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## RESEARCH SITUATION

This position is in the Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Investigation Program. The research work is presently directed at determining reproductive status, movement patterns, growth rates, mortality, population size and composition and habitat requirements of sea turtles in the central and western Pacific, and developing similar information on monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The position described here is that of a Wildlife Biolog. with major responsibility in sea turtle research.

The incumbent will define, develop and conduct original research on Pacific marine turtle populations addressing migratory patterns, growth rates, food habits, mortality rates, reproduction, habitat usage, and stock assessment problems. The results of this research will be presented in appropriate technical reports and scientific publications. The incumbent will also collect and prepare comprehensive background information, based on literature searches and unpublished research data to enable management decisions to be made relevant to marine turtle conservation.

The incumbent also assists the Investigation Leader in development of long range plans and goals for marine turtle research, and acts as party chief in field assignments for both turtle and monk seal activities.

## II. SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS

The Leader, Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Investigation, a GS-13 Wildlife Biologist, provides guidance relative to general research needs and priorities and monitors work progress and adherence to project goals. In the field, the incumbent may supervise one to four Biologists or Technicians, GS-4 to GS-9.

## III. GUIDELINES AND ORIGINALITY

Acceptable scientific methods of conducting this work and anlyzing the data are the general guides to development of the incumbent's work.

Based on the incumbent's professional experience, knowledge of the relevant literature and currently accepted experimental methodologies, he/she designs, conducts and reports original research investigations directed at solutions to marine turtle information needs, modifying available techniques as may be necessary to accomplish the task.

## IV. QUALIFICATIONS

Proven ability to independently define research problems on marine turtles, develop and carry out the studies, analyze the data, and prepare summary technical reports acceptable for scientific publication. The incumbent must have professional experience in marine biological research with emphasis on Pacific marine turtles, at least a Master of Science degree in some area of biological sciences, and the proven ability to conduct research in isolated field conditions for at least several weeks at a time. The ability to interview and obtain information from native Pacific island fishermen for the purpose of compiling historical, biological and cultural information on marine turtles in also desirable.