

MARINE POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

JOB DESCRIPTION

Fixed-term, part-time, home-based

JOB TITLE:	Marine Policy and Engagement Officer (maternity cover)
TEAM:	Works to LINK Marine Group's Save Scottish Seas' project, forming part of the wider LINK staff team
LOCATION:	Based at home, with travel if lockdown restrictions allow
SCOPE:	Reporting to: LINK Marine Group Convener, Project Manager for Save Scottish Seas
CONTRACT TYPE:	Currently a fixed-term contract from October 2020 – May 2020
JOB PURPOSE:	<p>To work with LINK Marine Group in co-ordinating advocacy and, when needed, campaign action for Save Scottish Seas, to encourage and support designation and progressive management of MPAs, ecosystem-based marine planning and progressive fisheries management, to recover the health and productivity of Scotland's seas for all to benefit.</p> <p>To support LINK Marine Group with: the coordination of its ocean recovery agenda to ensure comprehensive implementation of UK and Scottish marine legislation for and in Scottish waters, including to achieve Good Environmental Status; and delivery of its advocacy strategy to promote these with the wider policy community at national and regional levels.</p> <p>To coordinate engagement of LINK Marine Group with decision-makers including Scottish Parliament and relevant Committees, Scottish Government and other stakeholders at national and regional levels, raising marine conservation awareness among key communities, to ensure that implementation of Scottish and UK legislation leads to the protection and recovery of the health of Scotland's marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Carry out duties on behalf of LINK as secretariat of the 'Sea Scotland' conference series steering group to deliver the initiative's annual event (to be confirmed).</p>
SALARY:	Between £27,000 and £30,000 p.a. depending on skills and experience
FUNDING:	This fixed-term post is a maternity cover post and is funded by the Marine Conservation Society. LINK is seeking support to extend its marine project. The project is actively supported by 9 environmental NGOs (members of LINK) which form LINK's Marine Group.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Based on sound science, the purpose of the role is to support the Marine Group's ocean recovery agenda and asks. This includes a watching brief on the implementation of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and UK Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 that together help protect and recover - to 'save' - Scottish seas, according to international best practice. This will focus on the following components, with priorities regularly re-assessed, and workload spread between MG members and the MPEO role:

1. **Marine Protected Area network** – Scotland was required to establish an ecologically-coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by the end of 2016. Foremost is pushing for a commitment to 30% Scotland's seas to be highly and fully protected from damaging activities, which includes ensuring all sites in the network are well managed and securing government commitment to an independent commission to review the MPA network.
2. **Marine Ecosystem Recovery** - this includes a national and regional marine planning system underpinned by marine ecosystem objectives, which protects and where appropriate enhances the health of Scotland's seas and ensures they achieve Good Environmental Status by 2020. Sectoral plans and policies, on for example renewable energy, aquaculture and fisheries must integrate with the new marine planning system.
3. **Reformed Inshore Fisheries** –engage with key industry, government and parliamentary stakeholders to ensure fisheries management in Scotland, no matter the constitutional arrangements, delivers ecosystem-based fisheries management, including making a case for new fisheries legislation to support a transition to a modern, world-leading climate and nature friendly fishing industry.
4. **Research to underpin policy** - academic institutions and research bodies are engaged with LINK Marine Group members in helping to deliver key research needs that inform and support appropriate marine policy and effective advocacy.

The Marine Policy and Engagement Officer (MPEO) role supports the Save Scottish Seas project, managed by LINK Marine Group to deliver effective advocacy, through engagement with and influence on Scottish Parliament, Government and other key decision makers. The emphasis in the MPEO role is on parliamentary support, communications, public support, campaigns and engagement, which may include organising the Sea Scotland conference series (TBC) and will include coordinating with wider LINK policy and campaign work, Fight for Scotland's Nature with some policy support on MPAs developing evidence-based policy positions in line with Marine Group member discussions. Re-prioritisation of project objectives is carried out on a rolling basis in relation to the Marine Group's ongoing advocacy plan and to the overall capacity of the Marine Group members and MPEO role. The MPEO role is line-managed by LINK's Marine Group Convener.

The MPEO will be expected to deliver in each of the following three areas of planning, campaigning and communication, and representation.

Planning

- Inform and approach Marine Group members in relation to technical policy priorities, both advising and seeking advice
- Participate in contributing to activities required to secure delivery of MG objectives as prioritised from time to time
- Organise meetings of the Marine Group and liaison meetings with other parties including government bodies, NGOs, industry, academic sector

