

Second Engineer/Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO)

JOB SPECIFICATION

The Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) are pleased to confirm an exciting opportunity for the right person to join the Authority as a **Second Engineer/Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO)**. The successful applicant will work in a dual role, acting primarily to support the NIFCA Skipper/Engineer as well as working as an enforcement IFCO/member of crew on the NIFCA patrol vessel and Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIB). The successful applicant will join a small, professional team of Officers responsible for the management of marine fisheries resources and conservation within the NIFCA District both at sea and on land.

Location:

The NIFCA office is located in Blyth, Northumberland, the work place for this position is set across the NIFCA district, including the Authority office and the locations of the Authority patrol vessels.

About the IFCA and NIFCA District:

The Northumberland IFCA is a public sector organisation, one of ten IFCAs around the coastline of England, with a responsibility for the management of inshore fisheries in the NIFCA district and following the national IFCA Vision: -

“IFCAs will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry”.

The NIFCA district extends from its southern boundary at the midpoint of the River Tyne to the English/Scottish border in the north, 6 nautical miles out to sea and all rivers and estuaries to the Normal Tidal Limit (NTL). These coastal waters contain a rich variety of marine life and important commercial and recreational fisheries. These fisheries are of considerable economic importance to the coastal communities.

NIFCA employs nine full-time and two part-time warranted IFCOs in addition to four supporting office staff.

About the Job:

This is a unique position in which the successful applicant will work in a dual role. The successful applicant will support NIFCA's **Skipper/Engineer** and will also carry out the regular duties of an **Enforcement Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO)/ Patrol Vessel Crew Member** (more details below). The working hours will be 37 hrs per week which will be flexible - no overtime payments are paid, however time in lieu is received. The starting annual leave entitlement for this post is 25 days per year plus Bank Holidays.

Second Engineer:

The main responsibility of this role is supporting the maintenance, servicing and operations of NIFCA's vessels including the Patrol Vessel 'St Aidan' which is a 16m catamaran and the NIFCA RIBs, (9.5 metre cabin RIB and 5.3 metre RIB). Reporting to the Lead Enforcement IFCO, the successful applicant will work alongside the Skipper-Engineer to regularly service the NIFCA vessels and will be able to identify

(and where possible repair) occurring faults. They will liaise with local suppliers to locate and purchase any required parts/equipment to ensure the continued maintenance of the NIFCA vessels and, where necessary, will work with manufacturers to repair faults which require specialised support. The 2nd Engineer may be required report both verbally and in writing to the Chief Officer and Authority members regarding the ongoing condition of all vessels.

Enforcement IFCO/PV Crew Member:

All NIFCA Officers are expected to crew the vessels. This is a physical role, and the successful applicant will be capable of carrying out boardings, inspections and of hauling gear at sea, in port and on rugged shoreline in challenging conditions; they must also be willing to work a varied work pattern from Monday to Sunday, in line with the needs of the Authority, including some unsociable hours and weekends/bank holidays.

Employment will be offered to the successful applicant subject to satisfactory references and satisfactorily passing a medical examination and BPSS check.

The successful applicant will (in time) become a Warranted Officer and will be expected to enforce fisheries legislation in the NIFCA district. They will receive regular training, suitable to the job and will be paid expenses/ allowances based on the National Joint Council for Local Authorities. Applicants will have the option of joining the Local Government Pension Scheme.

About the Person:

The successful applicant will have:

- A high degree of self-motivation
- The ability to work professionally both alone and as part of a small team
- Marine engineering knowledge with experience in a work boat role including MCA Approved Engine Course Part 1 and 2 or equivalent
- Practical seamanship skills and experience
- Full driving licence and own vehicle
- Strong communication skills

It would be desirable for the applicant to have:

- Experience in maintaining small work boats
- Knowledge of outboard engines and vessel hydraulic and electrical systems
- Knowledge of the local inshore fishing industry
- RYA powerboat level 2 or equivalent
- Good IT, literacy and numeracy skills

Overview of Post:

To ensure continued maintenance of the NIFCA's marine vessels AND to enforce all legislation relating to the management and policing of the inshore fisheries throughout NIFCA's jurisdiction.

If offered the post, the successful applicant will be expected to:

1. Act in a professional and competent manner at all times.

2. To regularly service and maintain the NIFCA vessels and equipment, to identify (and where possible repair) any arising faults. To liaise with manufacturers/suppliers where required to ensure the continued upkeep of vessels and equipment.
3. To update and follow service schedules for the vessels and equipment.
4. Work as a crewmember on the Patrol Vessel 'St Aidan' and RIBs when required, achieving and maintaining levels of training and competence to fully support all related activities.
5. Assist with inspections of fishing gear at sea, specifically, the hauling, stacking and setting of shellfish pots.
6. Carry out regular inspections of vessels at sea and in ports, harbours, wholesalers, markets and any other premises or vessels deemed necessary, individually or with other IFCOs.
7. Carry out intertidal fishing gear inspections at remote areas of shoreline, which may involve strenuous physical activity.
8. If not previously qualified, undertake RYA powerboat level 2 training before demonstrating the ability to helm the RIBs in a work environment.
9. Conduct patrols, visits and inspections at any hour of the day or night as may be necessary.
10. Be available at short notice to assist and support other officer, work weekends and bank holidays when required.
11. Support the planning of enforcement operations through the gathering of intelligence and passing of information to senior management.
12. Actively engage with commercial and recreational fishers, stakeholders and the public.
13. Accurately collect and record data and compile reports as necessary.
14. Assist in the interviewing of suspected offenders in line with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and associated guidelines.
15. Give evidence in Court and be cross examined by legal professionals, where required.
16. Provide regular oral and written reports to NIFCA's senior management and feed into the monthly reporting regime in a timely, accurate and appropriate manner in line with monthly deadlines.
17. Actively engage and integrate on an operational level with all other NIFCA officers, on a daily basis.
18. Actively engage with all partner organisations including Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE), Police, and many more as directed by the Chief Officer.

19. Attend meetings of NIFCA when so instructed.
20. Display and maintain a high level of professionalism when representing NIFCA at events, meetings, training and working groups.
21. Actively support the NIFCA Environmental Team in the delivery of research and monitoring work.
22. Perform any other duties which may reasonably be required of a Northumberland IFCO in a professional manner.

Further Information:

The above principal accountabilities are not exhaustive and may vary without changing the character of the job or level of responsibility.

The Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974 and other associated legislation places responsibilities for Health and Safety on all employees. Therefore, it is the post holder's responsibility to take reasonable care for Health and Safety and Welfare of him/herself and other employees in accordance with legislation and the Authority Health and Safety Policy.

The above duties may involve having access to information of a confidential nature which may be covered by the Data Protection Act (and in line with GDPR), and by Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

The post holder must also maintain strict confidentiality at all times relating to the handling and disclosure of all data and information held by the Authority.

The post holder must not make any reference to the Authority, its members or its member Authorities or anyone employed by the Authority on any social media site unless express permission has been granted by the Chief IFCO.