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