



Job Description: Cockle Officer

Job Title:	Cockle Officer
Location:	Brightlingsea, Essex
Grade:	Career Grade: Entry KR7 exit KR8 starting at bottom of pay scale (£25,864 to £33,722) including 10% anti social allowance
Responsible to:	Assistant Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer

About Kent & Essex IFCA:

Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is a regulatory body responsible for the sustainable management of inshore fisheries and the conservation of the marine environment along the coasts of Kent and Essex. Our mission is to protect and promote the interests of local fisheries while ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our marine ecosystems. This role of Cockle Officer will play a crucial part in the sustainable management of cockle fisheries within the Kent and Essex region, particularly within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). As a Cockle Officer, you will be responsible for overseeing and ensuring the sustainable harvest of cockles, compliance with regulations, and the protection of the marine environment.

Key Responsibilities:

Monitoring and Management:

- Assist with regular surveys and assessments of cockle populations within designated MPAs, both on land and at sea.
- Assist in the implementation of management plans to ensure sustainable harvesting practices.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Enforce fisheries regulations and licensing requirements within the MPAs.
- Inspect vessels, gear, and catches to ensure adherence to regulations.

Data Collection and Reporting:

- Maintain accurate records of cockle landings, stock assessments, and fisheries activities.
- Prepare detailed reports on fishery data and trends for regulatory and scientific purposes.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Collaborate with local fishermen, stakeholders, and the community to promote sustainable fisheries management.
- Provide advice and guidance on best practices to industry members.

Environmental Protection:

- Work to protect and conserve the marine environment within MPAs, including the monitoring of bycatch and the impact of cockle harvesting.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- GCSE/'O' level A-C passes in English and Mathematics (or equivalent)
- Previous experience in fisheries management, enforcement, or a related role.
- Knowledge of cockle fisheries and marine conservation, with a focus on MPAs.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills for engaging with stakeholders.
- Understanding of relevant fisheries regulations and legislation.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proficiency in data collection and reporting.
- A valid driver's license and the ability to travel within the district.

Person Specification: Cockle Officer

CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Qualifications	<p>GCSE/'O' level A-C passes in English and Mathematics (or equivalent)</p> <p>Current Full UK Driving License</p>	<p>RYA Advanced Powerboat</p> <p>Seamanship qualifications such as first aid, sea survival, VHF license etc.</p> <p>Degree in relevant subject or equivalent experience</p>
Experience	<p>Experience of working as part of a team</p> <p>Experience in writing reports</p> <p>Experience of handling confrontational situations</p> <p>Experience in dealing with members of the public</p>	<p>Proven experience in handling small boats</p> <p>Experience as crew on a seagoing vessel</p> <p>Experience of enforcement</p> <p>Experience in sea fisheries or resource management</p> <p>Experience in preparing and giving presentations</p>
Knowledge	<p>Knowledge of fisheries management</p> <p>Knowledge of the fishing industry</p> <p>Knowledge of fishing techniques</p> <p>Knowledge of marine conservation issues</p>	<p>Specialist knowledge of marine issues, fishing industry.</p> <p>Good knowledge of Seamanship</p> <p>Basic mechanical knowledge</p> <p>Knowledge of enforcement of conservation regulations</p>
Skills & Abilities	<p>IT literate with good level of competence in operating MS Office</p> <p>Experience of writing reports and communication via correspondence</p> <p>Ability to communicate at all levels.</p>	<p>Advanced IT skills</p> <p>Project management skills</p>
Personal Attributes	<p>Methodical, flexible and self-motivated and discrete.</p> <p>Physically fit - needs to pass Seaman's medical (ENG 1).</p> <p>Flexible attitude to working routine as well as regular weekend and unsociable hours as required. Work load is dictated according to schedules and timing (tides etc.)</p>	