

*The MarPAMM project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).*



<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Marine Management Plan Officer</b>
<b>Vacancy type:</b>	Fixed Term Contract
<b>Location:</b>	Flexible within Ireland*
<b>Contract term:</b>	Provisionally 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 26 Mar 2022.
<b>Hours:</b>	Part-time, 14 hours per week

*\*The post holder may choose to work from home or may have a base in either our Headquarters in Kilcoole or at our regional office in Letterkenny. Please note, where the postholder chooses to work from home, BirdWatch Ireland does not provide a home office supplement.*

### **Background**

The Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring (MarPAMM) project (<http://www.mpa-management.eu/>) has received EU funding from Interreg VA and will develop models and management plans for protected habitats and species across the regional seas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The project brings together the knowledge and expertise of 7 organisations - Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) (Lead partner), Marine Scotland Science (MSS), Scottish Natural Heritage (NatureScot), BirdWatch Ireland (BWI), the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Ulster University (UU) and University College Cork (UCC).

Four models for seabirds, benthic species, marine mammals and coastal habitats will be developed which will feed into the preparation of six Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans. These will comprise four regional MPA management plans covering Co. Down – Co. Louth, North Coast-North Channel, Argyll and Outer Hebrides plus site-specific MPA management plans for Murlough Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Northern Ireland and the cross-border Carlingford Lough Special Protected Area (SPA). The overall aim is to increase capacity in and collaboration between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland for MPA management planning, and to link MPA management planning to wider, integrated marine planning and management.

### **Job Purpose Summary**

The Marine Management Plan Officer will lead the development of regional and site-specific MPA management plans with the maritime stakeholders in Ireland and Northern Ireland, including managing data relevant to the plan.

The focus of the job holder will be to bring together organisations and sectoral interests to develop a shared vision for MPAs, including delivering management plans for Carlingford Lough, the North Coast-North Channel Region (Counties Donegal, Derry and Antrim) and Co. Down-Co. Louth regions. It is envisaged that the plans will provide a strategic overview of the objectives and management of marine areas both within and without designated MPAs and will provide guidance to stakeholders dealing with overlapping designation types and cumulative effects. The post will also focus on

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ensuring the data relevant to these management plans are well-managed, accessible, and support delivery of the plan.

The job holder will have expertise in stakeholder engagement, project management, and marine data, with a sound knowledge of marine resource management or marine ecology.

### **Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities**

A detailed programme of work will be agreed with the successful candidate at the outset, but the post holder is expected to:

- Write a MPA site management plan for Carlingford Lough.
- Contribute to the production of two regional MPA management plans, (i) the North Coast-North Channel Region (Counties Donegal, Derry and Antrim) and (ii) the Co. Down-Co. Louth Region.
- Engage and build relationships with maritime stakeholders, particularly regulators, to enable the delivery of regional MPA management plans. This will involve supporting established stakeholder groups to guide development of the plan.
- Contribute to social media based stakeholder engagement works and monthly digital updates.
- Maintain awareness of issues and opportunities relating to the development of management plans and where necessary take action to maintain buy-in to the project.
- Co-ordinate and liaise with the project partners on the development of management plans including drafting the plans. This will primarily involve staff from, and contracted by, Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI).
- Work as part of a team to deliver public engagement and consultation events.
- Work with Project Partners to provide web content, a social media presence and general communications to promote the project.
- Collate data relating to MPA and wider marine management and monitoring that is collected during the project by partner organisations.
- Work with the GIS team (at AFBI) to generate and mobilise standardised GIS layers relating to MPAs in ROI and NI to provide an efficient basis for management.
- Work with Project Partners where needed to service data supply requests from stakeholders.
- Note that all the management plans are cross-border sites and that the post-holder will be expected to work with stakeholders and project partners in both Northern Ireland and Ireland on a regular basis.

*We expect you to carry out your job responsibilities in an environmentally aware manner, ensuring as little damage to the environment as possible. Our aim is to ensure all resources are utilised effectively and efficiently. You will be expected to apply 'sound value for money' principles in undertaking purchasing or supply of goods and services and in accordance with the requirements of SEUPB/Interreg.*

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<b>Skills</b>	<b>Proficiency Level</b>	<b>Desirability</b>
Good interpersonal skills with an ability to work in partnership, to foster good relations and to encourage actions by others. Ability to communicate with clarity, conviction and enthusiasm, both orally and in writing.	Proficient	Essential
Sound project management skills. Evidenced experience of working independently and managing competing priorities within a research setting.	Proficient	Essential
Sound knowledge of marine resource management, policy and planning legislation relevant to Ireland's seas	Proficient	Essential
Experience of working with Governmental / Non-Governmental bodies within the field of environmental science.	Proficient	Essential
Demonstrate experience and understanding of good practice in data management	Expert	Essential
Experience in the use of GIS	Knowledgeable	Essential
Sound knowledge of the marine ecology, habitats and species of Ireland and issues relating to their conservation	Proficient	Essential
Procurement and management of contractors	Awareness/Understanding	Desirable
A degree or equivalent experience	Competent	Desirable

This is a fixed-term contract with a pro-rata salary of €28,500 pa. The suitable applicant will be required to provide an average of 14 hours per week. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum pro rata plus statutory holidays.



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A completed application form and accompanying letter outlining your suitability for the position, should be forwarded to BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

Applications may also be sent via email to [vlowth@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:vlowth@birdwatchireland.ie)

*Please ensure you indicate the job title in the subject line. You must include your name in the attachment of the application form.*

The closing date for applications is **5pm Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. with interviews likely to be held in the week commencing Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jun 2021. Interviews will be online, due to Covid restrictions.