



The International Day of Women in Science

Shona Marshall, Biologist, West Sutherland Fisheries Trust



I've always had an interest in ecology and studied it at university. Part of the course involved fisheries management, which led to an Honours project with the then Forth River Purification Board and an introduction to fish sampling and analysis. Various training courses and a PhD on estuarine fish later, I was lucky enough to be around at the development of the trust network on the west coast and landed the job with WSFT.

Responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust, I also have an active role in all of the field work. The work is varied, with the opportunity to get involved with so many different projects and organisations, from freshwater surveys, through estuarine and marine sampling to forestry and the production of various publications. I work with estate owners and workers, aquaculture companies, Government agencies, local schools and the Ranger service to name but a few. You never know what's going to come up which definitely keeps it interesting.

When I started with the Trust there were very few women in the sector. That's changed over the years which is encouraging, but there is always room for more. As long as you have a flexible attitude and an enjoyment of the outdoors there really is nothing to hold you back.

[Find out more](#) about the organisation which Shona manages.