



Marine Conservation Internship

About Environmental Defense Center

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) is a non-profit, public interest law firm that has worked to protect and restore California's environment and natural resources for more than 40 years. EDC's work focuses primarily within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, including the northern Channel Islands and the ocean waters seaward of this region's shores. Our mission is to protect and enhance the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. Program areas include protecting the Santa Barbara Channel, ensuring clean water, preserving open space and wildlife, and working on climate and energy issues. (See www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org)

General Purpose of the Internship

The Marine Conservation/Resource Protection Internship is created for UCSB students who are interested in pursuing careers in environmental policy. The intern will work directly under the supervision of EDC's Marine Conservation Program Director. This internship will focus on two related issues: 1) supporting efforts to restore our coastline from the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill, and 2) protecting our coast from new offshore oil development. This internship is a unique opportunity to learn about the functions of a non-profit organization, especially as they relate to work with external partners, such as local, state, and federal agencies.

Internship Objectives

This internship will focus on the important work needed to ensure restoration of the coast in response to damages caused by the 140,000 gallons of heavy crude oil that poured onto the Gaviota Coast and into the Santa Barbara Channel as a result of the May 19, 2015 Oil Spill from the Plains All American Pipeline. It will also include efforts to improve oil spill response efforts. Additionally, this internship will focus on efforts to prevent new oil development in the Santa Barbara Channel region.

Key responsibilities

With the guidance of EDC staff, the Marine Conservation intern will:

- Conduct independent research relating to restoration efforts.
- Contribute to and distribute work products to forward the goals of the Marine Conservation Program, which may include: research memos, press releases, education and outreach materials, blogs, comments letters, etc.

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Desired Skills

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Strong research and writing skills
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to work well with managers and diverse stakeholders
- Enthusiasm for ocean stewardship and conservation

Time Commitment: This internship will be 10 hours a week from June to October. The intern will work out of the EDC office. This internship includes a stipend, generously made available by the Coastal Fund.

Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and references to Kristen Hislop at: khislop@environmentaldefensecenter.org, preferably by June 3, 2019. We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis.