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## Oceanographer Researcher 15

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### GS-1360-15

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in

Serves as the sole researcher or leads a team of scientists performing research on critical problems of oceanography.

#### II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Leads a team or conducts independent research to investigate long range and short term problems. Recommends solutions for problems of unusual difficulty related to oceanography, and writes scientific papers for publication. Typical duties include:

Conducts oceanographic investigations centering on fluxes of energy, momentum and materials through the air-sea interface, the transport and composition (thermal and chemical of ocean and coastal water masses) and the structure and dynamical processes on the sea-floor.

Oceanographic studies to improve understanding of environmental processes in coastal and open-ocean systems.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Research Situation Degree E - 10 points

The oceanographer serves as a major project or team leader for research on difficult problems. The applied research addresses operational requirements that lack adequate procedures. Existing concepts and techniques must be significantly extended to make the needed enhancements to field operations. The research is expected to result in an improved understanding of the environmental processes in coastal and open-ocean systems. The oceanographer is personally responsible for formulating and guiding a research attack on problems which have been recognized as critical obstacles to progress or development in the science, or where solutions to problems represent a major advance in oceanography. There is a reasonable expectation that the research, although difficult, will produce useable outcomes.

Factor 2 - Supervision Received Degree E - 10 points

Technical supervision is nominal and consultative in nature. Oceanographer works under broad administrative supervision, with direction limited to resource allocation and staffing levels. Working within broad agency policies and guidelines, identifies the most fruitful and urgent areas of research.

Takes complete responsibility for formulation of hypotheses and development of a plan of attack. Research findings are subject to higher-level management decisions concerning their use.

Factor 3 - Guidelines and Originality Degree E - 10 points

Creatively extends, adds to, or supplants existing theory or methodology, and/or applies a high degree of imagination and creativity in solution of problems of marked importance, for which there is an almost complete absence of applicable guidelines, literature, and methodology.

Factor 4 - Qualifications and  
Scientific Contributions Degree E - 20 points

Incumbent has achieved outstanding attainment in the field of oceanography and has authored a number of important peer-reviewed papers, some of which have had major impact on oceanography. Incumbent is regularly sought out by peers who are specialists and recognized scientists in oceanography. Incumbent is invited to address national professional organizations. Other researchers take note of the incumbent's published results in order to keep abreast of new developments in the field.

TOTAL: 10+10+10+20 = 50 POINTS

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

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

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