Role

General information

Title:	Research Scientist – Community-Based Fisheries			**Classification:**	PO3
Division:	SARDI	**Branch:**	Aquatic Sciences	**Business Unit:**	Fisheries
Type of Appointment:	Term	**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 manage and deliver scientific outcomes relating to the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery and provide scientific support to other projects in the Community-Based Fisheries Sub-Program and the Fisheries Program at SARDI Aquatic Sciences (including externally funded projects, e.g., FRDC funded research programs, recreational fishing surveys). The Community-Based Fisheries Sub-Program undertakes stock assessments and carries out biological and ecological research to meet the information needs of managers charged with responsibility for managing sustainable exploitation and equitable allocation of finfish fisheries resources in South Australia.

The role contributes to delivering high-quality scientific information and advice to facilitate the sustainable management of community-based fishery resources in South Australian waters, through successful and timely delivery of research, publishing stock assessment reports and articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The role contributes to the research assessments and projects overseen by the Community-Based Fisheries Sub-Program. The primary focus of the group is on the population dynamics and fisheries biology of key finfish species. Fishery dependent and biological data are integrated in stock assessments that determine the status of harvested populations. The primary outputs are stock assessment reports that provide the scientific basis for sustainable fisheries management. Scientific findings are published in peer-reviewed reports, and national and international journals. Research findings are also communicated directly to PIRSA fisheries managers, fishery licence holders and national and international scientists through relevant steering committees, meetings and conferences. The role is also responsible for exploring opportunities for external funding to conduct new research projects.

The role contributes delivering the agency's priorities including securing production through biosecurity and efficient and sustainable use of resources.

Key Accountabilities

- Research and stock assessment of Southern Australian fisheries and aquatic resources, and particularly the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery, through fishery-dependent and independent programs is undertaken.
- Scientific advice in relation to the Southern Australian fisheries is provided to resource managers, industry stakeholders and external parties.
- Projects are independently conceived, formulated and conducted. Scientific data are analysed and interpreted. Multiple and complex projects, and key involvement in other major projects, are managed.
- Maintaining a strong working relationship with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and licence holders
in South Australia's community-based fisheries.
- Collaborative linkages with researchers in similar institutions are well-established.
- 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.

Updated on 22 April

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace
Accredited by the Australian Breastfeeding Association
White Ribbon Workplace
Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Role

- Identifying novel research ideas and areas of improvement for community-based fisheries research programs, and other research programs in the Fisheries program.

Key Deliverables / Results

- Fishery research reports are undertaken and delivered.
- High quality scientific information and advice is provided to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in relation to the sustainable management of South Australian fisheries.
- Research presentations are provided to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry stakeholders.
- Outcomes of scientific research are presented both nationally and internationally and published in peer-reviewed journals.
- Opportunities for attracting external funding are identified and pursued.
- Scientific leadership is provided with a high level of professional independence for the successful completion of community-based fisheries research objectives.
- High level fishery analyses are undertaken to support sustainable fisheries management.
- Fieldwork and laboratory work of research projects is led and managed.

Relationships

- Reports to Community-Based Fisheries Sub-Program Leader.
- Develops and maintains relationships with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, industry clients, stakeholder groups, other government departments, other research organisations.
- Works closely with other staff in the Community-Based Fisheries Sub-Program and may also be required to work within other Fisheries sub-programs.
- Participates in working groups or committees as required.

Requirements

- Regular intra-state and occasional inter-state travel.
- Regular work outside normal working hours.
- Possession of a current C class 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).
- May require field trips on research and commercial vessels.
- Willingness to complete additional training as required (e.g. coxswains).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations.
- 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:

- A post-graduate degree in Science with a major in fisheries, zoology or related discipline (or equivalent research experience) is required.

Desirable:

- Coxswain certification or higher
- ADAS commercial dive qualification

Capabilities

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace
Accredited by the Australian Breastfeeding Association
White Ribbon Workplace
Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Role

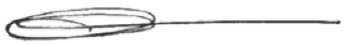
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates expert knowledge in fisheries research. This includes knowledge on the biology and ecology of finfish species with specific knowledge on methods of routine stock assessment for the species. Recognised as a leader in the field.	• Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles underpinning fisheries stock assessment, especially for the Marine Scalefish Fishery, and recreational fishing surveys. • Proven track record in leading and managing research projects, including fieldwork, staff and budgets. • Demonstrated ability to independently collect, collate, manage and analyse data, including publication of findings in technical reports and scientific journals. • Knowledge of South Australian fishery industry issues and research priorities. Understands the broad directions of industry. • Is recognised as knowledgeable in fishery assessment, and acts as a source of information internally and externally.

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace
Accredited by the Australian Breastfeeding Association

Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Role

	• Demonstrates a high level of numerical and statistical skills and a thorough knowledge of a diverse range of PC applications such as Microsoft Office (including Word, Excel, Access, Outlook), SPSS, Sigmaplot, OriginPro and R.
Achievement orientation Sets targets to achieve results; motivates self and others to focused efforts meeting deadlines even when the timeframe is demanding.	• Sets priorities and allocates time and resources accordingly. • Stays motivated by using milestones and feedback to reflect progress. • Develops clear goals for projects and for meetings.
Communication Communicates effectively with a wide range of people, adapting style to match the audience and the situation; communicates complex ideas clearly, coherently, fluently and articulately, both verbally and in writing.	• Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to, and well received by staff at all levels. • Communicates own perspective clearly • Puts complex technical information in a form that is clearly understood and relevant to the audience.
Integrity Consistently behaves in an ethical and professional manner even in difficult situations; demonstrates a high degree of openness and inspires trust and respect; avoids conflict of interest.	• Is open and honest with people in complex situations. • Emphasises trust, honesty and ethical behaviour in all dealings. • Displays commitment to the codes of conduct and values of the organisation.

HRMS No:		**ANZCO Code:**		**Objective ID:**	
Delegate Approval:	Prof. Mike Steer, Executive Director SARDI 			**Date:** **22/04/2026**	

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace
Accredited by the Australian Breastfeeding Association
White Ribbon Workplace
Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Role

Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	20 April 2026, Kate Gautier, Principal HR Business Partner

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace
Accredited by the Australian Breastfeeding Association

Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions