

Rebecca Kiernan
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A recent MSc Coastal and Marine Resource management graduate, with relevant work experience and knowledge of solutions for conserving our coasts and oceans with the ability to manage environmental, socio-cultural and institutional resources.

Relevant Experience

August 2022 – June 2023 Project Coordinator, Atlantic Whale Foundation | Tenerife

- Demonstrated initiative and leadership by managing the main base for periods of time when the director was out of office , enabling me to develop strong organisational and management skills
- Co-ordinated all research concerning cetaceans and projects relating to environmental awareness as well as independently leading research focusing on the migratory routes and behavior of Pilot Whales
- Organised regular fieldwork on marine vessels, capturing underwater videography and photography, recording and mapping data on Pilot Whale routes and contributing to projects relating to marketing, media and design
- Further experience gained in data collection and research collaboration through communication with local and international volunteers
- Database management, ensuring data entry and maintenance was carried out accurately and in compliance with the organisational code of practice
- Other roles included working with educational visits, assisting with field trips and giving presentations to visiting groups of students

Education

2024 – 2025 MSc Coastal and Marine Resource Management, University of Portsmouth

A one-year masters degree, accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors which focused on marine resource policy, development and use of maritime resources and the conservation of natural resources of coasts and oceans.

Acquired skills and demonstrated competence in:

- Technical and analytical concepts and frameworks of coastal and marine management strategies such as ICZM and Energy strategies, applying theory to practice, achieved through report writing to high academic standards
- Biophysical behavior of coastal systems, investigating coastal risk and examining the effects of management
- Mathematical skills gained through studies such as a 'sediment budget project' and 'Shoreline Management Plan', as well as developing additional fieldwork skills through regular site visits
- Coastal and marine policy and legislation including the consideration of various stakeholders, laws affecting the utilisation of marine space and approaches to marine spatial planning throughout the UK and internationally
- Knowledge was also gained in conducting and understanding Environmental Impact Assessments
- Engaged with a variety of professionals throughout the course, including a visit to the annual 'Coastal Futures' conference and a week's residential field trip to Jersey meeting various stakeholders

Dissertation

Stakeholder engagement in adaptive management: a case study of East Head, Chichester Harbour, UK. Dissertation research required establishing and maintaining effective communication with multiple stakeholders. Communication was facilitated through email, phone and face-to-face contact, enhancing skills in developing, conducting and analysing surveys and interviews.

2020 - 2024 BSc Hons Environmental Science, University of Portsmouth degree accredited by the Institution of Environmental Sciences

Academic skills in this degree included environmental waste management, environmental audit, climate change, hydrology and groundwater systems, energy resources and environmental chemistry. Gained a variety of skills in the field and laboratory which were applied in the Malta and Portugal field trips and developed proficiency in software such as SPSS and GIS for data analysis and ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine for map creation.

Final year project Title “The effect of the incorrect disposal and breakdown of wet wipes on the UK environment”

Successful laboratory and fieldwork study of the misuse and chemical breakdown of wet wipes in the environment along the banks of the Thames as a result of sewage effluent. This project explored the repercussions that micro plastics cause within freshwater and marine bodies. The debate of flushable and non-flushable wipes being better for the environment was also explored in this research.

Voluntary Experience

2021 – 2022 Marine Mammal Surveyor | ORCA

Trained in seal, dolphin, and whale identification and how to collect and upload data to the marine mammal sightings database.

2018 – 2019 Volunteer | Capturing Our Coast

Worked with other volunteers to collect data about local beaches by documenting their quadrats and transects and recording these using a standardised form.

Other Work Experience

December 2024 – Present Customer Assistant | Marks and Spencer | Chichester

- Delivered high standards for the store’s customers, alongside achieving business targets and expectations
- Developed excellent customer service skills, confident in conversing with customers in a variety of situations
- Working in teams of various sizes has developed effective communication skills alongside understanding the different strengths of my fellow colleagues
- Gained practical experience in working with chilled, ambient and frozen stock alongside operating tills and in-store equipment/technology
- During times of operational requirement, have provided shift management to the food hall department, and have worked flexibly on temporary secondments to other stores to offer support and assistance

Further Education

September 2018 – June 2020 Portsmouth College, Portsmouth 3 A Levels: Geography, Biology and Maths

September 2013 – June 2018 St Edmund’s Catholic School, Portsmouth 11 GCSEs at Grade 5-9 including English, Maths and Science

Interests

- Stand Up Paddle Boarding to increase confidence in open water and remain aware of safety and rescue techniques
- Recreational Triathlete and member of Portsmouth Triathletes helps build physical resilience and motivation
- Avid movie goer and regularly attend Portsmouth’s independent No 6 Cinema to keep up to date with current popular culture