

Legislative Host Information 2005
Placement Week November 15-19

Office Name: Senator Ron Wyden

How many total staff are in your DC office? (Select one option, mark with X)

| | |
|------|---|
| 1-5 | |
| 6-10 | |
| > 10 | X |

Have you previously hosted a Sea Grant fellow (Select one option, mark with X)

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | X |
| No | |

If yes, how many Fellows have you hosted?

In the Senate, Senator Wyden has had 6 prior Sea Grant fellows.

Does your office accept non-United States (foreign) citizens? (Select one option, mark with X)

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | X |
| No | |

Office Overview

Mission Statement: (Please limit to 30 words.) The Sea Grant fellow is responsible for moving the Senator's fisheries agenda forward. Oregon is suffering from a coast wide fisheries decline and Senator Wyden continues to be a leader in addressing the difficulties facing West Coast fisheries and fishery management. He has been instrumental in securing emergency aid for disadvantaged fishers and their families and in authorizing and funding a capacity reduction program for groundfish fishers. The Sea Grant fellow will also be responsible for tracking appropriation requests.

Brief Overview of Your Office's work: (Please limit to 150 words.)

Senator Wyden's office represents the dynamic state of Oregon. His committee assignments on Commerce, Energy, and Environment enable him to be extremely active in fisheries issues, environmental issues of all kinds ranging from forestry to global climate change, as well as many other issues including health care, government waste, transportation, and energy. For Senator Wyden the message from the office is the work product.

Assignment Description.

Estimated fellow Travel, Out-of-Office: (Select one option, mark with X)

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 0 days / month | X* |
| 1-3 days / month | |
| 4-7 days / month | |
| 8-10 days / month | |
| > 2 weeks / month | |

* The fellow is encouraged to travel to Oregon at least once when the Senate is in recess.

Desired Background Skills: Please list. (e.g. strong written / oral communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint software, etc.).

Strong writing skills, knowledge of basic office software programs (Word, Excel), ability to positively interact with others outside of the D.C. office, including Senator Wyden's state staff, congressional staff from other offices, federal agency personnel, lobbyists, interest-group representatives, and Oregon constituents.

Please list the House/Senate offices & committees with which you work closely.

A good, ongoing working relationship on fishery issues exists with the other West Coast Senate staffers, as well as with the staffers from other members of the Commerce Committee, of which Senator Wyden is a member. Good – and longstanding – working relationships also exist with many offices in the Senate. These relationships as well as the good reputation of past Sea Grant Fellows in the Wyden office provide opportunities to work with many different types of groups and individuals.

In 300 words or less, please describe the tasks, duties, or projects the fellow will undertake, the skills a fellow will gain, and the deliverables a fellow can expect to produce from completing these tasks.

Sample tasks, duties, and projects include:

- 1) preparing reports to the Senator on fishery issues affecting Oregon to prepare him for hearings, bill mark-ups, and Town Hall meetings in the state;
- 2) conducting background research to develop legislation and collecting feedback from constituent groups on proposals as they are being developed;
- 3) meeting with fish processors, fishers, and environmental groups;
- 4) preparing letters or being involved in the preparation of joint Senate or Congressional letters to the Secretary of Commerce, the NOAA Administrator or the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service on fishery issues of importance to the West Coast and Oregon fisheries;
- 5) working with staff from other Senate offices to move legislation through the process, address differences in opinion and gain consensus on fishery issues that are important to Oregon; and
- 6) organizing, submitting, and tracking appropriations requests.

In general, the Fellow should experience a significant improvement in the highly prized skills of writing clearly and succinctly and in negotiating. The Fellow can also expect to gain a strong foundation in policymaking. This is particularly true in Senator Wyden's office because the Fellow is immersed in all parts of the process and is considered a member of the senior staff. A Fellow who feels comfortable and confident working independently can expect to receive guidance as is necessary with sufficient latitude to be able to generate and develop proposals independently within the office's guidelines and interest. This means that teamwork skills will be enhanced as well as creativity and independent working skills.