

# Southern IFCA

## Volunteer Internships 2020



The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) are tasked with the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources in the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight areas.

Southern IFCA is offering an exciting opportunity for 2 volunteer internship placements during 2020. The successful applicants will lead the delivery of individual projects directly informing inshore fisheries management as part of the ongoing duties of the Authority.

### The Projects

The two projects identified are:

- The Solent Oyster Stock Assessment;
- The Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment

Each internship placement will last for a period of six weeks between April and September, depending on the project, with an approximate commitment of 20 hours per working week. Working hours and location will be flexible; however, volunteers will be required to work from the Southern IFCA office in Poole for a minimum of one day per week. Volunteers will be supported by a project mentor and, as part of the placement, Southern IFCA will provide training opportunities in key areas that enable volunteers to develop their experience and understanding of inshore fisheries management.

Information about the individual project opportunities, together with the experience, knowledge and skills required can be found in the individual project role profiles listed below. The Southern IFCA Policy and Guidance for Engaging Volunteers describes what volunteers should expect from Southern IFCA and how volunteers should conduct themselves whilst involved with the Authority. A copy of this document can be found on the Southern IFCA website, [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/news](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/news).

### Applying for a Placement

To apply for a placement, applicants are required to submit the following:

- a copy of their CV; *and*
- a letter outlining which project(s) they would be interested in applying for and explaining, in no more than 1000 words, why they would be suitable for the role.

Applications should be sent to the Southern IFCA office titled '**2020 Internships**' by email ([enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk)) or post (Southern IFCA, Unit 3 Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2AA) by **17:00 on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. Full information on the interview arrangements will be sent to those candidates who have been short listed.

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Unit 3, Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2AA.

T/F: 01202 721373    E: [enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk)    W: [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

## Southern IFCA Volunteer Internship Placements 2019 – Project Role Profiles

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Solent Oyster Stock Assessment - 2020</b>
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<b>Evidence theme</b>	Sustainable Fisheries - Species knowledge and assessment
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<b>Project lead</b>	Patrick Cooper
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<b>Project description and objectives</b>
<p>The Solent Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) fishery was historically one of the largest native oyster fisheries in Europe, but over the past decades a decline in stock and the number of vessels who pursue the fishery has been observed. Since the 2013/14 season the Southern IFCA committee has considered that the native oyster beds in the Solent are severely depleted and that management intervention was required. In order to inform these interventions, the Authority has required information on the state of the stock in the Solent.</p> <p>Each year Southern IFCA undertakes an annual stock assessment of the native oysters in the Solent in order to develop its evidence base and inform its management of the fishery.</p> <p>This project will focus on the further development of the stock surveys and the processing of the results as well as assisting to produce a report summarizing the survey's findings. If appropriate the internship may involve the successful applicant being present on oyster surveys with IFCA officers, and could require the successful candidate to have or be able to obtain a sea survival certificate, first aid qualification and a sea farers medical (ENG1 or ML5).</p> <p>The project will require the candidate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Contribute to and manage existing oyster size class/CPUE datasets</li><li>- Data analysis and graphical representation of the data sources described above to show trends in CPUE and oyster density observed in surveys.</li><li>- Assist with the production of a report summarising key trends and comparing data from different data sources and last year's internship report, with recommendations to aid future management.</li><li>- If appropriate - participate in the collection of new datasets as part of Southern IFCA's 2020 oyster stock surveys.</li></ul> <p>The successful applicant should be competent in report writing, handling data and have some understanding of bivalve survey techniques. Typically the report from</p>

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these stock assessments has been provided to the Southern IFCA committee as part of a larger information package to assist in decisions relating to the oyster season in the Solent.

<b>Timeline and outputs</b>	
The internship will last 6 weeks and the successful applicant will be required to work approximately 20 hours a week.	July/August
At the end of the project a report may be required. This may need to meet strict deadlines for committee meetings and may be required by mid-August.	Mid-August

<b>Criteria for Candidates</b>	<p>Applicants for this project should give consideration to the following desirable attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to use computer programs like Microsoft Word and Excel</li> <li>• Good report writing skills</li> <li>• An understanding of biological statistics</li> <li>• Would be comfortable to engage with the fishing industry</li> </ul>
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<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment - 2020</b>
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<b>Evidence theme</b>	Sustainable Fisheries - Species knowledge and assessment
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<b>Project lead</b>	Sarah Birchenough
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<b>Project description and objectives</b>
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The Solent is an important area for fishing for shellfish using a dredge. The dredge fishery operates year-round, subject to seasonal restrictions, mainly within the areas of Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour. The main commercial species fished for using this gear type is the Manila clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) with other species also taken when in suitable quantities, such as the common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*), the American hard-shelled clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and, occasionally, the Grooved Carpet Shell or native clam (*Ruditapes decussatus*).

There are a number of management measures currently in place to regulate dredge fishing within the Solent including the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016 which defines a season for dredging within Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour and a daily curfew; and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear 2016 Byelaw which prohibits the use of any bottom towed fishing gear within certain defined areas. The Southern IFCA is currently developing a new management scheme for the Solent in the form of the Solent Dredge Permit byelaw under which the use of dredge gear will be permitted within the Solent area.

The Southern IFCA carries out a bi-annual survey in Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour during March and October each year to assess the distribution and abundance of the main bivalve species. The survey was first started in October 2017 concentrating on Southampton Water and was then expanded in 2018 to include the other two harbours. Data for the survey is collected using local fishing vessels employing the same dredge gear which is used in the fishery across a number of defined shellfish beds. The survey allows data to be gathered on the stocks of commercially important shellfish species across the three main areas of importance for the fishery. In addition, the outcomes from the survey provide data which will be used as a baseline on which to monitor future trends and potential changes to populations which will feed into the development and monitoring of local management measures.

The successful intern for this project will be involved in the collation of data from the surveys carried out in October 2019 and March 2020, and in the analysis of data from 2018-2020. This will require statistical analysis of the data from both surveys and a comparison between the two. The intern will be required to produce a written report at the end of the internship

detailing the results from the analysis and an indication of the significance of the results to the management of the fishery.

### Timeline and outputs

6-week student project

Collation of data from autumn 2019 and spring 2020 survey

Analysis of data from 2018-2020.

Production of a report detailing results and findings

Commence  
Summer  
2020

### Criteria for Candidates

Applicants for this project should give consideration to the following desirable attributes:

- Ability to use computer programs like Microsoft Word and Excel
- An understanding of biological statistics
- Good report writing skills