# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of state

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| **OVERVIEW** |
| Senate Committee | Foreign Relations |
| Agency Mission | The Department of State is the lead institution for the conduct of American diplomacy. |
| Position Overview | The assistant secretary for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs is responsible for matters relating to ocean, environmental, scientific, fishery, wildlife and conservation affairs. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| Management Scope | The Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs had an actual budget for fiscal 2015 of $12.154 million. |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Oversees matters relating to ocean, environmental, scientific, fishery, wildlife and conservation affairs, and carries out other related duties that the secretary may designate from time to time (22 U.S.C. 2655a)
* Advances U.S. strategic interests through policy aimed at ensuring that economic growth and a healthy planet go hand in hand
* Builds international consensus around issues such as fighting infectious diseases, combating wildlife trafficking and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
* Promotes water security; peaceful cooperation on polar issues; sustainable ocean policy; science and technology cooperation; nature conservation; and climate and space policy, among other vital topics[[3]](#endnote-3)
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| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** |
| Requirements | * Extensive experience working on environmental issues and policy
* Extensive management and government experience
* Relationships with relevant stakeholders, or ability to form them
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| Competencies | * Strong communication, interpersonal and diplomatic skills
* Strong leader
* Excellent negotiation skills
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| **PAST APPOINTEES** |
| Kerri-Ann Jones (2009 to 2014): Independent Consultant specializing in Strategic Planning and the Development of Research and Education Portfolios; Director of the National Science Foundation’s Office of International Science and Engineering; Director for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research for the State of Maine[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| Claudia A. McMurray (2006 to 2009): Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment; Associate Deputy Administrator and Chief of Staff to the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Vice President at Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.[[5]](#endnote-5) |
| John F. Turner (2001 to 2005): President and Chief Executive Officer, The Conservation Fund; Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, George H.W. Bush Administration; President of the Senate, Wyoming Senate[[6]](#endnote-6) |

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.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/99484.htm [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.state.gov/e/oes/ [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.allgov.com/officials/jones-kerri-ann?officialid=29242 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/62184.htm [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Leadership Directories [↑](#endnote-ref-6)