



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

## Oceanographer 13

---

### GS-1360-13

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:

Performs a wide range of assignments of considerable difficulty and complexity in oceanography. Conducts expert-level oceanographic analyses for a specialty area within programs of atmospheric, oceanic or other technological assessments.

#### II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Typical duties include the following:

Serves as technical authority or as a team leader in area of personal expertise which often is a major concern of agency, or as team leader. Provides authoritative advice to other agency scientists and high level officials, conducting investigations into phenomena that may require development of new techniques.

Identifies and evaluates new damage assessment cases associated with long term release of toxic materials. Provides technical guidance for conducting natural resource damage assessments.

Develops and writes technical portions of agency guidelines that may affect other agencies and/or industries. Writes reports and position papers on subjects which often generate controversy.

Coordinates meetings of experts to advance the state-of-the art.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required by the Position FL 1-8, 1550 pts.

Mastery of theories, methods and techniques of professional oceanography, sufficient to serve as senior oceanographer for a wide variety of products, or to serve as a staff specialist working to improve oceanographic guidance requirements and packages for one or more major product areas. Knowledge of operations of organizations involved sufficient to translate headquarters program requirements to field office operations.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-5, 650 pts.

Supervisor assigns work by outlining the overall functions of assigned work area. Employee designs and performs work independently and is responsible for technical accuracy and completeness of results. Supervisor is kept informed of controversial or far-reaching matters and problems. Completed work is reviewed for accomplishing program objectives.

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

Guidelines are provided by agency policies and directives and mission statements but are very limited in application to the work. Employee must use initiative, resourcefulness, and experience in the specialty area to develop and modify new methods and procedures.

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

The work involves a high degree of scientific and technical originality and judgement. Solutions to one problem may be in direct conflict with solutions to another. Assignments produce state-of-the-art, comprehensive technical and assessment reports.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-5, 325 pts.

Employee's work directly influences agency's success in transmitting information to individuals on national and international levels to promote wise environmental management decisions. Employee's innovations contribute to the quality and degree of exchange among Federal, state, and local agencies, academia, research organizations, private industry, and the general public as well as within NOAA itself.

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, at supervisory and middle-management levels.

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

Contacts are to provide oceanographic information to various users, and to plan with and secure the cooperation of clients.

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

Work is primarily sedentary.

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 = 3,505 pts.

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

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

(Last Updated: November 4, 1994)

---

[Website Feedback](#)   [About OHRM](#)   [Contact Us](#)   [DOCHROC](#)   [FOIA](#)   [Site Map](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)   [Commerce Homepage](#)   [Careers at Commerce](#)  
[Commerce Employees](#)   [HR Practitioners](#)