

Role Description

General Information

Title:	Research Officer – Inland Waters (Fish Ecology)			Classification:	PO1
Division:	South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)	Branch:	Aquatic Sciences		Business Unit: Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology
Type of Appointment:	Term	Hours of Duty:	37.5 hours per week	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 scientific support to the Fish Ecology (FE) Sub-program and broader Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology Program (IWCE) to deliver high-quality scientific data and information across government, industry and the community for the conservation, management and rehabilitation of inland waters and estuaries, and related fisheries. The role contributes directly to a range of fish monitoring and research programs projects in the South Australian River Murray, with First Nations engagement a notable component.

The role contributes to delivering the agency's priorities including (1) Increasing productivity of our primary industries and agribusinesses (Stimulating Value Growth); (2) Securing production through biosecurity and efficient and sustainable use of resources (Sustaining the Resource); (3) Growing regions by supporting key regional development drivers and growing opportunities available to our regional communities; (4) Building partnerships with industry, stakeholders, research organisations and regional communities; and (5) preparedness to contribute to PIRSA's response and recovery obligations in emergency situations.

Key Accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to research projects that inform the management of South Australia's inland and estuarine aquatic resources. Undertaking data entry, analysis, and some data interpretation Coordinating and undertaking data management and storage processes and undertaking a range of fieldwork, including on vessels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a central role in First Nations engagement for the IWCE Program Maintaining collaborative working relationships with Branch and project team members and contributing to program and project milestone reporting in a timely manner. Upholding the ethical behaviour and professional integrity standards as contained in the Public Sector Act, 2009. Participating in PIRSA's Performance Management and Development Program. |
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Key Deliverables / Results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting timely delivery of Fish Ecology research projects and reports Undertaking a range of fieldwork and laboratory tasks. Providing high-quality scientific data, analysis and information in relation to the sustainable management of South Australian freshwater dependent ecosystems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking research related data management and storage processes. Conducting Flow-MER First Nations engagement activities and reporting outcomes. <p>Supporting the preparation of research presentations, progress reports and final reports for various agency and community stakeholders.</p> |
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Relationships

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- Role reports to the Fish Ecology Subprogram Leader (IWCE)
- The incumbent will work closely with other staff in the IWCE Science Program.

Requirements

- Regular intra-state and occasional inter-state travel.
- Fieldwork requires extended periods on small vessels.
- Possession of a current driver's licence and willingness to drive.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when [applying for a role](#).
- 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.

Qualifications

Essential:

- tertiary qualification in a field of scientific research (e.g. environmental, zoology).

Desirable:

- Understanding and demonstrated experience in fish ecology research.
- Apply first aid.
- Electrofishing Safety Training certification
- Experience in working with First Nations communities in the southern Murray-Darling Basin.

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates technical knowledge and research ability in fish ecology	• Planning and organising (work management) • Demonstrated understanding of current research and management issues concerning freshwater/estuarine fish and habitats. • Experience in the use of fish sampling techniques (e.g., seine net, fyke net, electrofishing) • Demonstrated ability to independently collect, collate and manage data. • Experience in ensuring compliance with, and the full implementation of OHS&W and EO principles in the workplace.
Achievement Orientation Sets and achieves individual goals; manages workload and plans ahead to meet deadlines, accomplishing the results desired.	• Ability to work independently • Workload management • Working to deadlines
Attention to detail Pays attention to detail to ensure one's own work is timely, accurate and reliable.	• Demonstrates attention to detail
Communication Communicates effectively with a wide range of people, adapting style to match the audience and the situation; communicates complex ideas	• Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to and well received by staff at all levels. • Presents own position and checks individual or group understanding through appropriate questioning and feedback • Shares information freely and is open to receiving information.

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clearly, coherently, fluently and articulately, both verbally and in writing.	
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HRMS No:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate Approval:	Professor Michael Steer, Executive Director SARDI			Date:	16/09/2026
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	Reviewed by HR Business Partner – 11/09/2026				

