

Call for Freelance Science Writer

POGO is seeking a Journalist or Science Communication Consultant to write Case Studies on Societal Benefits of Ocean Observations

Introduction

The [Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean \(POGO\)](http://www.pogo-ocean.org) is an international non-profit organisation, registered as a UK charity, which brings together over 50 oceanographic research institutions from around the world. POGO members work collectively to advance global ocean observations through innovation, capacity development and outreach/advocacy.

One of POGO's long-term ambitions is to raise awareness of the importance of ocean observing and the need for sustained, long-term funding of the observing systems. The benefits of ocean observations go far beyond the advancement of science: they support a variety of sectors of the economy, bring about benefits to human health and safety, and are required for environmental protection and the sustainable use and management of marine resources.

POGO is embarking upon a project to identify and develop a suite of case studies that demonstrate the various socio-economic benefits of ocean observing in different parts of the world.

What will the contract involve?

The consultant will be required to work with the POGO Secretariat (Plymouth, UK) to develop a template that will serve as the basis for collecting ocean observing stories. The template will lay out the key information elements we are looking for and will help us to identify and select an appropriate range of stories to work on. The template will be sent to the >50 [POGO member institutions](#).

Once the story outlines have been gathered and a short-list selected, the consultant will be responsible for liaising directly with the scientists involved in the observations/research. This may involve exchanging e-mails and/or video calls to extract information on the type of observing system/platforms used, the frequency and duration of data collection and the socio-economic benefits derived. The final deliverable for each case study will be an article, suitable for a lay audience, of around 1,000 words.

It is anticipated that a minimum of 3 case studies will be developed as a starting point. Depending on the results and the interest expressed by POGO members, the contract could be extended to produce up to a dozen case studies by the end of 2021.

What experience and skills are required?

- Minimum of three years' experience in journalism and/or science communication (i.e. writing articles on science topics aimed at the general public or policy-makers)
- Experience in writing on environmental science topics is essential; an interest in ocean science is highly desirable

- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Fluency in other languages is not a requirement, but may be an advantage.
- Ability to work within an international, multilingual, interdisciplinary and multicultural environment

How to apply?

Please submit your application by email, to pogoadmin@pml.ac.uk, by **23rd March 2021**, with the email subject reference: ***Ocean Case Studies Application***

The application should include:

- Curriculum vitae
- Small portfolio of work (3-5 relevant examples, written in English)
- Covering letter outlining your interest in this topic

Please address any enquiries to pogoadmin@pml.ac.uk.

Remuneration

The cost for the initial contract will be negotiated based on experience and on further discussions regarding the time required for each task.

Project Timeline

23 March 2021	Application Deadline
26 March 2021	Shortlist complete and applicants notified
31 March 2021	Shortlisted candidates interviewed via Zoom meeting
[April 2021]	POGO Secretariat and appointed consultant will collaborate on case study template
30 April 2021	Case study template distributed to POGO Members
[May/June 2021]	Consultant works directly with members who respond to case study request
30 June 2021	First three case studies completed
[July 2021]	POGO Secretariat and appointed consultant review contract, with a view to extending