



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

WE ARE HIRING

Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer



BIA MARA SÁBHÁILTE INBHUNAITHE
SAFE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Candidate Handbook



Conscia Talent on behalf of the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority will hold a competition for the purpose of creating a panel for appointment to the position of:

Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer

Grade: SFPO

Location: Castletownbere, Co. Cork

Closing date: 24th March 2025 @ 5pm

SFPA is an equal opportunities employer

Conscia Talent is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

Conscia Talent will run this campaign in compliance with the Codes of Practice for Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) and which are available on www.cpsa.ie

Conscia Talent

The Masonry
151-156 Thomas Street
Dublin
D08 PY5E
Website: www.consciatalent.com
Phone: +353 (0)1 568 6796
Email: SFPA@consciatalent.com

If you have a passion for the Irish sea and love the variety of both indoor and outdoor work, consider the role of a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer (SFPO).

We will hold a competition to establish a panel of suitably qualified candidates to fill Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer vacancies which may arise in our office in Castletownbere, Co. Cork.



WE ARE HIRING

Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer (SFPO)



Salary:
€40,973
(entry level)



Level:
SFPO
(Standard Scale)



Location:
Castletownbere,
Co. Cork



Closing date:
24 March 2025
at 5pm

A Sea-Fishery Protection Officer performs multi-faceted front-line roles related to Sea-Fisheries conservation and Seafood safety. This work requires the regular conduct of direct inspections onboard fishing vessels, at processing establishments and seafood business premises and in other places of fisheries and marine activity.

The inspection activities may include the taking of samples of fish, shellfish and fishery products, collection of articles of evidence, taking of formal statements from individuals, cross-checking and verification of surveillance data or other data such as VMS data, sales note data, logbook data, etc., and the compilation and production of formal statements to be used in the taking of prosecution cases against individuals.

A Sea-Fishery Protection Officer is frequently engaged in the collection of fisheries statistics, verification of these statistics and the input of data into a database. The process involves the collection, verification, and processing of data on a frequent basis. The Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer based in the port office is frequently the first point of contact with the public on a wide range of fisheries matters.

The work of a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer takes place at the ports around Ireland, at sea and at land-based establishments. The working environment is both indoor and outdoor, on land and at sea.

The nature of this job requires regular evening and weekend work as a routine part of the job and in keeping with the nature of the industry we provide services to. Some Ports operate a two shift or three shift roster depending on business needs which may entail night work. An allowance in addition to pay is payable to cover atypical roster attendance.



Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Conducting direct inspections of fishing vessels, processing establishments, seafood business premises and other places of fisheries and marine activity to verify compliance and to detect non-compliance with Sea-Fisheries and Seafood safety legislation.
- Taking appropriate follow-up action following these inspection activities such as writing reports, preparation of case files, inputting data into databases of inspection activity, compilation of written statements or attending court to act as a witness for the prosecution.
- Collecting, verifying, and inputting fisheries statistics in a timely and accurate manner.
- Collecting samples of shellfish, fishery products and fish to sampling specification at shellfish production sites, fish processing establishments, auction halls and fishing vessels and ensuring the delivery of these samples in a suitable condition to conduct the analysis intended.
- Attending meetings or meeting with individuals to provide technical input on matters related to fisheries conservation, food safety and fisheries statistics or to advise groups or individuals on these matters or matters related to the policy of the Authority.

In addition to the duties outlined above, a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer carries out any other relevant duties which may be assigned to him/her by the Authority Members, or other authorised officer, from time to time.



Essential Requirements:

Candidates, on the closing date for this competition, must hold a minimum qualification of a National Diploma Level 7 in a discipline relevant to the work of the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority, for example qualifications providing competency in marine, fisheries, food or environmental sciences or qualifications related to data management/analytics including IT or Statistics or qualifications related to law, enforcement and associated disciplines.

In addition to the minimum qualification entry requirement candidates must also have:

- Excellent Planning and Organisation ability
- Excellent communication and administration skills
- Fluent spoken and written English is absolutely essential
- Strong IT capability
- Full driving licence

It is an absolute requirement that candidates declare any potential conflict of interest at the application stage of the recruitment process. Failure to declare such conflicts of interest which later come to light may result in the candidate being disqualified from the competition or, if the candidate is offered and takes up a role with the SFPA on the basis of misleading information may result in immediate dismissal from the SFPA.

The following are considered desirable attributes:

- Previous experience in a regulatory environment.
- Possess a knowledge or experience of the sea-fisheries industry.
- Possess a knowledge or experience of food safety regulation.
- Possess a knowledge of health and customs certification compliance.

Capabilities

Key Capabilities for Effective Performance at this Grade

Applicants must demonstrate, by reference to specific achievements in their career to date, that they possess the qualities, skills and knowledge required for the role of Sea Fisheries Officer as identified in the 'Requirements' above and the Capabilities below

- Building Future Readiness
- Evidence Informed Delivery
- Leading and Empowering
- Communicating and Collaborating

Public Sector Capability Framework

Please click the button below to download the Public Sector Capability Framework PDF.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



Conditions of Service

Citizenship Requirement:

As this is a Permanent position the eligibility to compete for this post is open to citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) or to non-EEA nationals with a valid work permit only. The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union along with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Swiss citizens under EU agreements may also apply.

General:

The appointment is to a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer post on a permanent contract and is subject to the Civil Service Regulations Acts 1956 to 2005, the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004, the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006) and any other Act for the time being in force relating to the Civil or Public Service.

Pay:

The basic salary for the position (rates effective from 1st March 2025) is the Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer PPC scale of €40,973 – €74,172 per annum (which includes two long service increments).

Sea-Fishery Officer Scale is:

Point of Scale	Salary
1	€40,973
2	€42,879
3	€44,906
4	€47,022
5	€49,129
6	€51,212
7	€53,376
8	€55,604
9	€57,848
10	€60,125
11	€62,395
12	€64,665
13	€66,940
14 NMAX	€69,209
LSI 1	€71,691
LSI 2	€74,172

The starting rate of pay being offered is €40,973 which is the first point of the Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer PPC scale. This is a gross rate before statutory or other deductions.

The remuneration shall be deemed to accrue from day to day and be payable by equal two weekly instalments on the agreed day of every two weeks in arrears by bank credit transfer.

The SFPA provides a 24/7 service in line with the industry to which we provide a service. Consequently, Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers are required to work shift work. Where incumbents work atypical shifts, a roster allowance (the rate of which is determined by the hours worked) is payable.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Candidates should note that entry will be at the minimum of the scale and the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Candidates should note that different pay and conditions may apply if, immediately prior to appointment, the appointee is a serving civil or public servant.

Subject to satisfactory performance, increments may be payable in line with current Government Policy.



Conditions of Service (CONTINUED)

Tenure:

This is a permanent position. The appointee will be required to serve a 12-month probationary period.

Location:

Following completion of an initial training period the appointee for this role will be based in the SFPA's port office in Castletownbere, Co. Cork. Travel within the South-western region is likely to occur on a frequent basis and travel nationally and internationally less frequently. When absent from home and place of employment on official duty, the appointee will be paid appropriate travelling expenses and subsistence allowances, subject to normal civil service regulations/public sector regulations.

Training and Formation:

Upon joining the SFPA you will be required to undergo a period of training. This is an intense and comprehensive training delivered by both our own subject matter experts as well as third party experts, aimed at ensuring you develop the necessary knowledge and skills needed to act as a warranted Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer for the regulation of Food Safety and Fisheries Conservation. As part of our new recruit SFPO training the new entrant will undergo aspects of training including fisheries control, food safety controls, legal/enforcement training and other operational functions. Attendance at all training scheduled is essential.

This training will take place in a blended format including in person classroom and online learning. Access to good wifi is essential. However, a large practical element may take place in your home port or one of our other port offices.

Further details will be provided to the successful candidates however applicants should be cognisant of the fact that during the training period there will be periods where they will be away from home.

During your training period, you may also be required to attend different locations around the coast where you will observe and assist in the performance of the routine work of a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer. Travel and subsistence will be payable for these absences in line with Civil Service circulars.

The new recruit SFPO training programme will be subject to the restrictions in place by the government at that point in time.

Hours of attendance:

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time but will amount to not less than 35 hours net per week. The appointee will be required to work such additional hours from time to time as may be reasonable and necessary for the proper performance of his/her duties subject to the limits set down in the working time regulations. The appointee will be required to work shift work on a rota which includes weekend attendance.

Rest Periods:

The terms of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997 will apply to this appointment.

Annual Leave:

In addition to the standard 10 public holidays, the annual leave for this position is 25 working days a year rising to 29 after 5 years' service and 30 after 10 years' service.

Sick Leave:

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service, will apply on a pro-rata basis, in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars.



Other Benefits of working for SFPA

We provide a wide range of benefits and initiatives to support employees including:



Learning and Development Opportunities



Educational assistance



Family friendly policies



Employee Assistance Programme



Healthy Work-life balance



Attractive annual leave allowance



Bike to work scheme



Seasonal flu vaccine



Wellness Initiatives



Dynamic Work Environment

PRSI:

Officers who will be paying Class A rate of PRSI will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts directly to the SFPA. Payment during illness will be subject to the officer making the necessary claims for social insurance benefit to the Department of Social Protection within the required time limits.

Superannuation and Retirement:

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the SFPA at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme").

Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

Pensionable Age

The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 and 68) in line with State Pension age changes.

Retirement Age

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

Pension Abatement

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil Service normal abatement rules will apply. However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER) or the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS which, as indicated above, renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements will, however be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.

Other Benefits of working for SFPA (CONTINUED)

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012. **This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position that is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position.**

Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007

The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under **Strands 1, 2 or 3** of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme **will immediately cease**. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).

Ill-Health Retirement

Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

a. Prior Public Servants

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However, the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme. In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the pension scheme for non-established civil servants ("Non-Established State Employee Scheme"). This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

b. Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

c. Pension-Related Deduction

This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009.

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate.

Application Process

How to Apply:

All candidates should visit consciatalent.com/SFPA where there is a full list of available positions in the SFPA with the corresponding downloadable application/eligibility form and information booklet for each position.

To apply, candidates must submit a full CV and complete the online Eligibility Form.

Fully completed Eligibility Forms and CVs must be submitted online directly on the Consica website. Only applications submitted in this manner will be accepted into the campaign for consideration. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

Closing Date:

Your online eligibility form and CV must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 24th March 2025. Applications will not be accepted after this time.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of receipt of your application within 24 hours of applying, please email sfpa@consciatalent.com

Updates regarding the campaign will be sent to the email address you provided during your application. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure they receive all communications from Consica Talent. We recommend checking your email frequently throughout the recruitment process, including reviewing your junk or spam folders in case any messages are incorrectly filtered.

Consica Talent accepts no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by an applicant.

Candidates should make themselves available on the date(s) specified by Consica Talent and should make sure that the contact details specified on their application form are correct.

Selection Process:

The Selection Process may include the following:

- Submission of online application form via consciatalent.com/sfpa website.
- Shortlisting of candidates based on the information contained in their application form
- Initial/preliminary interview
- Presentation or other exercises
- A final competitive interview
- Any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate

Shortlisting:

Typically, the number of applications received for a position surpasses the amount required to fill both current and future vacancies. Even if you meet the eligibility criteria for the role, if the number of applicants is too high to interview everyone, Consica Talent may choose to invite only a select group for interviews.

To address this, Consica Talent employs a short-listing process to identify candidates for interviews. This process involves an expert panel reviewing application forms against pre-established criteria based on the job requirements. It's important to note that this does not imply that other candidates are unqualified or incapable; rather, some may simply appear more qualified or have more relevant experience based on their applications. Therefore, it is in your best interest to provide a comprehensive and accurate overview of your qualifications and experience on the application form.

Application Process (CONTINUED)

Confidentiality:

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

Security Clearance:

Garda vetting may be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. The applicant will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for security checks on all Irish and Northern Irish addresses at which they resided. If unsuccessful this information will be destroyed by the SFPA. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

Other Important Information:

Conscia Talent will not be responsible for reimbursing any expenses incurred by candidates.

The acceptance of an individual into a competition, an invitation for an interview, or a notification of a successful outcome does not imply that Conscia Talent is satisfied that the individual meets the necessary qualifications or is legally eligible for the position. Furthermore, it does not guarantee that your application will be considered further.

Therefore, it is crucial for you to understand that it is your responsibility to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria for the competition prior to attending the interview. If you attend without fulfilling these essential requirements, you may incur unnecessary expenses

Before recommending any candidate for this position, Conscia Talent will conduct all necessary enquiries to assess the candidate's suitability. A final decision cannot be reached, nor can it be assumed or implied that such a decision has been made, until all phases of the recruitment process are fully completed.

If the recommended candidate declines the position, or if they accept and then withdraw, or if another vacancy occurs, the Board may, at its discretion, select and recommend an alternative candidate based on the outcomes of this selection process.

Candidates' Rights - Review Procedures in relation to the Selection Process:

Conscia Talent will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of the codes of practice published by the CPSA. The Codes of Practice are available on the website of the Commission for Public Service Appointments <http://www.cpsa.ie/>.

If a candidate is dissatisfied with any action or decision regarding their application, they can request feedback from Conscia Talent, when the selection process is managed by Conscia Talent. An initial internal review will be conducted by the candidate's recruitment contact to understand the reasons behind the unsuccessful application. The results of this review will be communicated to the candidate in writing.

To request an initial review, a candidate must write to Conscia within 5 working days of receiving notification of the decision on their application. Conscia will carry out the initial review without delay. If the candidate is dissatisfied with the outcome, they may resort to the formal procedures within 5 working days of receiving notifications of the outcome of the initial review.

Should the candidate not be satisfied with the outcome of the initial review, it will be referred to a Director who acts as the decision arbitrator.

The decision arbitrator will be a person unconnected with the selection process and he/she will adjudicate on requests for review. The decision of the decision arbitrator in relation to such matters is final.



Application Process (CONTINUED)

Candidates' Obligations:

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information
- canvass any person with or without inducements
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way

A third party must not personate a candidate at any stage of the process.

Any person who contravenes the above provisions or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions is guilty of an offence. A person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to a fine/or imprisonment.

In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment process, then:

- where he/she has not been appointed to a post, he/she will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- where he/she has been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, he/she shall forfeit that appointment.

Specific candidate criteria:

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned
- Be suitable on the grounds of character
- Be medically fit to perform the duties of the Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned and if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they:
 - Agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed
 - Are fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position.
- Complete satisfactory Garda vetting



Application Process (CONTINUED)

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn:

Candidates who fail to attend interviews or other assessments as scheduled by Conscia Talent, or who do not provide the necessary evidence requested by Conscia Talent, concerning any relevant aspect of their application, will forfeit any further consideration for the position

Quality Customer Service:

We aim to provide an excellent quality service to all our customers. If, for whatever reason, you are unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive from us, we urge you to bring this to the attention of the unit or staff member concerned. This is important as it ensures that we are aware of the problem and can take the appropriate steps to resolve it. Feedback will be provided on written request.

Data Protection Acts, 1988, 2003 and 2018:

When your application form is received, we create a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature and should you be successful certain information you provide will be forwarded to the employing organisation. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the Data Protection Acts, 1988, 2003 and 2018.

To make a request under the Data Protection Acts 1988, 2003 and 2018, please submit your request in writing to: Data Protection Officer, Conscia Talent, The Masonry, 151-156 Thomas Street, Dublin D08 P5YE or email graham@consciatalent.com

Please ensure that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable us to identify the relevant record. Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from records for general statistical purposes.

For more information on how we retain and use your personal data, please review our Privacy Statement, which includes instructions on their right to withdraw consent at any point:

<https://www.consciatalent.com/privacy-policy>



About Us

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) was established under the provisions of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (“the Act”) and operates under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The principal functions of the SFPA are set out in Section 43 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 include the following:

- To secure efficient and effective enforcement of sea-fisheries law and food safety law.
- To promote compliance with and deter contraventions of sea-fisheries law and food safety law.
- To detect contraventions of sea-fisheries law and food safety law.
- To provide information to the sea-fisheries and seafood sectors on sea-fisheries law and food safety law and relevant matters within the remit of the Authority, through the Consultative Committee or by any other means it considers appropriate.
- To advise the Minister in relation to policy on effective implementation of sea-fisheries law and food safety law.
- To provide assistance and information to the Minister in relation to the remit of the Authority.
- To collect and report data in relation to sea-fisheries and food safety as required by the Minister and under Community law.
- To represent or assist in the representation of the State at national, community and international fora as requested by the Minister; and
- To engage in any other activities relating to the functions of the Authority as may be approved by the Minister.

Our Vision

To be an effective regulator enforcing sea-fisheries and seafood safety law, supporting sustainable fishing, ensuring safe seafood for consumers and enabling Irish Seafood Trade.

Our Mission

The SFPA is committed to the application of sea-fisheries and seafood safety law which underpins Sea-Fisheries sustainability and safe Irish seafood for consumers both at home and abroad.

Our Values

Integrity
Independence
Impartiality
Innovation
Inclusivity

Goals



GOAL 1

Protection of Sea-fisheries and Seafood Safety

To protect sea-fisheries sustainability and seafood safety through effective promotion of compliance and enforcement of regulation.



GOAL 2

Organisational Excellence

To advance organisational efficiency through best-in-class support for staff, processes, systems and data, governance and risk management.



GOAL 3

Communication and Engagement

To demonstrate expertise and leadership in the sea-fisheries and seafood sectors through communication, partnership, advocacy and advice.



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

An t-Údarás um Chosaint Iascaigh Mhara,
Lárionad Bia Mara Náisiúnta,
Príomhoifig, An Cloichín,
Cloich na Coillte, Co. Chorcaí,
P85TX47

Head Office,
National Seafood Centre,
Park Road, Clogheen,
Clonakilty, Co. Cork,
P85TX47

T +353 23 885 9300
E sfpa_info@sfpa.ie

sfpa.ie

W <https://jobs.consciatalent.com/sfpa>
E sfpa@consciatalent.com