



The International Day of Women in Science

Lucy Ballantyne, Biologist, Lochaber Fisheries Trust



I work as senior biologist at Lochaber Fisheries Trust. The job is massively varied with a good amount of fieldwork but also running education projects, commenting on Environmental impact assessments and planning applications, keeping up to date with relevant research and making funding applications for our work programmes,.

The fieldwork is both in freshwater and the inshore marine environment, working on a whole range of fish, other aquatic animals and habitats. I love the varied nature of the job, often we will be working on a peatland restoration project in the morning, doing juvenile fish surveys in the afternoon and come back into the office to find a planning response to comment on!

I knew I wanted to be a fish biologist from the age of 12 having watched too many tropical diving programmes! Having studied Marine Biology at university I did some post graduate work on sea ducks, then spent 8 years working for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust doing plane-based surveys of seabirds and cetaceans as part of EIA work for offshore wind farms. Whilst helping out with some breeding bird surveys in Scotland I fell in love with the Highlands, and 2 months later saw a job advert for the fisheries trust. I applied, got the job and have never looked back!.

The most important skills needed to deliver my role are the ability to multitask and swap between projects, excellent communication and good organisation.

The fieldwork is sometimes challenging but always rewarding, and it's a privilege to work in such a beautiful part of the world.

There are a lot of women working in the fishery management sector in Scotland, in a wide variety of roles. I have never felt that gender has been an issue or a barrier to moving forward in my career. It's not actually something I have ever had to think about, which is of course the way it should be. I feel privileged to work with some very talented, knowledgeable colleagues both female and male.

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