



David R. Atkinson Center
for a Sustainable Future



Atkinson Center Iscol/Oceana Summer 2017 Internships

Oceana was established in 2001 by a group of leading foundations: The Pew Charitable Trusts, Oak Foundation, Marisla Foundation (formerly Homeland Foundation), and Rockefeller Brothers Fund. In 1999, these foundations commissioned a study and discovered that less than 0.5 percent of all resources spent by environmental nonprofit groups in the United States went to ocean advocacy—an appalling statistic. No organization was working exclusively to protect and restore the oceans on a global scale.

To fill the gap, our founders created Oceana, an international organization focused solely on oceans, dedicated to achieving measurable change by conducting specific, science-based campaigns with fixed deadlines and articulated goals. The Ocean Law Project—also initiated by The Pew Charitable Trusts—was absorbed into Oceana in 2001 as Oceana’s legal arm. In 2002, Oceana merged with American Oceans Campaign, founded by actor and environmentalist Ted Danson, to more effectively address our common mission of protecting and restoring the world’s oceans.

We are looking for enthusiastic and professional people who share our passion for ocean conservation to join our dynamic team.

1) U.S. West Coast Oil and Gas Research Intern: Preventing Offshore Drilling in the Pacific Ocean - Juneau, Alaska

Monterey, CA

Overview

Oceana is dedicated to defending the Pacific Ocean off the U.S. West Coast from new offshore oil drilling and seismic testing. While many safeguards are currently in place to prevent new offshore oil and gas development, there is a renewed interest in offshore drilling in the Pacific, including off the California Coast. The intern will conduct background research on the history (economic, environmental, and political) and legal background of offshore drilling off the U.S. West Coast at the state and federal level, develop policy recommendations, and propose future potential campaign activities for Oceana’s consideration. The final product will be a draft internal report for Oceana. The intern may also assist in developing public communications materials associated with this campaign.

2) Federal Pacific Fishery Bycatch Research/Policy Intern: Developing a Permit Transition Program to Phase out California Drift Gillnets

Monterey, CA

As part of a nationwide campaign to reduce bycatch in the dirtiest fisheries in the U.S., Oceana has been working for over a decade to reduce bycatch in California’s swordfish drift

gillnet fishery, while preventing expansion of high bycatch fishing methods. The drift gillnet fishery discards more animals than it keeps, including endangered sea turtles, whales, dolphins, and rare sharks. Oceana is currently pushing the Pacific Fishery Management Council to authorize a clean alternative gear type that effectively catches swordfish, known as “deep-set buoy gear,” and develop a transition program to create incentives for drift gillnet fishermen to switch gear types. The intern would develop and analyze options for how such a system might work, develop a comprehensive blueprint for a transition program, and make policy recommendations. The final product would be a policy white paper for internal and external use by Oceana in its advocacy campaigns.

3) Federal Pacific Fishery Bycatch Research/Policy Intern: Developing a Permit Transition Program to Phase out California Drift Gillnets

Monterey, CA

The California Fish and Game Commission is currently undertaking a process to develop a statewide policy and action plan to reduce bycatch in fisheries under its authority, which include bottom trawl and set gillnet fisheries known to have serious bycatch concerns. Oceana is currently developing a campaign to secure new management measures and data collection efforts to reduce bycatch in these fisheries. The intern will compile existing biological and economic data on California state-managed fisheries, and develop recommendations pertaining both to an overarching state policy and specific management changes. The final product is a summary report for Oceana compiling key data, developing policy recommendations, and drafting clear objectives and strategies for reducing bycatch in specific fisheries.

4) Northern fur seal Research Intern: Developing an Ecosystem-based Management Solution

Juneau, AK

The Northern fur seal population has declined by more than 50% since the 1970s and there is increasing evidence that competition with one of the world’s biggest fisheries, the Alaskan pollock fishery, is partly responsible. Additionally, female Northern fur seals migrate south for the winter to feed in the California Current off British Columbia, Oregon, Washington, and California on the same fish species targeted by the forage fish and Pacific hake fisheries down there. Though not yet endangered, some predictions show the Northern fur seal population declining to an ESA-listing level within the next 5 to 10 years. It is hoped that we can help find an ecosystem-based fishery management solution that will allow for sustainable fishing before the fur seal population declines to endangered status and the pollock fishery risks closure. The intern would first create a comprehensive bibliography of Northern fur seal research and management materials and then create a synthesis report discussing the past/present hypotheses that explain population trends, the history of management actions, and makes recommendations on new actions that could be taken to recover the population.

Employment and Application Information

Compensation

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

Application Materials – Due by Noon on Wednesday March 1, 2017

- Submit applications by email to Paula Euvrard, pge3@cornell.edu.
- Attach your application as a **single PDF file**.
- Application must include a **cover letter** addressed to Oceana with a brief explanation of your qualifications and interest, followed by your **CV** or **resume**.
- Optional: you may include a brief writing sample (in the single PDF file).
- You must attach a **separate** PDF file for each internship, if applying for more than one.

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