



[Home](#) > [HR Practitioners](#) > [Classification & Position Management](#) > [PD Library](#)

## Oceanographer 12

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### GS-1360-12

NOTE: THE SENTENCE IN PART I DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION AND PARTS II AND III IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE PERMANENT PARTS OF THE LIBRARY AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED OR EDITED IN ANY WAY.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in

Conducts complex analyses requiring professional knowledge of the field of oceanography.

#### II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conducts original and novel oceanographic studies, planning and utilizing proper scientific procedure. Presents results of research in scientific papers. Duties typically include:

Develops and plans projects on specialized oceanographic phenomena, performing analyses to obtain satisfactory results, and providing technical guides to lower-grade oceanographers. Interprets results to determine validity and significance. Prepares results, interpretations, and conclusions, including possible impact.

Provides advice concerning specialty area to oceanographers and other scientists in the area of specialty in other agencies, academia, and industry. Represents organization at interagency conferences with authority to make tentative commitments within prescribed limits.

Assists in development of data base systems. Participates in development of special oceanographic analyses to integrate data sets to improve forecasts and predictions of marine conditions. Initiates and performs data base research to analyze large oceanographic/environmental data sets.

Serves as liaison in all phases of program development between NOAA organizations and private organizations.

Prepares proposals and cooperates to establish plans for future activities in the fields of coastal and fishery oceanography. Develops and conducts applied research in cooperation with scientists from other disciplines.

Pursues methodologies for accurately describing ocean variability and its ecological consequences. This requires a broad-based interdisciplinary understanding of environmental processes relative to living marine resources.

Participates in development of specialized oceanographic analysis techniques for integrating large oceanographic, atmospheric, and biological data sets to improve NOAA's predictive capabilities of the effects of environmental variability on fishery recruitment and abundance. Initiates and performs appropriate studies of data base technologies.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required by the Position FL 1-7, 125 pts.

Professional knowledge of the principles, practices and theories of oceanography sufficient to conduct complex studies, including development of plans and methods, and analysis, evaluation and interpretation of data. Thorough knowledge of the subject matter of the field of investigation and study.

General knowledge of the principles, theories, and practices of related scientific fields, such as marine science.

Skill in developing and modifying analytical methods and techniques as necessary.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-4, 450 pts.

Supervisor provides only general objectives, priorities, and instructions and is available when unconventional, controversial, or peculiar situations develop. Employee is fully responsible for independently planning, organizing, and completing studies of some complexity. Completed work is accepted as technically sound, based on scientific logic, and is reviewed for adequacy of conclusions presented and soundness of procedures and methods used.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-4, 450 pts.

Guidelines are provided by agency policies and directives and mission statements but they are very limited in application to the work. The oceanographer must use initiative, resourcefulness, and past experience in the specialty area to develop and modify new methods and procedures which deviate from established approaches. The oceanographer pursues and explores developments and changes in the specialty area to determine the need for new methods and modification of the current methods.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-5, 325 pts.

The work involves a high degree of scientific and technical originality and judgment. Sometimes, solutions to one may be in direct conflict with the solutions of another. Assignments/projects produce state-of-the-art, comprehensive technical and assessment reports. The work requires creation of new techniques and approaches to meet objectives.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-4, 225 pts.

The work involves conducting novel oceanographic studies which may require development of new methods and approaches as well as the investigation, analysis, and evaluation of complex oceanographic problems. Work affects the reliability and acceptability of agency products, as well as the planning and direction of projects and the technical adequacy of decisions made in applying agency policy.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts FL 6-3, 60 pts.

Contacts are with representatives of other Federal/state government agencies, industry, academia, the media, environmental conservation groups, other scientists and engineers, and the general public. Contacts are at supervisory and middle-management levels.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts FL 7-3, 120 pts.

The purpose of contacts is to provide oceanographic information, to educate the various users and to plan with and secure the cooperation of clients.

Factor 8 - Physical Demands FL 8-1, 5 pts.

The work is primarily sedentary, with occasional walking, bending, and lifting.

Factor 9 - Work Environment FL 9-2, 20 pts.

While most work is performed in an office or laboratory setting, many oceanographers routinely spend time at sea, subject to extreme, unexpected weather situations. Other oceanographers routinely visit hazardous material spills in coastal and estuarine waters, requiring the use of protective clothing and equipment.

TOTAL = 2,905 pts.

This position is exempt from coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

#### **IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

(Last Updated: November 4, 1994)

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