Campaigning and Communication

- Work with the MG to identify campaign needs which support its objectives for an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in particular.
- Support Marine Group advocacy for ecosystem based national and regional marine plans and a system of management, including for fisheries, which will secure recovery of Scottish waters.
- Take forward the public engagement/communications strategy devised by the MG, developing and promoting in various ways including media, social media, and via the www.savescottishseas.org website
- Liaise with LINK advocacy team to ensure integration of messaging with relevant LINK policy work
- Assist in preparation of briefings, releases, events with audiences including media, stakeholders, government and parliamentarians
- Coordinate MG members so as to enhance the project's profile and impact at relevant events
- Planning Marine events on the basis of Steering Group agreements, making fundraising approaches, managing the budget, briefing and liaising with speakers and other contributors, and coordinating venue and technical and reporting functions for these events.
- Where practicable, provide support and specialist knowledge on key features of UK and Scottish marine legislation to the MG and external audiences including parliamentarians, officials, media, other stakeholders
- Work with MG members and other partners as necessary to arrange conferences and seminars
- Work with other stakeholders including community groups, industry and academic, as necessary, to deliver project goals
- Take lead responsibility in managing the www.savescottishseas.org website as an up-to-date public resource

Representation

- Advocate for agreed LINK MG policy lines/positions on identified issues at appropriate forums involving wider stakeholders and to officials in government and other organisations as needed
- As part of all advocacy undertaken, communicate the public support generated by the project's campaign work to key audiences, e.g. officials and parliamentarians.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Internal

1. Reports to LINK Marine Group Convener. The Convener, supported by Depute Convener, provides line management support to the MPEO on behalf of the project Steering Group (subset of wider Marine Group). Weekly update opportunities between Officer, Convener and Vice Convener are provided
2. Will have the support of the Marine Steering Group, meeting quarterly, which will among other things provide strategic direction to and help to inform Officer's medium term work priorities in context of the project's rolling objectives
3. Will work closely with the Marine Group member bodies, especially policy and advocacy staff, to achieve Marine Group collective policy and advocacy objectives
4. Will work closely on certain issues with LINK Advocacy Manager and the wider LINK network.
5. Will be part of the wider LINK staff team, taking part in team meetings and contributing to team discussions but will also be self-motivated and be able to work independently and proactively.

External

6. Will be expected to form constructive working relationships with officials at national and regional level, and with business and community stakeholders at national and regional level with interests/roles in implementation of marine legislation and marine policy
7. Will develop relationships with researchers in the academic sector, acting as key contact for consultants working to the Marine Group if needed
8. Will work with staff and marine project teams in the other Links across the UK, to ensure mutual consistency with policy issues for which this post has lead responsibility in Scotland

Terms and Conditions

This is a part-time, maternity cover role (21 hours per week), currently working from home in accordance with current government guidelines and line managed by LINK Marine Group Convener,

The post is subject to a probationary period of 8 weeks.

Salary is between £27,000 and £30,000 pro rata per annum, depending on skills and experience. LINK makes an employer contribution to employee personal pensions of up to a maximum of 8% of basic salary, complementing employee contributions of 4%.

Annual leave quota is 25 days' annual leave and 10 public holidays.

All approved and receipted expenses are reimbursed.

LINK will consider secondment opportunities for this role.

Background on Scottish Environment LINK

LINK is the liaison body for Scotland's voluntary sector environment organisations. Established in 1987, LINK provides a forum for its member organizations to meet, exchange information and take joint action on issues of common concern. LINK's 39 organisations share a common interest in seeing Scotland develop sustainably, in being a strong voice for the environment in Scotland and an effective efficient and accountable network. Their total, combined, membership is around half a million people.

LINK members work through policy groups and subgroups which focus on a range of policy issues, developing common positions and advocating to decision-makers in Scotland and, where appropriate, at UK and international levels. Network priorities are reviewed annually and inform the work of staff who provide advice, support and coordination to the collective work programme. A cycle of membership events keeps members informed and ensures integration across the network including members' Congress, AGM and forward planning meetings, and a festive reception.

LINK is supported by a Board of volunteer trustees most of whom are involved in the network on behalf of their organisations; also by honorary fellows. Core work is supported by a small staff (currently 5.8FTE) including (Perth HQ) Chief Officer, Development Officer, Finance and Office Manager, and (Edinburgh) Advocacy Manager, Advocacy Officer, Administrative Office Administrator and Species Champions Coordinator. Staff liaise closely to support members and groups in achieving collective objectives. LINK also manages projects via its Marine and Economics groups, funded discretely and employing a dedicated Marine Policy & Engagement Officer and Sustainable Economics Policy Officer. Core activity is funded by subscriptions from member bodies, grants from Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Government and donations from charitable trusts.

Staff share in the active upkeep of the LINK websites, designed to carry up-to-date information for members, the public, government audiences and other interests. Under current government guidelines, all LINK

meetings are held online. LINK operates an environmental policy in relation to procurement, travel and energy use, which staff and members work together in promoting.

LINK's marine project has been running for over a decade, focussed on building awareness of environmental and sustainability issues in the marine environment during development and passing of the Marine (Scotland) Act, and related issues in the UK marine legislation, and on securing robust implementation of these laws. This work has been funded by various Foundations.

LINK strives to be an equal opportunities employer.

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Head office: 13 Marshall Place, PERTH PH2 8AH

Tel 01738 630804

W www.scotlink.org www.savescottishseas.org



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment



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