



Wildlife Officer – North Sea Job Description and Person Specification

Job Title: Wildlife Officer – North Sea

Reporting to: Education Coordinator

Location: On board DFDS King Seaways ferry traveling from **Newcastle (International Ferry Terminal, North Shields) → IJmuiden (Netherlands)**

Term: 6 month fixed term contract from 27th March – 27th September 2019

Hours & Salary: Shifts of 2 weeks living on board KING Seaways vessel, followed by 2 weeks off duty. 105 hours per calendar month at UK National Minimum Wage.

ORCA Purpose: ORCA is a whale and dolphin conservation charity, who are committed to the scientific study of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and their habitats, and promoting their conservation through enthusing, inspiring, educating and involving others.

About the Wildlife Officer Programme: ORCA has been promoting wildlife watching and research on board ferries since 1996. ORCA has been working in partnership with DFDS Seaways for 12 years, developing our research, education and conservation projects in the North Sea. Every year our team of Wildlife Officers reach over 30,000 people on board the DFDS King Seaways vessel and help hundreds of people spot their first ever whale or dolphin, whilst educating passengers about the wildlife around them on their voyage, and raising awareness of marine conservation issues.

ORCA is looking for an energetic, committed, driven and conservation-minded individual with the passion to enthuse others, to deliver the Wildlife Officer programme in the 'ORCA Wildlife Lounge' on board the DFDS Newcastle – Amsterdam ferry.

This role provides the opportunity to contribute to one of ORCA's core work areas and champion North Sea marine wildlife to the public.

Due to the passenger demographic on board, we are looking for at least one Wildlife Officer who can speak English, Dutch and German fluently. The successful applicant must be confident in, and have experience of, working alone remotely.



Please note that the ORCA Office is based in Portsmouth, so the North Sea Wildlife Officers work remotely. Only one ORCA Wildlife Officer is on board at a time. The successful applicant must be comfortable and confident working as the only ORCA Wildlife Officer on board at a time.

Project Aims:

- Engage with over 30,000 passengers (mainly English, Dutch and German nationalities) on the DFDS KING Seaways ferry, through presentations, lectures, children's activities, quizzes and deck watches in the on board 'ORCA Wildlife Lounge'
- Provide fun and engaging environmental education for all passengers (children and adults) about North Sea wildlife and the marine environment
- Collect vital whale and dolphin sightings data from out on the open ferry decks, whilst creating opportunities for passengers to see their first whale or dolphin, through which we will highlight the importance of the marine environment
- Support the delivery of the ORCA Wildlife Officer Placement Programme, training and managing 2 volunteer Wildlife Officer Placements, who live on board for 4 weeks each
- Promote ORCA membership and encourage donations to support the charity's fundraising efforts
- Engage with the local community to deliver our curriculum-based Dolphin Science Workshops and other events on board the ferry whilst it is in port
- Managing the 'ORCA Wildlife Lounge' centre on board – keeping it neat and tidy, whilst providing a welcome environment for all passengers to learn about local wildlife

Roles & Responsibilities:

- Deliver a timetabled programme of environmental interpretation including fun daily talks and activities with a strong emphasis on audience participation.
- Deliver the timetabled Wildlife Officer programme on board daily, which includes presentations, children's activities, lectures and quizzes in the Wildlife Lounge, and conduct deck watches outside on the open decks
- Maintain a high standard working relationship with all crew on board the ship, and DFDS staff in the office. Liaising daily with the crew to organise activities on board
- Lead public wildlife watching sessions, helping passengers to spot and identify whales, dolphins and birds present on the route
- Engaging all passengers on the ship about the ORCA on board activities and inspiring all about the North Sea



- Conduct daily whale and dolphin surveys and enter data into the sightings database
- Create new presentations, workshops, children’s activities and interpretation materials relevant to the North Sea
- Manage and provide training and support for two, four-week long volunteer Wildlife Officer placements throughout the summer
- Keep daily records of activities/ donations/memberships, against which the project can be evaluated
- Support publicity-related activities (such as radio interviews/local newspaper articles)
- Organise and deliver events and school visits on board
- Write a weekly ‘Wildlife Officer Blog’ for the ORCA website and promote daily activities directly to the ORCA social media pages. You can read last year’s blog [here](#).
- Maintain a fantastic relationship with DFDS Seaways in the office and on board

Person Specification (E= Essential, D= Desirable)

Experience and Knowledge	
Experience of giving presentations and talking to members of the public	E
Experience working remotely and lone working	E
Experience of providing excellent customer service	E
Experience carrying out wildlife surveys, recording or guiding	E
Experience of using social media	E
Experience of working with children and school groups	E
Excellent knowledge of marine wildlife and conservation, specifically in the North Sea	E
Experience working with, training and managing volunteers	E
Experience organising and running events	E
Fundraising experience	D



Skills and Abilities	
Fluent speaker in English, German and Dutch	D
Excellent public speaker	E
Ability to work at sea remotely on your own (<i>Please note that the ORCA Office is based in Portsmouth, so the North Sea Wildlife Officers work remotely. Only one ORCA Wildlife Officer is on board at a time</i>)	E
Marine wildlife identification skills	E
Confident communicator with excellent written and verbal communication skills – Happy to talk to anyone at any time about wildlife – Is approachable and always enthusiastic	E
Excellent project management skills	E
Excellent IT skills	E
Excellent organisational skills	E
Excellent administration skills	E

Attitudes	
Self-starter with strong self-motivation, energy and drive	E
Willingness to work for extended shift periods at sea (2 weeks on/2 weeks off)	E
Takes responsibility for own areas of work – is conscientious and uses initiative	E
Willingness to work outside in all weather conditions watching for wildlife	E
Positive and enthusiastic	E
Team Player	E
Approachable to all passengers at all times	E
A commitment to the aims and objectives of ORCA	E

All applicants will be required to undergo a DBS check and a Danish Medical Certificate to be able to work on board the DFDS KING Seaways. **You must be 21 years of age or over to apply.**

Application Process: To apply, please complete an application form and send, along with your C.V. to info@orcaweb.org.uk with “**North Sea Wildlife Officer Application**” in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is midnight on Sunday 13th January 2019.

Interviews will be taking place in Portsmouth on the 31st January 2019.

www.orcaweb.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1141728