

Role Description

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General information

Title:	Research Services Officer			Classification:	OPS3	
Division:	SARDI	Branch:	Aquatic and Livestock Sciences		Business Unit:	Marine Ecosystems
Type of Appointment:	Term contract	Hours of Duty:	37.5	Location :	West Beach	

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to provide technical and operational support to both field and laboratory operations across the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation, Oceanography and the Marine Biosecurity sub-programs within the Marine Ecosystems Program at SARDI Aquatic Sciences. This role includes some periods of time at sea on a range of research vessels, and laboratory work (e.g. preparing materials for field sampling, processing seagrass samples, processing video footage). A key component will be to assist with a series of tank, and possibly field, experiments to help optimize seagrass restoration techniques.

The role contributes to delivering the agency's [priorities](#) including undertaking research to secure production through efficient and sustainable use of resources, and helping to increase the productivity of our primary industries and adapt to climate change .

The role contributes to delivering scientific research to support the sustainable utilization of marine resources and ecosystems by providing field and laboratory support, including diving, to a range of existing and developing projects.

Key Accountabilities

- Enhances the operational and technical expertise within the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation, Oceanography and Marine Biosecurity Sub-programs by contributing to field surveys/experiments and laboratory work, as well as providing support to other sub-programs and programs as required.
- Works seamlessly within and across teams to help ensure that all program deliverables are met in a timely and effective manner.
- Effectively undertakes work at sea in conditions that may be difficult and strenuous.
- Ensures that field and laboratory activities are undertaken safely, to a high standard, and properly documented.
- Contributes to the management and use of data collected in the field and laboratory.

Key Deliverables / Results

- Scientific support is provided for the successful and timely delivery of research projects.
- Fieldwork is conducted as part of a team. Equipment is maintained, prepared, deployed and retrieved in a safe and efficient manner.
- Laboratory work is undertaken with a high level of attention to detail and in an
- Scientific parameters within projects are defined and standard procedures and methods are applied to the project under limited supervision.
- Opportunities to improve the conduct of field and laboratory operations are identified and discussed with appropriate managers, and new procedures are developed, or existing procedures modified, as required.

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- efficient manner.
- Data are collected, entered, managed, and stored. Simple data analysis may be undertaken, and assistance is provided for managing larger databases. All work is appropriately documented.

Relationships

- Role formally reports to the Sub-program Leader – Environmental Assessment and Mitigation.
- Day to day reporting will be to the sub-program leaders and/or leaders responsible for the field and laboratory work being undertaken.
- Works closely with Laboratory Managers and other technical staff to ensure work is done safely and efficiently.
- Works closely with other members of the Marine Ecosystems Program, and other Programs as required.
- Works closely with the cruise leader and/or skipper and crew of any research/commercial vessel upon which operations are undertaken.

Requirements

- Possession of a current C class driver's license and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required, including extensive periods of time spent at sea on small and large vessels.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.
- Ability to pass an annual occupational diving medical and diving fitness test.
- You acknowledge your [work, health and safety obligations](#) and [our expectations](#)

Qualifications

- Essential: Rescue diver (or higher) certification
- Desirable: Forklift license, Coxswains certificate, ADAS diving certification (or equivalent), relevant tertiary qualification

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates sound professional and technical knowledge in marine sciences and fisheries.	- Demonstrates a good understanding of the fundamental principles underpinning field sampling to facilitate marine ecological and biosecurity research - Ability and desire to spend periods of time at sea/in the field working as part of a team from small and large research and commercial vessels. - Experience with diving under a range of conditions, including ability (training) to rescue self and others if required. - Demonstrated ability to collect, collate and manage data with minimal direct supervision. - Demonstrated laboratory skills relevant to marine science (e.g. processing of samples for molecular analysis, identification of taxonomic

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	samples). - Experience in ensuring compliance with, and the full implementation of, WHS and EO principles in the workplace. - Demonstrated ability to use a wide range of PC applications, including Excel, Word, Access, Outlook and Internet.				
Achievement Orientation Focusing on desired results or goals and readily taking action to achieve first class outcomes and meet deadlines.	Sets and achieves individual goals; manages workload and plans ahead to meet deadlines, accomplishing the results desired.				
Attention to Detail Ensuring that work and or information is complete and accurate; paying attention to detail to ensure work is timely, accurate and reliable.	Pays attention to detail to ensure one's own work is timely, accurate and reliable.				
Planning and organising (work management) Establishing a course of action for self and or others to accomplish specific goals; planning effective, timely work assignments and the appropriate allocation of resources.	Works flexibly and hard to meet deadlines				
HRMS No:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate Approval:	Prof Tim Sutton, Deputy Executive Director, SARDI			Date:	26/11/2025
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	26 November 2025, Kate Gautier, Principal HR Business Partner				