



Job Description: Cockle Officer

Job Title:	Cockle Officer
Location:	Brightlingsea, Essex
Grade:	KR7/KR8 - £25,864 to £33,722 including 10% anti social allowance – pay award pending
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. The vision of KEIFCA is to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

Purpose of the Job:

This role of Cockle Officer will play a crucial part in the 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. You will also work as part of a small team on a survey/patrol vessel as a member of the crew, undertaking boarding operations on all types of fishing vessels and assisting with surveys and project work.

Key Responsibilities:

1. To liaise with the cockle fishing industry and other key stakeholders, regarding fisheries and conservation management and associated issues to foster positive relationships, address concerns, and promote understanding of conservation measures.
2. Prepare detailed reports on cockle fishery data and trends for regulatory and scientific purposes.

3. Assist with regular surveys and assessments of cockle populations both on land and at sea.
4. Assist in the implementation of cockle fishery management plans to ensure sustainable harvesting practices.
5. Monitor compliance with fisheries regulations, enforce fishing laws, and conduct inspections on vessels, gear, and catch to ensure adherence to legal requirements. This will involve routine sea-based operations.
6. Assist in patrol vessel operations as crew and take part in the boarding of fishing vessels at sea, under the instructions of the Skipper of the vessel.
7. Work to protect and conserve the marine environment within the district, including the monitoring of bycatch and the impact of cockle harvesting.
8. To attend, on request, meetings with other bodies as a representative of the Chief IFC Officer or Authority.
9. Undertake such tasks that the Chief IFC Officer or Authority may require.

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>.</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 as crew on a seagoing vessel</p> <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 of enforcement</p> <p>Experience in sea fisheries or resource management</p> <p>Experience in preparing and giving presentations</p>
Knowledge	<p>Knowledge of cockle fisheries and marine conservation, with a focus on MPAs.</p> <p>Knowledge of fisheries management</p> <p>Knowledge of the fishing industry</p> <p>Knowledge of fishing techniques</p>	<p>Specialist knowledge of cockle fisheries, 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>Comfortable with working at sea on IFCA vessels and fishing vessels</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>	

