Policy Advocate
Job Description

General Job Description

Clean Ocean Action (COA) is a non-profit regional coalition working to protect the marine waters off the NJ/NY coast. The Policy Advocate thinks creatively, possesses strong communication skills and thrives in a fast-paced, multi-faceted environment. The Advocate is result-oriented, environmentally-focused, and has a strong desire to protect and improve coastal waters. The Advocate is familiar with all COA programs and issues.

The Policy Advocate is the primary legal and technical expert on ocean pollution and industrialization, climate change and water quality protection in collaboration with the COA team. He/she investigates issues, develops positions, identifies solutions, and creates outreach materials. The Advocate is responsible for reviewing and evaluating state and federal policies for impacts to marine water quality and for developing and implementing pro-ocean protection policies, strategies, and actions. The Policy Advocate will also track, coordinate, and participate in targeted advocacy campaigns throughout the region.

While supported by the Executive Director, Staff Scientist and the COA team, the Policy Advocate will be responsible for the following:

- Help shape regional and national ocean protection policies
- Monitor issues and respond proactively to protect water quality
- Garner support for strong ocean protection policies from elected leaders and decision makers
- Identify, investigate, track and evaluate proposals, regulations, projects and issues, and prepare comments in defense of marine water quality
- Review proposals for compliance with applicable law
- Write, prepare, and collaborate on policy/technical reports and position statements to protect water quality or related issues
- Advocate, communicate, and coordinate technical and policy aspects of issues with a diversity of people including policy, legal, science and outreach experts, coalition members, media, students, citizens, agency representatives, and elected officials
- Consult with COA's legal team to define and organize legal positions and actions, as needed

General Program Coordination

- Maintain focus and message on pollution prevention
- Stay current on state/federal policies, regulations and rules
- Update relevant programs and information on website, and write newsletter articles
- Manage email accounts
- Support and promote development efforts, including assistance with grant proposals and reports, and Annual Report

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Qualifications and Qualities

- JD, PhD or Masters with law/policy background required
- Applicants with environmental science background a plus
- Strongly motivated to protect and improve coastal waters
- Knowledgeable about marine sciences, pollution, policy, and federal and state environmental regulations
- Familiarity with legal documents and compliance issues
- Knowledge of the political system and experience with members of congress and legislature preferred
- Preference given to candidates with NY/NJ coastal experience and knowledge

This position requires evening and weekend work on a periodic basis.

Annual Salary: Position is full time. Salary is competitive and commensurate with education and experience.

Benefits: Health and dental insurance coverage are offered on a cost-sharing basis, paid holidays and PDO, employer paid professional workshops and trainings. Ability to grow with the organization is available and performance-based.

Application Instructions: Position currently open. Applications will be accepted until position filled. Send cover letter, CV, three references with affiliations, one writing sample, and salary expectations to business@cleanoceanaction.org with "Policy Advocate" in the subject line.