# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction, Department of commerce

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Commerce, Science and Transportation |
| Agency Mission | To create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity |
| Position Overview | The assistant secretary for environmental observation and prediction provides agency-wide direction with regard to weather, water, climate, and ocean observations and forecasts, consistent with administration priorities. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Undersecretary and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | Not known at this time. |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Provides agency-wide direction with regard to weather, water, climate, and ocean observations and forecasts, consistent with administration priorities * Works with the assistant secretary for conservation and management/deputy administrator and chief scientist to ensure integration of activities, functions, information, products and services across NOAA[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Previous government experience (a plus) * Understanding of the legislative and federal budgeting process * Knowledge of the division’s functions and policies |
| Competencies | * Strong communication and collaboration skills to work across U.S. government agencies and with other relevant stakeholders |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Manson K. Brown (2014 to 2017): Vice Admiral, Coast Guard; Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area; Commander, Coast Guard District 14[[4]](#endnote-4) | |
| Kathryn D. Sullivan (2011 to 2013): Director, Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy; Member, National Science Board; Director, American Electric Power; President and CEO, Center of Science and Industry; Chief Scientist, NOAA; Astronaut, NASA[[5]](#endnote-5) | |

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.commerce.gov/sites/commerce.gov/files/media/files/2015/docorgchartfinal.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. OPM PD [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150317-manson-brown-appointed-as-assistant-secretary-of-commerce-for-environmental-observation-and-prediction.html>

   https://www.linkedin.com/in/manson-brown-51a3ba27/ [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathy-sullivan-3634316/ [↑](#endnote-ref-5)