

Fellows in OMC have been afforded opportunity for both domestic and international travel associated with their work. We would expect this trend to continue provided that funding continues to be available.

**Accepts Foreign Nationals**

No