

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SUSTAINABILITY

International Women's Day, 8th March 2021

#IWD2021 #ITSGreenWeek2021

**Ailish Keane,
Senior Environmental Officer,
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

For Green Week and International Women's Day, ITS Green Campus caught up with IT Sligo graduate Ailish Keane to chat about sustainability, women in science and that all important job satisfaction!

Find out what she had to say...



A passion for the environment

"I have always been passionate about protecting our environment, even as a very young child. After studying Applied Biology in GMIT, I did a Degree in Environmental Science & Technology in IT Sligo. I have held environmental roles in various local authorities which provided me with brilliant, 'hands on' experience and paved the way for my job now with IFI."

Favourite part of the job

"What I love most is the variety. From investigating incidents of water pollution, monitoring water quality and the health of our fish stocks, to reviewing planning applications and running workshops in primary schools as part of our 'Something Fishy' programme - every day is different! It's also really great to be outdoors and know I am making a difference. The 'feel-good factor' from that is amazing."

'...SO MANY OF MY PEERS ARE WOMEN!'

To women considering a career in this area

"Pursue it! Women are excelling in Environmental Science in Ireland. Day-to-day, when I work with different environmental officers and organisations, so many of my peers are women. It is a great network and a really encouraging area to be working in."

Key influences and mentors

"Tara Shine is someone I have always admired, her dedication to Environmental Science and policy change is inspiring to any young Irish woman with an interest in this field;

Mary Robinson is another Irish woman I would admire, from becoming the first female president of Ireland to being the U. N.'s special envoy for Climate Change and setting up the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice; and

Frances Lucy (Head of Environmental Science, ITS) has been a massive inspiration to me. From my first day in IT Sligo right up to today, I still reach out to her for advice and support."

Where to learn more about fisheries & the environment

"The IFI YouTube channel is a great place to start with lots of informative videos.

I also love Catchments.ie for great science and stories about water catchments on a local level.

And RTE's Eco Eye. I love watching this with my kids - it's a great way to get them interested in the environment."



Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) works to protect, manage and conserve Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources and to maximise their sustainability and natural biodiversity. www.fisheriesireland.ie

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 interlinked goals to support a more sustainable future for all. www.sdgs.un.org

