

All in a Day's Work

Lucy Hunt—Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre

Lucy Hunt studied marine biology and zoology and then went on to study more by doing a Masters in Marine Environmental Protection. She started her marine biology business called Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre in her hometown Waterville, Co. Kerry in 2014. This was quite a different thing to do in her hometown as she was the first marine biologist in the area since Maude Jane Delap who was around in the 1950's! She also works as the Sustainability Education manager of the Volvo Ocean Race and has created a great Ocean education programme online that is in 7 languages and being used in 38 different countries! You can download fun booklets and worksheets here <http://volvoceanrace.com/education>



Images courtesy of Lucy Hunt

Lucy Hunt in the Sea Synergy sea life exhibition.

Check out www.seasynergy.org and Facebook: [LH Marine & Sea Synergy](#)

Where do you work?

All around the world, the ocean is everywhere so its a good job to travel with, but a lot in my hometown of Waterville or elsewhere around Kerry!

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Ever since I was a kid I was interested in the sea. When I was very young I even had a cat that would come to the beach with me and go paddling in the rockpools!

What training did you do to get where you are today?

I have done lots of different training including two degrees as mentioned before, some extra Science communication courses too. I worked offshore and had to do offshore safety courses where I learnt how to rescue myself if a helicopter crashed in the water!! I also did lots of volunteerships in the Indian Ocean and gained loads of experience there in research and education on beautiful coral reefs.

What is a day in your life like?

A day in my life could be anything from teaching in class in schools to being out

on a boat looking for whales and dolphins or doing a TV show on marine life. I love my job because every day is different.

What is your main aim?

My main aim is to help connect people and the ocean so they realise how important it is in our everyday lives. The hope is they will fall in love with it and want to protect it.

What's the best thing about your job?

I love my work and how it changes all the time. I might be writing a report on my computer and next thing I have an alert to go look for a stranded dolphin



Lucy showing celebrity chef Neven Maguire around for his Irish TV show.

or that there are sharks in nearby waters. Also, I love travelling and I get to travel a lot with my work and meet lots of interesting people all the time, which is great.

What's the worst thing about your job?

I sometimes end up working very long hours and sometimes a lot of it can be computer based, depending on the job. I much prefer to be working outside, even if the weather is not always good!

What equipment do you use?

Lots of different equipment depending on the job: binoculars—for whale and dolphin surveys; scuba gear—for reef survey; stand up paddle boards, snorkelling gear and kayaks—for ecotours; my computer—for reports!

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work both ways, as part of a team and alone, which is always nice!

What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

Get some work experience to see what side of it you like. Marine biology is so diverse there are lots of different ways to be involved.

What would you do if you weren't doing what you do?

I think I would be a journalist or news reporter, reporting on environmental issues.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

'Life is not a rehearsal - its the real thing - do what you love.' 'We all have the power to make a difference.'



Lucy in the Arctic where she worked offshore surveying for whales and dolphins.

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