

California Current Joint Venture Coordinator/ Senior Marine Policy Specialist

Hours: Full Time with regular travel

Reports to: Executive Director

Salary Range: Competitive, DOE

Benefits: Full benefits (health, dental, paid vacation, retirement plan)

Start Date: summer, 2006

PRBO Conservation Science: PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) is a growing, non-profit dedicated to conserving birds, other wildlife and ecosystems through science and outreach. PRBO's 180 staff and seasonal biologists work with public and private interests to enhance biodiversity and improve resource management effectiveness in western North America, the Pacific Ocean, Mexico and beyond.

Founded as Point Reyes Bird Observatory in 1965, PRBO has helped catalyze the development of some of the most innovative conservation partnerships and decision support tools in the nation. Major conservation initiatives are achieving more effective outcomes as a result of PRBO's pioneering science, training and outreach

PRBO helps to ensure that every dollar invested in conservation yields the most for biodiversity- benefiting our environment, our economy and our communities. For more information, please see www.prbo.org.

California Current Joint Venture: The California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME), stretching from southern British Columbia to Baja California and including the 200 mile EEZ is one of 5 highly productive upwelling systems on the planet. The CCLME attracts millions of marine birds, mammals, and fish, including many far-ranging, highly migratory species. Yet, there are threats to the health and productivity of this vital U.S. marine ecosystem.

Scientists, management agencies, and fishers now recognize and promote the need to enhance management and conservation of fish and other marine wildlife through coordinated efforts.

To bring together disparate regional, national and international agencies responsible for managing CCLME resources and to effectively address the threats to pelagic wildlife and fisheries, PRBO is initiating a cooperative partnership modeled after the successful land-based Joint Ventures of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The "California Current Joint Venture" [or other name to be determined by the partners at a future date] will be a non-regulatory, voluntary coalition steeped in sound science that will help bridge cultural and cross-jurisdictional barriers in ocean management to achieve common conservation goals.

Two recent major reports on ocean health and policy, the Pew Oceans Commission's "America's Living Oceans" and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (the congressionally authorized commission to recommend a new national oceans policy), provide evidence for a crises in marine ecosystem health that could have devastating environmental, economic and social consequences. Both reports call for significant changes to U.S. ocean management. Launching of the CCJV will make significant progress towards addressing some of the recommendations in these reports for the CCLME while simultaneously providing a model for the rest of the nation.

Our vision for the CCJV is that it will ultimately bring together commercial and recreational fishers, regulatory agencies, oil, mineral extraction, and shipping industries, ecotourism industries, marine ecologists and social scientists, environmental advocates and other stakeholders to coordinate and prioritize biodiversity conservation, fisheries, and human health; support the marine economy; and, promote public stewardship of the marine environment.

California Current Joint Venture Coordinator: PRBO is seeking a highly skilled professional, with exceptional marine policy expertise, training in marine science, and demonstrated leadership skills to initiate the CCJV.

The CCJV will be a voluntary, non-regulatory partnership of major public and private stakeholders to support science-based, sustainable management and conservation of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. Fisheries scientists, marine biologists and others with an interest and experience in marine policy are encouraged to apply.

The CCJV Coordinator will:

- provide leadership and coordination, nationally and internationally, to establish the California Current Joint Venture;
- promote information exchange and collaboration among disparate entities;
- promote a science-based, ecosystem approach to ocean resource management;
- help partners identify and implement joint win-win pelagic conservation pilot projects; and,
- fundraise, and organize partners to fundraise, for the operations and projects of the Joint Venture, including for the Coordinator's position beyond the 18 months-2 years of funding already secured, as well as for additional staff leadership and support positions (CCLME-wide and regional) as identified in collaboration with the CCJV partners.

Specific responsibilities, to be more formally developed by the qualified individual hired for this position, include to:

- Evaluate other Joint Venture and cross-jurisdictional conservation partnerships to identify the components of a successful CCJV structure;
- Identify and recruit top-level public and private CCLME-wide stakeholders to lead the formation of the CCJV including federal and state agencies, users such as shipping and oil interests, and non governmental organizations science and conservation organizations;

- Organize and convene a series of initial meetings in support of CCJV formation and CCJV goals including developing a CCJV Charter;
- Oversee CCJV operations and work toward hiring staff as appropriate;
- Develop and manage budget for the CCJV [the CCJV will be housed out of PRBO initially]
- Serve as a spokesperson for the CCJV;
- Coordinate the development of pilot projects among disparate CCJV partners, using a strong working knowledge of Joint Venture members, current scientific findings, potential projects, and current policy issues;
- Working with newly identified JV partners, seek new state, federal, local and private funding sources for Joint Venture members' projects and Joint Venture operating expenses, and coordinate development of collaborative grant and funding applications for joint pilot projects; and,
- Provide progress reports for funders, board members and others.

Experience:

- 10 years or more proven expertise in marine policy and marine science/ecology.
- Expertise in developing relationships with a diverse group of high-level state and federal governmental officials and NGO officials.
- Experience in organizing or running collaborative consortia or equivalent.
- Working knowledge of state and federal legislative processes, environmental laws, regulations, and funding programs for marine natural resource protection, management and restoration.
- Experience with marine regulatory issues, conservation challenges, resource management, fishing industry incentives and the like.
- Experience with news media relations and public outreach preferred.

Education:

- Advanced degree in marine policy and/or marine science/ecology.

Skills and attributes:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Proven leadership skills
- Proven ability to think and act strategically, prioritize effectively, and work collaboratively.
- Self-starter and independent; able to develop program, goals and carry out tasks to achieve those goals in a timely manner without supervision or regular support.
- Proven success in fundraising from private and public sources.
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with leaders of diverse public agencies and private interest groups nationally and internationally.
- Ability to develop and support a board of directors and its committees (or equivalent entities) on organizational, fiscal, scientific, legislative and outreach issues.
- Experience with marine regulatory agencies at the state and federal level.
- Ability to interpret complex scientific ideas in a clear and persuasive manner.
- Ability to assimilate scientific concepts and findings to support conservation policy recommendations and actions.

- Strong interpersonal, facilitation and listening skills.
- Strong partnership building skills.
- Excellent basic computer skills.
- Proven aptitude for strategic and creative planning in a collaborative, team atmosphere.
- Ability to accept and integrate feedback from others.
- Ability to be flexible, work well under pressure and manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Excellent attention to detail, accuracy and quality.
- Knowledge of Spanish preferable, but not required.
- A passion for science-driven, stakeholder-inclusive marine conservation.

Initial Structure

The Coordinator initially reports to PRBO's Executive Director and works under the auspices of PRBO. Ultimately, s/he will report to the Executive Committee or equivalent entity of the CCJV.

Salary and Benefits

Salary will be commensurate with experience. PRBO provides its employees with generous health care and retirement benefits.

To Apply

E-mail (1) cover letter describing qualifications and interest, (2) detailed CV/resume, including publication and fund-raising history as appropriate, and (3) names, addresses and phone numbers for 5 references to Brenna Langabeer-Schlagenhauf (blangabeer@prbo.org) with "Search Committee- CCJV" in the subject line. Applicants may be subject to background checks.

Application deadline will be open until the position is filled; we will review applications on March 24, 2006.

For questions about this position, please e-mail or call Brenna Langabeer-Schlagenhauf (blangabeer@prbo.org or 415-868-1221, ext. 349).

PRBO is an Equal Opportunity Employer.