



Marine Biodiversity and ORE Officer

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 six full-time staff and eight service providers. We wish to recruit a full-time ***IWDG Marine Biodiversity and ORE Officer*** to build capacity in the IWDG and wider eNGO sector in relation to marine biodiversity and Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE). The successful candidate will assist in developing IWDG conservation policies, build IWDG and the IEN advocacy capability and assist in the delivery of the IWDG strategy. The position is funded by the Irish Environmental Network through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

The development of ORE in Irish waters will be a hugely ambitious undertaking based on government plans, policy and legislation (NMPF, MSFD, MAP Act, OREDP II, DMAPs) with the long-term aim of building windfarms of 37GW capacity by 2050. The scale of the proposed work is unprecedented in the history of the Irish State, with potentially profound impact on the marine environment. The role of the marine NGOs is vitally important in minimising the impact and ensuring that all opportunities are taken to enhance and protect the marine ecosystem as much as possible through informed dialogue and communication with all stakeholders, agencies and the general public.

The post will allow the IWDG to further the relationship-building already begun by the IWDG in the crucial area of intersection between ORE development and the conservation of marine biodiversity and especially whales, dolphins and porpoises.

This role will appeal to a candidate with a strong background in marine biodiversity and offshore renewables. A good understanding of environmental impact assessment and marine spatial planning as well as a good understanding of government policy in these areas is also important.

Responsibilities:

Advocacy

- Leading IWDG consultations with offshore renewable companies on impact assessment, site stewardship, planning and monitoring
- Developing relationships with key stakeholders, including Government departments and bodies, Wind Energy Ireland, fishers and coastal communities
- Developing high level relevant research outputs
- Contribute to public dialogue and debate on ORE

- Engaging with media, academics, the general public and target audience to raise the level of awareness and ocean literacy
- Working across existing eNGO coalitions for example the Environmental Pillar, Sustainable Water Network, Cork Water Forum and the Fair Seas Campaign to advance sustainable marine policy on ORE
- Engaging in public consultation processes regarding ORE with science-based submissions
- Advocating for strong marine conservation measures and an ethos of site stewardship to be implemented for all OREs.
- Engaging international partners on best practice for offshore renewables.
- Attending in-person meetings in Brussels with European partners.
- Supporting the production of reports, policy positions and website articles.
- Communicating in reports, press statements, policy positions and outputs from advocacy campaigns to the IEN network and beyond through social media, press releases, magazine articles and talks.

Reporting

- Tracking activities and deliverables
- Providing six-month and annual reports to the IEN
- Communicating to IEN members

Required skills and experience

- Knowledge and experience of the ORE sector in Ireland and overseas
- A good understanding of environmental impact assessment and marine spatial planning
- Knowledge of the relevant EU and Irish policies and legislation
- Skills in communicating scientific information to a diverse range of audiences
- A relevant university degree (minimum level 9) or equivalent qualification
- An understanding of marine ecosystems and marine conservation biology
- Understanding of the roles and interactions of various marine stakeholders such as: civil society groups, researchers, commercial interests, state agencies and politicians
- An ability to communicate effectively, both written and verbally
- Experience working in marine science or nature conservation advocacy
- Experience in research and report writing
- Organisational and time management skills and the ability to manage and prioritise workloads and deadlines
- Proficiency in working across software platforms: video meetings, word processing, spreadsheets, social media
- Experience working as part of a team and independently
- Full driving license and own vehicle

Conditions of Employment

This role allows for remote working options as presented in the **IWDG Remote Working Policy**. Applicants can be based anywhere in Ireland, including at our head office. This role will require regular contact with key government department and agencies. 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.
Gross starting salary is **€66,800** in year one with annual increments.

How to apply

To apply for this position please email your CV and cover letter to ceo@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 Marine Biodiversity and ORE Officer** in the email subject line.

Closing date: 19 July 2023 at 5pm