

## NOAA Leadership Competencies Development Program

### LCDP DEVELOPMENTAL ASSIGNMENT FORM

*(Data provided will be loaded on the LCDP website to be used by the program participants.)*

#### **Details of Developmental Assignment**

**1. Title of Assignment:**

Acting NOAA Marine Debris Program Director

**2. Level of Responsibility** (e.g., GS13, GS14, SES or equivalent pay band):

ZP-IV Supervisor (equivalent to GS-14)

**3. Host Office** (if in NOAA, start with Line/Corporate Office down to the lowest level - e.g., Division or Branch):

NOS/ORR/Marine Debris Program / Division  
Silver Spring, Maryland

**4. Timeframe** (expected start date, duration, any known time dependencies):

Late June to early November 2008, while the current Director is on maternity leave.  
Approximately four months.

**5. Assignment Description** (include goals/objectives/expected outcomes):

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP), (~\$5M annually), is a centralized program within NOAA that coordinates, strengthens, and enhances marine debris activities within the agency, among its partners, and the public. The MDP undertakes national and international efforts focused on identifying, reducing, and preventing debris in the marine environment. Additionally, the MDP supports and works closely with various partners across the U.S. to fulfill this mission. The Acting MDP Director will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Program, but focus mainly on supervisory responsibilities, program budget management, and high-level issues such as a member of the OR&R Senior Management Team and relationships with other NOAA offices including NOAA MB, PPI, and PA&E; Congress; other federal agencies, predominantly EPA and USCG; and external partners such as Ocean Conservancy and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Acting Director will be responsible for identifying gaps in current activities and devising ways to fill them, including identifying and forming new partnerships to achieve desired end goals. The Acting Director will have a full-time staff of two FTEs (supervisory; 1 in Silver Spring, 1 in Seattle), and 6 contractors (3 in Silver

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Spring, 2 in Hawaii, 1 in Seattle). Particularly during this time, as budgets are formulated for FY09 in Congress and FY11 within NOAA, the Acting Director will be responsible for maintaining the visibility of the MDP within NOAA, Congress, and external partners. The Acting Director will also serve as the co-chair of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee (11 federal agencies), and begin the drafting of Action Plans to implement a report to Congress that will be completed in mid-June. The Acting Director may become involved in select projects funded by the MDP as interests and needs arise; the MDP funded 14 NOAA projects in FY08, and approximately 20 projects through other grant mechanisms. A current focus of the MDP is to hold regional workshops to bring together marine debris specialists within a given area, and formulate ways to identify regional priorities and ways to address them. To date, workshops have been held in Alaska and Hawaii, and the Acting Director may choose to begin this process in another area. Finally, the Acting Director will provide oversight for the Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project (\$24M project), which includes troubleshooting issues as requested by the Project Coordinator, and ensuring cooperation with the NOS Office of Coast Survey and U.S. Coast Guard.

**6. Potential Benefit to LCDP Participant** (e.g., leadership competencies/skills to be used - see list of OPM leadership competencies at [www.opm.gov/ses/define.html](http://www.opm.gov/ses/define.html)):

The Acting Director position is a supervisory position that builds competencies across all five executive core qualifications, but particular focus on external awareness, strategic thinking, team building, decisiveness, technical credibility, financial management, influencing/negotiating, interpersonal skills, partnering and political savvy. This is a highly visible program, acting as a leader for NOAA, Congress, other federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations in the realm of marine debris, and the Acting Director will need to maintain this role, enhancing it if possible, during the detail.

**7. Any other considerations, special requirements or comments:**

The MDP recently submitted realignment paperwork to become a division with the ORR, instead of a Program within ORR HQ. If the realignment is approved, this position will become a Division Chief instead of Program Director.

**8. Assignment Supervisor** (name, position):

Brian Julius, Deputy Director, ORR

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9. **Assignment Contact Person** (name and email address):

Holly Bamford, Holly.Bamford@noaa.gov

***Please send completed form to [LCDP.ProgramManager@noaa.gov](mailto:LCDP.ProgramManager@noaa.gov).***

***Thank you!***