



Seagrass Meadows Scotland

SEAGRASS PROJECT OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Job Title :	Wester Ross Seagrass Project Officer.
Responsible to:	WRFT Chair, WRFT Senior Biologist, WRFT Seagrass Project Manager, WRFT Administrator.
Location:	Gairloch, with field sites in Loch Ewe and nearby
Hours:	24 hours per week (0.6 FTE), flexible hours required
Period:	6 months fixed term contract
Probation period	1 month
Notice after probation	1 month

PURPOSE OF JOB, PROJECT OVERVIEW

This is a fixed term 6 month contract, starting in early May 2026. The post holder will be assisting in all aspects of the Wester Ross Seagrass Restoration Project. This work is part of the Seagrass Meadows Scotland project, supported by the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF). Tasks will be under the supervision of the Wester Ross Fisheries Trust (WRFT) Seagrass Project Manager, WRFT Senior Biologist, with assistance from the WRFT Administrator, Chair of the WRFT Trustees, and the SMEEF Project Manager.

The main aim of the project is to restore a seagrass bed at Inverasdale, Loch Ewe, Wester Ross. This restoration area is within the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area, where living fragments of a former seagrass bed were present until around 2010. A total planting area of 1.5ha will be targeted, with potential for additional restoration sites of seagrass beds over a wider area in Wester Ross.

The work will include surveys of seagrass beds and potential restoration sites, using approved SMEEF protocols. It will also include seagrass collection, seagrass nursery management and seagrass planting. A key element of the project will be the design and execution of surveys determining the location of, and assessing the status of, existing seagrass beds in Wester Ross and surrounding areas. This will include a desk and community based survey using various information sources including satellite imagery and local knowledge. Later work will include drone based surveys, drop down camera surveys and snorkel surveys. This is with the aim of identifying beds that are suitable for direct shoot harvesting which can then be used for restoration planting. Another key element of the role will be the maintenance of the seagrass nursery ponds where storm wash up shoots will be kept prior to restoration planting.

WRFT are a registered charity focusing on the conservation and enhancement of native freshwater fish and their inland and coastal water environments. As an important habitat for young sea trout and other migratory salmonids, the health of seagrass is key to wild fish

conservation work. This post may be extended to include additional hours for wider WRFT work.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The main responsibilities of the role include, but are not limited to:

- Undertaking seagrass surveys, propagation, restoration and monitoring work, guided by SMEEF protocols and the WRFT Seagrass Project Officer
- Leading small teams in survey and monitoring work
- Co-design and execution (with WRFT Seagrass Project Officer) of a seagrass survey plan, including desk based surveys of seagrass beds in Wester Ross, drone surveys, drop down camera surveys, and snorkel surveys
- Accurate data collection and the reporting of data to the WRFT Seagrass Project Manager, and to funders, WRFT Trustees and wider audiences as required.
- Maintaining and assisting in the running of the seagrass nursery ponds (situated at the restoration site)
- Creating social media content, publicity and knowledge exchange
- Working with volunteers, paid helpers and local coastal community residents.
- The postholder will be expected to help with other general tasks as required by WRFT.

IMPORTANT PERSONAL QUALITIES

- An enthusiasm for marine conservation and a positive creative outlook in the event of challenges and uncertainties.
- Able to work flexible hours, to suit the project goals and a tidal environment. This may involve working more days per week during major field campaigns and fewer during less busy periods.
- Ability to work independently and to prioritise tasks.
- Ability to work in a small team

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- A degree in a STEM subject
- Experience of snorkeling, or a willingness to undertake snorkel training.
- Ability and willingness to work in a practical outdoor marine environment, involving light physical activity.
- Good organisational skills and attention to detail, with the ability to adhere to project milestones and survey protocols.
- Good people and communication skills, and the ability to build relationships with a wide range of audiences, including project stakeholders, co-workers and the wider public.
- A full UK driving licence and the use of own vehicle for business purposes.
- The legal right to work in the UK

DESIRABLE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Experience of seagrass restoration and propagation
- A degree in marine biology, ecology, conservation science or similar, and an understanding of marine environment conservation and seagrass biology
- Experience of working with volunteers and citizen science groups
- A postgraduate degree in a relevant subject
- IT skills and experience
- Knowledge and experience of GIS and mapping
- Experience of biological surveys and accurate data recording.
- Experience of undertaking drone based surveys.