



# NOAA Office of General Counsel

*Careers and Opportunities*



# NOAA Mission

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

## Line Offices:

- National Marine Fisheries Services
- National Ocean Service
- National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
- National Weather Service
- Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
- Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

# Office of General Counsel



NOAA's Office of General Counsel (OGC) provides legal advice to NOAA on a wide range of legal issues spanning the breadth of the agency's mission:

- Protecting and managing marine resources such as fisheries, marine mammals, endangered species, and their habitats;
- Conserving and managing ocean and coastal areas and marine sanctuaries;
- Predicting and communicating weather forecasts;
- Planning and managing Earth-observing satellite systems;
- And more!

# Legal Areas and Relevant Statutes



NOAA's attorney-advisors work in a wide variety of legal practice areas:

- **Environmental and Natural Resources** (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act, etc.)
- **Administrative Law and Other Federal Statutes** (e.g., Administrative Procedure Act, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, etc.)
- **Maritime and Admiralty Law** (e.g., maritime heritage, preservation of shipwrecks, etc.)
- **Tribal Law** (e.g., tribal treaty fishing rights, Alaska Native subsistence use, tribal consultation, etc.)
- **International Maritime Law** (e.g., U.N. Law of the Sea, international fisheries management treaties, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, customary international law, etc.)
- **Trade and Commercial Law** (e.g., World Trade Organization agreements, free trade agreements, Tariff Act of 1930, Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, etc.)
- **And more!** (e.g., Weather Service Organic Act, Land Remote-Sensing Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Coast and Geodetic Survey Act, etc.)

# What do we do in NOAA OGC?



- Interpret existing statutes and provide technical drafting assistance on pending legislation
- Review and provide advice in drafting regulations
- Support natural resource damage assessments and restoration (e.g., Deepwater Horizon, Hudson River restoration)
- Aid international treaty negotiations
- Charge civil environmental violations and assist in civil and criminal law enforcement
- Enable cutting-edge scientific research
- Defend NOAA in litigation
- Review administrative appeals
- Client counseling, and more!

# NOAA OGC Organization



The Office of General Counsel includes a staff of over 100 attorneys, paralegals, and support staff who work in Headquarters (Washington, DC) and in 13 sections spanning various issue areas and regions across the country.

## Issue-Based Sections:

- Enforcement
- Environmental Review and Coordination
- Fisheries and Protected Resources
- International
- Natural Resources
- Oceans and Coasts
- Weather, Satellites, and Research



# Regional Sections

Alaska (Juneau, AK)

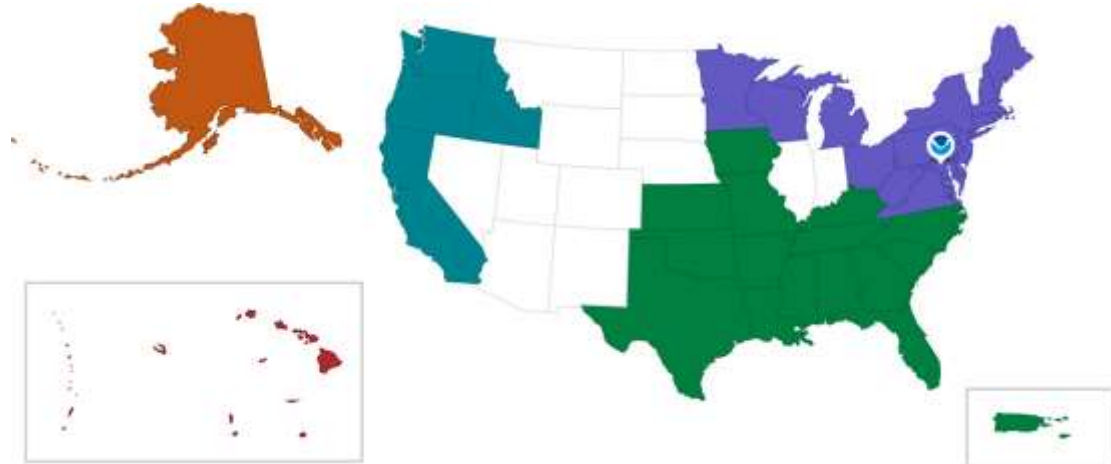
Northeast (Gloucester, MA)

Northwest (Seattle, WA)

Pacific Islands (Honolulu, HI)

Southeast (St. Petersburg, FL)

Southwest (Long Beach, CA)



# Opportunities with NOAA OGC



- Summer and Semester Legal Internships in Various Sections
  - International
  - Oceans and Coasts
  - Alaska
  - Natural Resources
  - Others on ad hoc basis (e.g., Enforcement, Pacific Islands, etc.)
- Honors Attorney Program
  - Recruitment in late summer/early fall 2022
- Experienced/Career Attorney, Paralegal, and Program Specialist Positions
  - No set schedule for hiring, so keep an eye out for hiring on USAJobs (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>) and the NOAA GC website (<https://www.gc.noaa.gov/>)





# NOAA OGC Honors Attorney Program

- Structure:
  - Eighteen-month program with (3) six-month rotations.
  - Permanent placement upon completion.
- Eligibility:
  - Third-year law students or graduate law students
  - Judicial clerks
  - Legal fellows
- Process:
  - Annual recruitment beginning in late summer/early fall.

# Upcoming NOAA OGC Attorney Positions



- Upcoming opportunities with the following sections:
  - Environmental Review and Coordination Section
    - Contact: Katie Renshaw, [katherine.renshaw@noaa.gov](mailto:katherine.renshaw@noaa.gov)
  - Southwest Section, Long Beach, CA
    - Contact: Kathryn Kempton, [kathryn.kempton@noaa.gov](mailto:kathryn.kempton@noaa.gov)
  - Alaska Section, Juneau, AK
    - Contact: Demian Schane, [demian.schane@noaa.gov](mailto:demian.schane@noaa.gov)
- To apply: Jobs will be posted to USAJobs (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>) and stay tuned for a new Career Opportunities page at <https://www.gc.noaa.gov/>

# NOAA OGC Workplace Benefits



- Work-life balance
- Workforce of individuals committed to public service
- Promotion potential to highest levels
- Professional development opportunities
- Telework and remote work available
- NOAA Attorneys Guild and collective bargaining agreements for non-managing attorneys

# Panelists



- Molly Watson, Deputy Section Chief, Alaska Section (Moderator)
- Erik Federman, Attorney-Advisor, Oceans and Coasts Section
- Andrea Hattan, Attorney-Advisor, Enforcement Section
- Gladys Miles, Attorney-Advisor, Ocean and Coasts/Fisheries and Protected Resources Sections
- Frank Sprtel, Attorney-Advisor, Environmental Review and Coordination Section