Atkinson Summer 2015 Intern, Belizean Fishing Cooperatives and Market Opportunities
Oceans Program

With world attention focused on both the environment and the economy, Environmental Defense Fund is where policymakers and business leaders turn for win-win solutions. This leading green group, founded in 1967, has tripled in size over the past decade by focusing on strong science, uncommon partnerships and market-based approaches.

Are you interested in exploring a career at an internationally-recognized environmental organization? By joining EDF as a summer intern, you too can be part of a vibrant workplace that welcomes diverse perspectives, talents and contributions, where innovation and a focus on results are a way of life. EDF’s Internship Program welcomes intellectually hungry leaders to join us, advance our work, and cultivate the skills and relationships needed for a successful career working for the environment. Alumni of our Internship Program have gone on to important leadership positions, most notably our own President, Fred Krupp. Could you be the next Fred Krupp?

Overall Function

EDF offers internships for students and recent graduates in a variety of programs and departments throughout the organization. Our internships typically run for 10 weeks during the summer. The ultimate goal of our internship program is to provide high-quality experiences (including relevant projects and opportunities for networking) that form the foundation for any individual who is serious about an environmental career.

Position Description

The Oceans Program at EDF is building the case in Belize that sustainable fisheries management leads to better market opportunities for fishermen. Last year, EDF and other partners collaborated on a market analysis of Belize’s seafood supply chain in both domestic and global markets, and have identified viable opportunities for accessing preferential premium markets that will reward fishermen who participate in sustainable management through Belize’s managed access fisheries management program. The analysis suggested that existing fishing cooperatives in Belize could play a key role adopting these opportunities. Furthermore, EDF is part of the Fish Forever partnership (with Rare and the University of California, Santa Barbara) which aims to implement spatial fisheries management in the developing tropics. The partners anticipate that fishing cooperatives will play a critical role in both managing fisheries and implementing market interventions to provide economic benefits to fishermen as they transition out of an open access management system.

The Belize and Fish Forever projects seek an Atkinson Intern to evaluate how existing Belizean cooperatives can and should adjust their management and practices in order to implement the market opportunities identified in the Belize market analysis. The intern will conduct research on the management and finance structures which have proven successful in the developing world. These findings would provide guidance to EDF on how to apply this information to strengthening of cooperatives in Belize and elsewhere, including Fish Forever countries. The final products produced by the intern will be applicable to a range of contexts, giving the intern the opportunity to engage with staff and partners working in other regions. Additionally, this project may include travel to Belize to meet with partners and existing fishing cooperatives.

The intern will be housed in EDF’s Washington, DC office and have ample opportunity to meet the Oceans Team in DC S/he will be encouraged to discuss this project and other interests with experts, Oceans or other EDF programs, throughout the organization. DC offers a wealth of opportunities for networking and learning on a range of issues, which the intern would be encouraged to attend.

- Location: Washington, D.C.
- Direct Work Supervisor Name: Lawrence Epstein & Alexis Rife
- Direct Work Supervisor Title: Senior Manager, Belize & Project Manager, Fish Forever
Key Responsibilities:

Tasks will include but are not be limited to:

• Review the current market analysis for Belize and evaluate how and where fishing cooperatives could contribute to the implementation of identified opportunities
• Conduct research on successful and failed cooperatives (fisheries, agriculture, and otherwise) for natural resource management globally
• Analyze different models for cooperatives for natural resource management to inform how these could be applied in Belize and other countries
• Identify alternate models that could achieve market interventions and sustainable fishing practices and consider how they would be applied in Belize (or elsewhere)
• Produce a report with recommendations for possible changes needed in Belizean fishing cooperatives in order to implement market interventions and how cooperative these models could be applied in Belize and elsewhere
• Present findings and lessons learned to Belizean and Fish Forever partners.

Qualifications

• Ideal candidate is a graduate student seeking experience in environmental economics
• Demonstrated interest in management of natural resources and, preferably, familiarity with fisheries
• Familiarity with cooperative type management and structures
• Willing and able to travel to Belize (has a current passport)
• Excellent written and oral communication skills.
• Must be well organized, motivated, and detail-oriented.
• Ability to multi-task, prioritize and meet deadlines.
• Ability to work in a team setting and have the ability to work independently when projects are due.
• Demonstrate initiative and problem solving skills.

Term

• 10 weeks during the summer.
• The position is full-time (35 hours/week).

Compensation

• Compensation is $5,000 for the summer term.

Due to the volume of employment applications and queries received, EDF is unable to respond to each application individually. Applicants will be contacted directly if selected as a candidate.

Environmental Defense Fund is an Equal Opportunity Employer