**SEA WATCH FOUNDATION**

**SCOTTISH OFFICER**

The **Sea Watch Foundation** is a long-established national UK marine environmental research charity concerned with monitoring the numbers and distribution of whales, dolphins and porpoises in the seas around the British Isles, as well as investigating the conservation threats that they face. In the 1970s, its Director developed cetacean “Citizen Science” in the UK, with a special partnership between scientists and trained volunteer observers drawn from all walks of life, which has led to one of the largest and longest-running cetacean sightings databases in Europe. For more information, see the Sea Watch website: <http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk>

The post of *Scottish Officer* has been established to work alongside Sea Watch’s Sightings Officer (Simone Evans), closely liaising also with Sea Watch’s Director (Peter Evans) and the Communications & Outreach Officer, taking on the following key responsibilities: 1) support and develop Sea Watch’s network of observers in Scotland; 2) increase the amount of useful sightings data (particularly from effort-related observations) in Scotland, and 3) represent the charity in Scotland, and facilitate public awareness and education of its work through the regular dissemination of relevant information.

**Minimum Requirement:** A university degree in biological science or a related subject.

**Preferred Experience:** Applicants having knowledge & direct experience with cetaceans in Scottish waters and their identification, good connections with current & potential SWF observers, and recruiting the public to volunteer in wildlife field data collection.

**Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

* Highly organised and conscientious
* Strong interpersonal skills
* Experience overseeing and training volunteers
* Ability to enthuse others through written word and face to face
* Knowledge and passion for cetaceans and their conservation
* Proven social media experience
* Experience of events management
* Public speaking experience
* Basic knowledge of data processing & checking, production of graphs/histograms from sightings data

**Job Title**: Scottish Officer

**Job Location**: Anywhere in Scotland

**Hours**: To be decided: either three days (i.e. 24 hours total) per week, with flexibility in allocation of working hours, or five days (i.e. 40 hours total) per week.

**Amount paid**: £25,000-27,500 per annum (if full-time)

**Start Date**: As soon as possible.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Duties include:

**1) Development and Maintenance of a wide Observer Network in Scotland**

Encourage effort-related & casual sightings data collection. Recruitment of new observers throughout Scotland, distribution of training aids, and feedback of information and advice to current contributors of sightings. Collaboration with other environmental organisations in Scotland, as appropriate. Recruit persons to SWF’s Recommended Boat Operator Scheme, reviewing and collating sightings data.

**2) Regional Groups in Scotland**

Regular support & liaison with existing Regional Coordinators and initiating new ones where appropriate, with visits to coastal regions to support local efforts to develop monitoring, information exchange, and identify local fund-raising opportunities. Support regional co-ordinators in strengthening the observer network.

**3)** **Training Courses**

Organise local training courses for regional co-ordinators, observers and students to learn techniques of quantitative monitoring, species identification, and photo-ID.

**4) Cetacean Sightings data collection & reporting**

Overall responsibility for input online and separately of sightings & effort data, encouraging and training in the widespread use of the Sea Watcher App. Act as link between data providers and the Sightings Officer. Undertake production of reports on request (including where appropriate sightings plots and graphs of sightings numbers). Undertake land- and vessel-based surveys wherever opportunities arise

**5) National Whale & Dolphin Watch & Orca Watch Events**

Work closely with Sea Watch’s Sightings Officer to help develop the annual National Whale & Dolphin Watch Event (late July/early August) in Scotland, co-ordinating watches, encouraging effort-related watches, and collating sightings data. Help promote the event by organising watches and collating data. Assist with the annual Orca Watch event (in northern Scotland at the end of May to beginning of June), helping develop dedicated watches, and receive sightings & effort data in an appropriate format.

**7) SWF Website & Social Media**

Actively provide content to SWF website and social media on Sea Watch activities and events. sightings, and trends in Scotland in close liaison with the Sightings Officer and Communications & Outreach Officer.

**8) News Releases**

Liaise with the Communications & Outreach Officer on potential news releases for the media on sightings & status trends, and features for TV, radio & printed media, writing texts and providing images where appropriate, providing TV or radio interviews if requested.

**9) Enquiries from the public**

Answer in-person, email & telephone queries from interested parties.