



# **SIF Marine Litter Development Officer Posts: Northern Isles and West coast**

## **Job Description**

### **About SIF**

SIF is a dynamic federation of island communities working together to have a stronger voice on common challenges and to share ideas to accelerate change. SIF is run by a voluntary board of directors and our members include island-based community organisations as well individuals, businesses, and other bodies concerned with the sustainability of island communities. Our work is currently funded through the Scottish Government Island Communities Team and member subscriptions.

### **SIF Marine Litter Working Group**

Marine litter is a massive issue for island communities who find it difficult to dispose of the huge quantities of marine material collected as currently there is little provision for disposal other than sending it to landfill. Most islands also lack data collected using established protocols such as those of OSPAR and the Marine Conservation Society.

To address these issues, a SIF Marine Litter Working Group (SIF-MLWG) has been set up with 9 representatives from across the six islands areas, and representatives from Marine Scotland and Fishing for Litter attending monthly meetings.

The SIF-MLWG aims to enable island groups to work together to share experiences and expertise, to pool resources, to raise awareness of the unique situation in islands and to look for solutions to the key challenges. A robust data collection activity has now started, to be carried out on a quarterly basis, and this will help to determine the nature and scale of the reported island-specific problems.

Funds have now been awarded through the Scottish Government Island Communities Team and Crown Estate Scotland for this post to continue helping to build our capacity and develop this area of work. Due to our geographical spread, SIF is offering 2 part time posts rather than a full-time post. A key part of those exciting posts will be working with the SIF-MLWG group to build on what has been achieved in the first year of the post and take forward its marine litter strategy.

### **About the post**

**Location** – Scottish Islands – Northern isles and West coast (working from home with some

travel)

**Hours** – 28 hrs per week each

**Salary** – £30,000 FTE.

**Contract** – 8 months initially to 31 March 2024, with a view to extend for a further 2 years, subject to match funding for year 2 and 3 to complement funding committed by Crown Estate Scotland.

We are looking for two enthusiastic and motivated development officers that will work directly as a team with the SIF-MLWG and grassroots island groups to:

- Continue to establish links with a wide network of key organisations at a local, regional, and national level as well as relevant international networks.
- Facilitate the sharing of good working examples and pilot projects, resources and expertise among island groups.
- Identify sources and models of funding and resources to build capacity and opportunities for island beach cleaning activity as well as enabling long-term paid beach ranger posts to become the norm across the islands.
- Work with Marine Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland and the Marine Conservation Society to provide a conduit with island communities, helping to fill gaps in data and knowledge through developing citizen science research. This may also include working with the Carbon Neutral Islands Program.
- Work with Local Authorities, industry, NGOs and others to identify and explore solutions around collection and onward processing of material, in particular options to support a more circular economy through island job creation and alternatives to landfill.
- Support Marine litter education and research and work with bodies and organisations to that effect to help change industry operation and behaviour. This may include identifying research ongoing into alternatives to the plastics currently used in the marine environment.
- Represent SIF and the SIF- MLWG at events and in provision of relevant policy or research input, including updating of the SIF Marine strategy.
- Administer the SIF-MLWG and organise at least one wider networking event.
- Disseminate information and raise the profile of the SIF-MLWG activities via the SIF website, newsletters and social media platforms.
- Produce quarterly update reports to map out the situation on the ground, current activity, alternatives to landfill etc, including needs and opportunities and next steps in the final report in March 2024.
- Other relevant activities identified by the SIF Board and SIF-MLWG as the role develops.

### **The qualifications and experience required**

- Degree/Diploma in Environment or Marine Science or other related discipline and

or able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge, skills, and competencies.

- Knowledge of marine/coastal conservation and environmental issues. Previous experience in environmental interpretation/education desirable.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills; experience of setting up zoom meetings and microsoft suite and social media essential.
- Effective project management, time management and organisational skills
- Research and evaluation skills including the ability to analyse and interpret data desirable
- Ability to work flexibly as part of a team
- Ability to use own initiative
- Ability to develop effective relationships
- Driving licence and access to a vehicle

The post holders will work with and report to the SIF-MLWG with line management provided by a nominated member of the SIF board sitting on the SIF-MLWG.

**To apply please send a covering letter and CV to [marinelitter@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk](mailto:marinelitter@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk) by **Sunday 18 June**. Interviews are expected to be take place on **w/c 26 June** via zoom, with a view to notify the successful candidates by **30 June**. Start date to be agreed, but as soon as possible after receipt of successful reference.**