

Position ID

L17-11

Position Title

Sea Grant Legislative Fellow

Office Name

U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta

California

Relevant Committee Memberships (if applicable)

Applying to the Appropriations and Agriculture committees

Portfolio Summary

Working for Congressman Panetta and California's 20th district will offer excellent opportunities to become involved in a broad range of ocean policy issues. The position comes with a highly developed portfolio of issues and contacts. The Panetta office welcomes the Fellow as a full member of the staff with the complete set of responsibilities and benefits that come with working for a member of Congress. Congressman Panetta will rely on the initiative of his Sea Grant Fellow to draft and guide legislation through the process, advise him on marine policy issues, and be involved with staff from the House Oceans Caucus.

Congressman Panetta is actively involved in advocating for the funding of marine programs and activities (e.g., research, education, exploration, protection). The Fellow will get first-hand experience with the annual appropriations request process and funding flagship ocean programs within National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

There will also be ample opportunity for involvement with specific marine issues, including ocean acidification, ocean governance, ocean mapping, national security, the ocean economy, marine sanctuaries, marine debris, fisheries management, catch shares, shark finning, and marine mammals. In all of these efforts the Fellow will have the benefit of mentoring and oversight from an extraordinarily experienced legislative staff and a legacy of Sea Grant Fellows.

The Fellow will be given the opportunity to develop invaluable policy-related skills and deliverables during the year in the Panetta office. In years past, the Fellow has managed the CA-20 flagship ocean governance legislation (The Oceans Act of 2000 and HR 21), as well as reauthorization of the Marine Debris Act, the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act. The Fellow will prepare speeches on ocean and environmental topics, draft letters on pertinent marine-related issues, write talking points for floor statements and hearings, and keep up-to-date with marine science and policy issues impacting our oceans and CA-20's Congressional district. The Fellow will hone an ability to communicate effectively, develop expertise in analyzing policy issues, gain an understanding of a wide array of Congressional processes, and leave with a variety of writing samples. Perhaps most importantly, the Fellow will carry a large amount of responsibility, work closely with Rep. Panetta's constituents and other staffers, and with Rep. Panetta himself.

Expertise Desired

Strong written/oral communication skills; outgoing and creative; comfortable taking a lot of initiative; willingness to work independently with minimal supervision; ability to work productively with a range of people (e.g. constituents, lobbyists, other staffers, agency officials, state and local officials, etc.). The Fellow will be Congressman Panetta's primary policy advisor for all ocean and science related appropriations requests and marine environmental issues, and will share responsibility for climate change issues and endangered species. S/he will work closely with the House Natural Resources Committee staff, House Appropriations Committee staff, California House and Senate offices, and other ocean champions on both sides of the aisle to advance the federal government's ocean science, policy, and management programs.

Accepts Foreign Nationals

TBD