

GROUNDWORK

CHANGING PLACES

CHANGING LIVES



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Wild Oyster Local Project Officer (Tyne & Wear)
REPORTS TO:	Groundwork Land & Communities Programme Manager, and ZSL Project Manager with respect to the Wild Oyster delivery.
SALARY:	£25,000 pro rata (£15,000 per annum)
HOURS:	22.5 Hours per week
LOCATION:	Sunderland and homeworking
DURATION:	Fixed term to 1 st June 2023
PRIORITY CONTACTS:	Wild Oysters Project Manager based at Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Technical Lead based at the Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE), Tyne Estuary Partnership, British Marine, Environment Agency.

JOB SUMMARY

Wild Oysters is an exciting new project, developed by the Zoological Society of London, Blue Marine Foundation and British Marine. The project will take place over three years having started in June 2020, and will create Oyster Rehabilitation Hubs in three locations across the UK- Tyne & Wear in England, North Wales and West Coast of Scotland. At each Rehabilitation Hub Oyster Nurseries will be installed across two Marinas, and we will restore the seabed by creating Oyster Reefs. The Oyster Nurseries form an important tool in our education and engagement programme, using the Oyster Nurseries we will engage local communities and schools with native oyster biology and culture, and with wider marine conservation issues.

The Tyne & Wear Wild Oysters Local Project Officer will be employed by Groundwork NE & Cumbria and work closely with the Wild Oysters Project Manager based at ZSL and Technical Lead based at BLUE, to deliver the Wild Oysters at two marina sites and the near offshore environment, that collectively form the England Rehabilitation Hub.

The Local Project Officer will be managed by the North of the Region Programme Manager however, will report to the ZSL Project Manager on a day to day basis with respect to the Wild Oyster delivery.

The Wild Oysters delivery mechanism flow chart provides an explanation of the full project structure

The postholder will implement the NE England Wild Oyster Rehabilitation Hub including supporting the installation of the native oyster nurseries, restoration of wild native oyster habitat, delivering regular public outreach and education sessions to engage the local community with the Wild Oysters project, leading citizen science-based monitoring and reporting as detailed in the Wild Oyster Project proposal.

MAIN DUTIES & KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Project management & administration

- Work with the Project Manager and Local Delivery Partner to establish a local working group to provide local advice to the project for its successful delivery and long-term sustainability of the habitat restoration.
- Organise quarterly meetings with the local working group to provide an update in the progress of the Rehabilitation Hub. Take minutes and feed back to Project Manager.
- Maintain and build relationships and capacity with local stakeholders, including local schools, businesses and marine users.
- Gather and share local knowledge relevant to the project and restoration activities being carried out.
- Submit monthly reports to the project management on progress and report against indicators.
- Financial resources. The post holder has responsibility for ensuring that the project budget is appropriately spent, recorded, and reported on, both internally and externally including in the quarterly reports to the funder.
- Submit expense reconciliations monthly to ZSL Project Manager

Restoration activities

- Work with the Technical Lead to install oyster nurseries at the two British Marine Wild Oyster marina locations.
- Responsible for checking, maintaining and scientific monitoring of the oyster nurseries and environmental parameters of the marinas.
- Responsible for checking the Oyster Nurseries and equipment list and reporting back to the Project Manager and Technical Lead.
- Assist with the restoration of oyster reefs including baseline monitoring and monitoring of recovery.
- Responsible for the appropriate and safe use and maintenance of field survey and other scientific equipment for use on projects.

Engagement and Education

- Work to identify and enlist local schools, universities, community groups and businesses to engage them with the project.
- Administer education and engagement sessions with school groups and community groups.
- Lead school site visits to the marinas each month.
- Facilitate online Skype sessions with schools and will deliver presentations in school assemblies.

Community outreach

- Host 'oyster gardening workshops' to train citizen scientists and develop monitoring methods
- Work closely with the Project Manager and Local Delivery Partner to develop at least 4 events each year including: local cultural and historical events, marina open days, knowledge exchange events with local fishers.
- Organise an oyster celebration event at the end of the three years, with the support of the Project Manager, British Marine, Local Delivery Partner

Group communications

- Seek to capture images and video footage of the project progress when possible.
- Work with the Project Manager to install oyster cameras in the marinas and download footage regularly, to share online on the “Oyster Watch” webpage.
- Promote and communicate the project in the local community and online on social media channels, websites and blog posts, in accordance with the communication guidelines issued by the Wild Oyster Communication Steering committee.

Travel Requirements

- Regular local travel is a requirement of the role with some national travel including between NE England and London to receive training at least once a year.
- Travel to conferences including within UK for Native Oyster Network meetings and Europe for the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance conference

Additional Requirements:

- Comply with all organisational policy, procedures and systems.
- To be aware of, and assume the appropriate level of responsibility for, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any concerns in accordance with the organisation’s safeguarding policies
- Ability to work outside normal office hours.
- Any other duties commensurate with the level of the post.

Wild Oyster project structure

