Atkinson Summer 2015 Intern, Northeast Coastal Ecosystems Visioning Project 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 Northeast Coastal Ecosystems project aims to develop a holistic vision for healthy coastal and marine ecosystems in the Northeastern United States. At present, we are seeing dramatic changes in coastal and ocean ecosystems in the Northeast — the result of centuries of overfishing, population growth and development, and the cascading effects of climate change. As ocean waters warm and acidify, fish populations must migrate or adapt to new conditions. People who live along the coast must learn how to cope with rising sea levels, intensifying storms and the loss of coastal marshes, dunes and other habitats. This project seeks to understand the relationships between these varied stressors, rather than addressing them independently, and to identify solutions that take into account these complex dynamics to ensure thriving fisheries and healthy coastal communities in the future.

The Northeast Coastal Ecosystems intern will provide scientific support to the project team by assisting with research to identify and analyze the impact of a variety of stressors to coastal and marine ecosystems in the Northeast. The intern will play an important role in the development of a report guiding our understanding of a variety of anthropogenic threats and their impacts on fisheries and coastal communities. This work will include desktop research and literature review, data analysis, and some travel to meetings within the region to track research on these issues. The intern will work closely with the Project Manager, and will gain an understanding of the complex linkages between human and natural communities, as well as how these relationships are being affected by climate change. This internship will include opportunities to learn about a variety of ongoing projects at EDF, and to meet experts in fisheries and coastal ecosystems, both within and outside of the organization.

Applicants should be pursuing a graduate degree in Ecology, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, or similar field, or possess a B.S. or B.A. in a related field.

- Location: Boston, MA
- Direct Work Supervisor Name: Sarah Smith
- Direct Work Supervisor Title: Manager, Northeast Coastal Ecosystems
Key Responsibilities:

Tasks will include but are not be limited to:
- Research stressors to coastal and marine ecosystems, including climate change.
- Write and edit report along with other team members synthesizing literature on stressors to coastal and marine ecosystems, and the effect of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Compile and analyze results of survey on expert opinions of stressors to the coastal environment.
- Assist the project team with organizing a workshop of experts from the Northeast region on stressors to the coastal ecosystem.
- Travel to meetings and workshops throughout the region related to project objectives.

Qualifications
- Demonstrated interest in coastal and marine environments, and in linked human-natural systems.
- Familiarity with the impacts of climate change and other human stressors on the environment.
- Coursework in Environmental Science or Policy, Ecology, Marine Biology, or related field.
- Experience with statistical analysis using R, SPSS, or similar statistical software is a plus.
- Highly proficient in understanding and synthesizing journal articles and other scientific literature.
- 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).
- Intern will be housed in our Boston office.

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