



NAME: Rachael Miller

JOB: Expedition scientist



WHAT DO YOU DO?

The short answer to “What do you do?” Is that I protect the ocean. More specifically, I am the Founder of the Rozalia Project - an ocean-protection charity working towards finding out more about litter in the ocean (and lakes and rivers) and implementing ways of reducing it. Initially, I did all the jobs from fundraising to teaching, research to acting as expedition leader (and more). Now that we have a bigger team, I can engage in special projects, which makes me primarily an expedition scientist, solution finder and public speaker. That means planning and running expeditions to understand the problems our ocean faces with the goal to solve them. Then, I translate those experiences and what we learn into engaging presentations, workshops, and activities. My work has taken me all over the world to wonderful places including 81° North in the Arctic which is just 9 degrees from the North Pole, Antarctica, South Africa, Hawaii and of course, North Berwick!



HOW DID YOU BECOME AN EXPEDITION SCIENTIST?

The breadth of my activities reflects the breadth of my interests. I have always enjoyed science, art and watersports equally. There are not a lot of ready-made jobs that combine those three interests, so I had to create my own path. I did that by taking a lot of calculated risks and finding people who had complementary skills from whom I could learn and partner. On the science side, I did a lot of reading about what was already known, methods and where there were knowledge gaps as far as marine litter was concerned. That helped point the way for my own focus. On the business and management side, that was a combination of trial and error and talking with people who had different perspectives - from businesses and charities, small companies and large ones, and early, mid, and late-career people...





... I also did a lot of learning as I went, which meant starting something before I was an “expert” and soaking up as much as possible to make my initial learning curve as steep as possible.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Getting to explore the watery parts of this planet with the goal to generate information that can help protect the planet is one of my favourite things about my job. I love being outside; going places I’ve never been, seeing new creatures (or my favourite ones repeatedly), meeting and learning from enthusiastic and knowledgeable people, and having a chance to inspire others.



WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO SOMEONE WANTING TO GET INTO THIS LINE OF WORK?

Find ways to give different elements of this work a go - classes, projects, programmes, internships, volunteering, anything to give you a taste. It is hard to know how you feel about fieldwork until you do it - watching sea creatures while you are on vacation is always amazing, but sitting outside on a rock for 6 hours straight, recording every movement one creature makes may or may not be a great fit. If you are interested in science, I also recommend getting skilled in at least 2 of the following: fieldwork, processing/analysing samples (lab-based), data analysis and/or storytelling!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MARINE SPECIES AND WHY?

Right now, I have 3: albatross for their efficiency of motion, dolphins for their joy and playfulness and penguins for their busy, waddle-y, social, great-swimming but a little clumsy on land vibe.



Find out more about
Rozalia Project by
visiting their website:
www.rozaliaproject.org

