

Position ID

E17-49

Position Title

Policy Analyst

Office Name

Office for Coastal Management, NOAA

Portfolio Summary

“Coastal management” is a term that covers the decisions and actions taken to keep the natural environment, built environment, quality of life, and economic prosperity of our coastal areas in balance. The Coastal Zone Management Act is the guiding legislation for this purpose, and NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management is the federal agency tasked with implementation.

Four major programs make up the Office for Coastal Management (OCM) and the Fellow will support our activities in managing all four programs.

National Coastal Zone Management Program – A unique federal and state partnership that provides the most direct implementation of coastal management policy. Thirty-four states have a federally approved coastal management programs.

National Estuarine Research Reserves – Leading the nation’s estuary science efforts, this program produces groundbreaking research and provides environmental health data. The network of 28 protected areas also contributes local, science-based training and education programs and provides unique recreational and place-based learning opportunities.

NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program – Provides the sound science needed to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

Digital Coast – This website is the go-to source for the coastal management data, tools, and training most needed by communities. This initiative takes it a step further, however, by bringing various user groups together (the Digital Coast Partnership) to address coastal issues.

This will be a dynamic year for the Office for Coastal Management. With a new administration taking office, the Fellow will have many opportunities for interactions with leadership and supporting the Office’s policy initiatives. Some activities the Fellow will support are:

Congressional Strategy: the Fellow will work with NOAA’s legislative and policy staff on our Congressional strategy, including preparing materials for Office leadership to conduct Hill briefings, as well as working with Office staff located outside Silver Spring to coordinate messages for District-level Congressional outreach. A key activity will be supporting efforts to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act and Coral Reef Conservation Act, and to pass the Digital Coast Act, all of which will likely be introduced in Congress in early 2017.

Policy Development and Analysis: Support several ongoing coastal zone management policy initiatives, including an expansion strategy for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and a nationwide assessment of the Coastal Zone Enhancement Program.

Communications Support: As the Office rolls out new initiatives, the Fellow will work with staff to elevate and provide visibility for these important efforts. This includes development of plans to highlight key messages to be shared with the media, Congressional, and partner audiences, an approach

and timeline for reaching those audiences, and the NOAA and OCM leads that are best equipped to deliver the information.

Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Program: This new program provides grants to coastal states, local governments, and other organizations within a region to advance community resilience at the local and regional scales. NOAA awarded 12 grants in 2015-16 and we are preparing a new competition for 2017. The Fellow will assist highlighting the results of the current projects and planning for the next round of competition.

Expertise Desired

Desired Background Skills: This position provides an excellent opportunity for Fellows with a policy or legal background, or with some science experience, to gain exposure to the national ocean and coastal policy arena. Fellows with a science, policy, or legal background are encouraged to apply. The Fellow should be comfortable working independently and as part of a team of professional staff from all levels within the Office. Excellent written and oral communication skills are required.

Travel within DC (days per month)

2-10

Travel outside DC (days per month)

less than 5

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes