



DFDS (North Sea) Ocean Conservationist 2026 Person Specification

Role Summary

Job Title: Ocean Conservationist (x4 positions)

Reporting to: Ocean Conservationist Manager

Location: North Sea, departing either:

- Newcastle - UK
- IJmuiden (Amsterdam) - the Netherlands

Hours & Salary: 37.5 hours per week **for your time on ship only**, paid at UK National Living Wage

Languages: English essential, Dutch preferred, German beneficial

Age Restriction: Must be 18 or over to apply

Please note that this role is subject to a Seafarers medical & DBS/background check, to be arranged post-interview.

Who are ORCA?

ORCA is a leading marine conservation charity working to protect whales, dolphins, and porpoises and the habitats they depend on. We are known for our innovative use of citizen science, empowering everyday people to collect vital data and help ORCA to drive meaningful action for marine mammals.

Education is central to ORCA's mission, of giving everyone who cares about whales and dolphins an active role in safeguarding their future. By engaging people of all ages with the importance of healthy oceans, we inspire meaningful action and bring together scientific research, public involvement, and collaborative partnerships to protect marine wildlife for generations to come.

About the Ocean Conservationist Role

Partnering with DFDS for 20+ years, ORCA's Ocean Conservationists give passengers unforgettable experiences that deepen their understanding of the marine world. As an Ocean Conservationist, you will:

- Act as an ambassador for ORCA, reaching tens of thousands of passengers each year
- Carry out wildlife watches and record scientific data through the OceanWatchers app to support critical understanding of cetacean populations
- Deliver engaging talks and interactive activities that inspire audiences of all ages to learn about whales, dolphins, and marine conservation.
- Fundraise for ORCA's vital conservation work
- Experience diverse daily opportunities, as no two sailings are the same





Role & Responsibilities

- **Inspire Passengers:**
 - Act as an ambassador for ORCA, engaging passengers of all ages about marine wildlife and conservation
 - Develop and deliver lectures and interactive activities for both children and adults
 - Create other high-quality educational materials to be used on board
- **Collaborate and Communicate:**
 - Build strong relationships with the ORCA team and ship's crew to ensure smooth daily operations
 - Communicate daily about upcoming activities and engage guests or crew in a friendly, approachable manner
- **Fundraising:**
 - Meet fundraising targets for on-ship donations by creating and leading activities that encourage guests to donate
 - Promote ORCA's membership program to increase sign-ups and support
 - Proactively engage passengers in conversations about supporting ORCA's mission through donations and memberships
 - Regularly report on donation progress and ensure targets are met
- **Data Collection:**
 - Conduct daily wildlife watches and collect sightings data using the OceanWatchers app
- **Administrative Tasks:**
 - Keep accurate daily records of activities, donations, and visitor engagement
 - Stay updated with ORCA's work, history, and current projects to communicate effectively
- **Content Creation:**
 - Create engaging content for ORCA's social media and write blogs for the website, raising awareness about marine conservation and ORCA's mission
- **Guest Experience:**
 - Go the extra mile to ensure guests have the best possible experience



Experience & Knowledge:

| | |
|--|---|
| Knowledge of marine wildlife and conservation | E |
| Passion for wildlife and the natural world | E |
| Proven experience in providing excellent customer service | E |
| Ability to work independently and manage tasks remotely | E |
| Experience in fundraising, particularly in a target-driven environment | D |
| Experience in science communication | D |
| Experience using social media | D |
| Experience working with people of all ages, including children | D |
| Knowledge of cetacean biology & threats | D |

Skills & Abilities:

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|---|---|
| Excellent public speaking and presentation skills | E |
| Excellent administration skills and attention to detail | E |
| Confident communicator with excellent written and verbal skills | E |
| Excellent IT skills (particularly in PowerPoint and Office Tools) | E |
| Excellent organisational skills | E |
| Ability to motivate and engage others, particularly in fundraising activities | E |
| Marine wildlife identification skills | D |

Attitudes:

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|---|---|
| Self-starter with strong motivation, energy, and determination | E |
| Ability to take responsibility for own work, showing initiative and conscientiousness | E |
| Willingness to work outdoors and remotely in all weather conditions | E |
| Positive, enthusiastic attitude with a passion for conservation | E |
| Team player with excellent interpersonal skills | E |
| Approachable and friendly | E |
| Commitment to ORCA's aims and objectives | E |

E = Essential. D= Desirable.

