NORTHERN IRELAND MARINE TASK FORCE (NIMTF)
STUDENT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Role title: NIMTF Work Placement Student

Responsible to: NIMTF Officer

Duration: April 2027 – July 2027 (12 weeks at 4 days per week)





Gain experience in marine environmental policy!

Northern Ireland Marine Task Force has an exciting opportunity for a dedicated student to work within Marine Environmental Policy for a 12-week placement. The student will undertake a range of activities including supporting community engagement events to raise awareness of the local marine environment and on the ground projects such as the Native Oyster Nursery Network across Northern Ireland, visiting reserves and sites under RSPB, National Trust and WWT Castle Espie. They will assist in research into key topics (e.g. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), offshore renewables, sustainable development at sea, nature-based solutions, marine biodiversity recovery, blue-carbon and strengthening the connection to additional NI Executive Departments such as health, education, infrastructure, economy, justice and communities). They will gain a strong understanding of stakeholder engagement around various challenges and pressures facing our local marine environment, alongside a practical understanding the alignment of project to policy to meet and address gaps in policy.

What will the role involve?

The placement will give you the opportunity to work with the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force Officer in Northern Ireland's coalition of environmental NGOs supporting the work of marine environmental policy for our local seas. You will also have the chance to gain valuable experience with relevant member organisations' marine projects including the Native Oyster Nursery Network, RSPB Reserves, National Trust sites and WWT Castle Espie. More information about our work is online at www.nimtf.org.

Main responsibilities:

- Support the work of the NIMTF Officer in topics relating to marine environmental policy. Topics will have been discussed previously with the applicant and the NIMTF Officer to ensure appropriate and relevant work placement programme, but will usually relate to research-focused tasks and engagement opportunities.
- Support engagement with local communities alongside Ulster Wildlife's Marine Engagement Officer regarding Marine Protected Areas around Northern Ireland.

- Attend relevant stakeholder meetings around marine environmental policy and related industries to applicant's chosen topic(s). Provide valuable input to feedback of attended stakeholder meetings to gain a better understanding of cross-policy and legislative gaps that can be addressed – e.g. health, education, infrastructure, economy and communities.
- Gain an understanding of the work from on-the-ground projects such as the native oyster nurseries (Ulster Wildlife), seabird colonies and refuges (RSPB), coastal management (National Trust) and saltmarsh and seagrass restoration and management (WWT Castle Espie) in relation to meeting the gaps within policy and the importance of project work.
- Engage on several different topics and themes (as discussed with NIMTF Officer), or one theme around different sustainable developments within the shared marine environment of NI. This will contribute to the wider work of NIMTF under the 5 key themes: '*Recovering Biodiversity*', '*Sustainable Fisheries*', '*Sustainable Development at Sea*', '*Climate Change*' and '*Empowering Communities*'.
- Research and produce central reports and information briefs on key marine topics.
- General work alongside relevant members of NIMTF to achieve or support goals of sustainable development at sea and promote marine recovery.

Skills required:

- Undertaking a Marine Biology/Environmental Sciences degree or similar with relevant modules.
- Enjoys working as part of a team.
- Motivated and able to work without supervision.
- Passionate about marine nature conservation.
- Innovative and creative thinking to address relevant '*Sea Across Society*' thematic topics
- Use of a car/driving licence, or strong understanding of the public transport system. This is not necessary as the NIMTF Officer can provide some level of transport for attending further-afield sites.

We do not require conservation skills, we are happy to provide a comprehensive work-related understanding to marine environmental policy and conservation skills. However, we do require the student to have a willingness to learn and is proactive about their own self development.

Desirable skills:

- Experience of delivering public engagement events.
- Experience of coastal surveying and monitoring.
- Experience of assessing policy documents.

Place of volunteering: Ulster Wildlife Office, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE; RSPB NI HQ, Belvoir Drive, Belfast, BT8 7QT, with external site visits to RSPB, Ulster Wildlife, National Trust sites and reserves and WWT Castle Espie and further as necessary.

Please note this is a voluntary placement. Training and travel expenses to Ulster Wildlife Offices will be provided with a daily mileage cap of 30 miles round trip @ 55p per mile.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to our Volunteer Coordinator at - volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org by 5pm Friday 29th January 2027.