

# Irish Whale and Dolphin Group



## **Project Officer & Data Scientist Job Description**

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group is Ireland's premier eNGO working in the marine environment. Established in 1990, the IWDG has built a credible reputation for effective advocacy for cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) and their habitats. The IWDG is also a primary data holder with unique datasets on cetaceans which we use to support conservation actions and policies. The IWDG currently has five full-time staff and nine service providers.

We wish to recruit a full-time **Project Officer** on a three-year contract to contribute to a new EU project Atlantic Whale Deal and assist in the delivery of the IWDG 5 year plan. This role will appeal to a candidate with skills in data analysis and modelling and a strong knowledge of conservation status of large whales in Atlantic waters.

### **ATLANTIC WHALE DEAL**

The initial focus of the **Project Officer** role will be to support the delivery of the ATLANTIC WHALE DEAL a new EU project aiming to mitigate ship strikes and enhance carbon sequestration in the Atlantic through innovative technologies. The project aims to develop solutions to reduce ship strikes, thus enhancing carbon sequestration, given the whales' pivotal role in ecosystem functioning. The project will produce (acoustic, visual, and thermal) detection and localization techniques, create maps of collision risk and acoustic contamination integrated into interactive tools, evaluate the ecosystem services provided by whales, and propose a long-term sustainable plan.

### **Responsibilities:**

A detailed programme of work will be agreed with the successful candidate at the outset. The successful candidate will report to the IWDG Science Officer and work

closely with other IWDG Officers, especially the IT Officer and Conservation Officer. Responsibilities include;

- Management of IWDG's Ferry and Large Ship survey programme.
- Analysis of IWDG long-term ferry data.
- Support the delivery of the ATLANTIC WHALE DEAL project;
- Carrying out pilot visual and thermal detection and localization techniques, specifically using boat-based thermal cameras
- Evaluating the effectiveness of technologies to detect and reduce ship strikes.
- Integration and analysis of IWDG datasets to assess seasonal distribution of large whale species.
- Carrying out communication strategy outlined in the ATLANTIC WHALE DEAL project.
- Support IWDG officers and the delivery of the IWDG's science objectives.

### **Essential skills or experience**

- Higher-level qualification in marine related subject
- Knowledge of marine ecosystems and conservation status of large whales in Atlantic waters
- Experience in environmental modelling
- Proficiency in data processing and analysis software including GIS.
- An ability to communicate effectively, both written and verbally
- Organisational and time management skills and the ability to manage and prioritise workloads and deadlines.

### **Desirable skills or experience**

- Experience working on an EU project.
- A relevant MSc in marine or related subject is desirable.
- Experience in species distribution modelling.
- Experience conducting visual surveys of cetaceans, particularly on research vessels.
- Current PST or equivalent and MMO certification.

### **Personal attributes and competencies**

- Passion for wildlife conservation and the mission of the IWDG to engage people with nature conservation.

- Enjoy working as part of a team.
- Ability to use own initiative and work independently.
- Full driving license and own vehicle.

## **Conditions of Employment**

This role allows for remote working options, or and be based at IWDG's main office in Kilrush, Co Clare. The successful candidate will be expected to attend occasional in person meetings and events at our head office. The successful candidate will be required to be available for travel within Ireland and internationally when necessary.

This is a full-time job as an IWDG employee for a fixed period of 3 years. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications and will align with recommendations for post-graduates in Ireland and is likely to be in the region of €30-40,000 per annum. Staff are encouraged to participate in the wider work of the group including Celtic Mist surveys, land watches and other research surveys.

## **How to apply**

To apply for this position please email your CV and cover letter to [rebecca.dudley@iwdg.ie](mailto:rebecca.dudley@iwdg.ie)

Your cover letter should be in pdf format and a maximum of two pages in length. In your letter, please outline your motivation for this position and why you feel you have the skills and experience to succeed in the role.

Please put **IWDG Project Officer and Data Scientist** in the email subject line.

**Closing date:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024