

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>Seabird Researcher/Data analyst</b>
<b>Vacancy type:</b>	Fixed Term Contract (10 months)
<b>Location:</b>	Flexible within Ireland*
<b>Contract term:</b>	Provisionally 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2022.
<b>Hours:</b>	Part-time, 18 hours per week

*\*The post holder may choose to work from home or may have a base in either our Headquarters in Kilcoole or 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 over the next three years 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 - the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) (the lead partner), Marine Scotland Science (MSS), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), BirdWatch Ireland (BWI), the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Ulster University (UU) and University College Cork (UCC).

The T1 work package is concerned with seabird biology and has mostly undertaken work on monitoring seabird populations at breeding sites and at sea, in addition to tracking foraging birds. The data has been incorporated into population models to examine *inter alia*, population viability and predictions of population-level climate change effects.

## Job Purpose Summary

Since 2018, BirdWatch Ireland, AFBI and partners have been directly involved in monitoring seabird populations in the northern half of Ireland; projects have included censusing breeding Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels on islands in the area, productivity monitoring at a range of sites and using GPS and GLS (light-level) devices to examine within- and between-season migratory movements. The post holder will chiefly be involved in analysis and reporting of this data for internal reports and peer-reviewed scientific outputs. Note that little or no fieldwork is involved in this short-term project.

The post holder will be expected to have expertise in marine ecology, analysis and reporting of animal tracking and other bird population data and evidence of producing written outputs in reports and/or scientific papers.

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## 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:

- Collate and prepare all data from the project for analysis (that may include sourcing additional data from other sources)
- Appropriately analyse tracking and other data (including oceanographic covariates) for internal reports, presentations and towards publication of one (or more) peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- Engage with MarPAMM partners and other parties in sourcing data
- Work independently but as part of a team to meet agreed milestones and meet the project deliverables/outputs

*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.*

Skills	Proficiency Level	Desirability
Experience in handling animal tracking data	Proficient	Considered essential
Experience of analysing and mapping animal tracking data using R, ArcGIS or similar software	Proficient	Considered essential
Sound knowledge of marine resource management, policy and planning legislation relevant to Ireland's seas	Proficient	Considered essential
Ability to work accurately and to deadlines	Proficient	Considered essential
Demonstrate experience and understanding of good practice in data management	Expert	Considered essential
Experience in the use of GIS	Knowledgeable	Considered essential
Sound knowledge of the marine ecology, habitats and species of Ireland and issues relating to their conservation	Proficient	Considered essential

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An undergraduate degree or equivalent experience	Competent	Considered essential
A postgraduate degree or equivalent experience	Competent	Desirable
Evidence of publications of tracking data in the scientific literature	Proficient	Desirable

This is a fixed-term contract with a pro-rata salary of €32,000 pa. The suitable applicant will be required to provide an average of 18 hours per week. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum pro rata plus statutory holidays.

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 Mon 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, with interviews likely to be held at the end of that week, probably on Zoom, although we do not rule out the option of 'in person' interviews at the BirdWatch Ireland HQ, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow (depending on COVID-19 guidelines at the time).