



Rebecca Walker
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My work is never dull! As one of only two specialists, any marine mammal query or request from anywhere in England comes to me.

A large part of the job is casework, reviewing large Environmental Statements and Habitat Regulations Assessments to advise on the impact of big infrastructure projects such as offshore wind farms. I need an up-to-date knowledge of the relevant science to provide evidence-based pragmatic advice to developers while informing them of our position. An ability to work with all types of stakeholders is also important.

I always have lots of applications going on at the same time, so being organised and managing things effectively comes in handy, especially when queries come in at the last minute – and they regularly do!

England and national-level work includes internal queries as well as collaboration with other countryside agencies. Since I've been at NE, I've been involved in designating marine mammal protected areas, developing marine mammal management units and producing a UK conservation plan for small cetaceans.

We also have the opportunity to bid for small pots of money to undertake research and fill evidence gaps. We get involved in all parts of the process, from tendering to project management and publishing the results.

Life is often hectic, but very enjoyable, working with passionate colleagues from various organisations on a daily basis. But we're also able to get away from our desks, be it a day watching and counting seals at Lundy and Horsey or undertaking survey work in the field.