

Conservation Intern – European Marine Programme

Background

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership. The Marine Division of its Global Secretariat and European office undertakes data analysis, research and project management on the main threats affecting seabirds' survival and broader marine conservation and advocates to put sound legislation in place.

In 2021, BirdLife's European Marine Team would like to undertake an assessment of the threats affecting marine IBAs (Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas) and SPAs (Special Protection Areas) in the EU, the sensitivity to these threats of the species for which the sites have been identified/designated, and the possible management measures for these sites that would protect these species. This work is intended to inform the engagement of the BirdLife Partnership on the development of site management plans and management measures for marine protected areas (including fisheries management measures which are required by the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020-30 to be established in all marine protected areas according to clearly defined conservation objectives and on the basis of the best available scientific advice) and on the EU Biodiversity Strategy's target of increasing to 10% the area of the EU sea that is strictly protected. The assessment would focus as a priority on the EU countries in the Mediterranean with the intention to cover all EU countries if time permits.

The intern would work with BirdLife European Marine Team (with direct supervision from the Marine Officer based in Cambridge and supported by the Marine Coordinator based in Brussels) and will lead this assessment. The intern will also benefit from the proximity/support of BirdLife Marine Science Team, which carries out high-level research (mainly via projects) on different marine and seabird related topics, such as marine protected areas.

Learning objectives

- Learn about BirdLife's strategy, structure, operating procedures, culture and values.
- Become familiar with BirdLife Marine Team work (both at European and Global level), in particular regarding key topics of the programme such as marine protected areas and bycatch from both a conservation and policy perspective.
- Understand the working relationships and dependencies between colleagues working in different departments.
- Gain experience of working in an environment where priorities are often determined by projects, and strengthen time management skills in order to ensure that tasks are delivered to deadlines.
- Develop and strengthen research, data analysis, writing and team work skills.

Requirements and qualifications

- Studying for a first degree in ecology, biology, zoology, environmental science or similar.
- Interested in and committed to marine conservation, with a good general knowledge of data analysis, marine biodiversity and its main threats at European level.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently, but also as part of a team