



MARINE POLICY OFFICER

JOB DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION INFORMATION The Irish Environmental Network (IEN) is recruiting a Marine Policy Officer

REPORTS TO: Campaign Manager and Project Steering Committee

LOCATION: IEN Offices, MACRO Centre, 1 Green Street, Dublin 7 (Remote working supported)

SALARY: €40000 - €45000 commensurate with skills and experience

CLOSING DATE:

START DATE: As soon as possible

CONTRACT: Full time, 2.5 year fixed term

ABOUT

The Irish Environmental Network (IEN) is a network of individual environmental non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in Ireland that work individually and, as appropriate, jointly to protect and enhance the environment, and to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and internationally.

The IEN works to promote the interlinked principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability. In representing the environment its Members represent a common good and not self-interest. As a network, IEN is greater than the sum of its parts, with synergies developing from working together and sharing knowledge, skills, strengths and experience. The Network acts on behalf of its members to secure and distribute funding from a range of sources, including Government, EU funding bodies and philanthropic institutions. See www.ien.ie for further information.

THE ROLE

This position offers an unprecedented opportunity to develop policies and contribute marine expertise within a coalition of NGOs aiming to secure a well-protected, ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas, including highly protected sites, in Irish waters.

A primary focus of this role will be to provide technical expertise in relation to Marine Protected Areas and Ecosystem Based Marine Management. The Policy Officer will lead the production of reports, policy analysis and development and engage with stakeholders and decision-makers in order to influence marine protection.

The role of the Policy Officer is to work as a core part of the campaign team. You will have a track record of initiating, managing and delivering evidence-based policy work that informs policy objectives and advocacy work.

You have in-depth knowledge and understanding of marine policy issues facing Ireland. You will provide a strong and articulate voice to key decision-makers and stakeholders.

You will be comfortable working both with coalition partners and independently, delivering on the agreed objectives and strategy.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide review and technical input on marine policy and legislation within the context of securing a network of effective and well managed MPAs in Irish waters
- Provide support and specialist knowledge on the key features of Irish marine policy and legislation to the coalition and to external audiences including elected representatives, civil servants, the media, general public, other stakeholders and NGOs
- Prepare and submit responses to consultations and Government policy development with coalition partners
- Build effective working relationships with relevant existing and potential partners involved in the protection, management and use of the marine environment in Ireland
- Work with the Campaign Manager to ensure project delivery on time and within budget
- Monitor and evaluate the delivery of campaign objectives, ensuring the key activities and impacts of the project work are promoted both internally and externally
- Articulate the aims and views of the campaign with a wide range of stakeholders at a range of levels – including ministerial meetings, the Oireachtas, MEPs, departmental officials, scientists, media and the public.
- Work with the Communications Officer to ‘translate’ policy positions into appropriate communications/advocacy messages for dissemination
- Maintain records of information, for example lobbying records
- Any other tasks as requested by the line manager

KEY REQUIREMENTS

You can provide evidence of the following:

- At least three years of experience in environmental policy in particular experience of policy analysis, planning and producing own research and policy documents to tight deadlines
- Minimum of a Master’s degree in a relevant discipline e.g. marine policy, marine biology, ocean science, environmental studies, conservation etc.
- Experience of advocacy campaigns
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of marine policy issues and challenges facing Ireland and an understanding of the effectiveness of EU and Irish policy and legislation in safeguarding the marine environment
- Understanding of various stakeholders such as: civil society groups, researchers, small- and large-

scale commercial interest, officials, politicians and government ministers

- A passion for the demanding and multi-faceted work in marine conservation and development
- An ability to communicate effectively, both written and verbally, effective presentation skills, report-writing skills, letter-writing skills and the ability to converse with a diverse range of people at all levels
- The ability to manage and prioritise workload, meet deadlines, and organise meetings and events
- Excellent proficiency in working across software: online meetings; word and spreadsheets; websites and social media
- Adaptability to frequently changing requirements and needs
- Availability to travel within Ireland and beyond

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS

The following experiences are desirable:

- Relevant policy experience in an environmental NGO
- In depth knowledge of Natura directives, EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, the Common Fisheries Policy and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Experience of analysing data from the marine environment
- Experience of designing and implementing campaign activities to influence Government and canvas support from the general public for campaign aims
- Knowledge of the Irish law-making process and an understanding of relevant Irish planning, environmental and marine legislation

ABOUT YOU

You are an energetic, self-starting individual who is comfortable working both as part of a team and alone. You welcome guidance and direction and relish working with a coalition of partners. You are detail-oriented and process-minded, but also flexible and creative - you enjoy campaigning and are skilled at working with diverse groups. You can come from the NGO, foundation, political or private sector background, with experience of policy development and advocacy and you are confident in challenging the 'status quo'.

You are comfortable working in a small organisation and are excited by the prospect that every day is different. Your campaign partners are situated throughout the country, some overseas, and so you are excellent at remote and intercultural communications.

You have a 'can-do' attitude, a passion for learning and doing new things. You are ambitious, creative, accommodating, and have a good sense of humour. You are available to travel nationally and internationally.

FURTHER INFORMATION & BENEFITS: WHAT IEN OFFERS

This role offers the opportunity to join a dynamic organisation and to work with a diverse coalition of leading Irish environmental organisations on an exciting campaign to see Ireland become an EU leader in marine protection.

The annual gross salary for this role is of the range €40,000 - €45,000, commensurate with skills and experience. This contract is for a 2.5 year contract, 35-hour week and salary is payable monthly in arrears.

Other benefits include:

- A 5% employers' matched contribution to a company contributory pension scheme
- Generous annual leave of 25 days
- Further Education / Training opportunities
- Time off in Lieu (TOIL) policy
- Travel (bike-to-work schemes/tax saver commuter tickets)
- The IEN offices are located centrally in Dublin 7, close to lively Capel Street and only 5 minutes from Luas. Due to the impacts of COVID, staff are currently working remotely, and it is anticipated that remote and blended working will continue to be offered to employees in a post COVID work environment

Attendance at meetings both in the IEN offices and with stakeholders and project partners will be required as necessary. Travel outside of the office is reimbursed according to our expenses policy. Additionally, the role may require participation in meetings which can occur in the evenings and at weekends.

A complete list of all the terms and conditions will be made available to the candidate offered the role through the IEN's internal policies. The IEN is an equal opportunities employer. IEN is committed to a healthy work-life balance, celebrates diversity and is committed to building an inclusive and supportive environment for all employees.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of interest should be submitted electronically. Please include in a single pdf document:

- A letter of motivation (not more than one page) indicating your salary expectations, and two referees
- Curriculum vitae
- A one page review of what you regard as the (policy and legislative) barriers and enablers for securing a network of effective and well managed MPAs in Irish waters

Please send applications to aoife.omahony@ien.ie by 21st January 2021.