



Applications are invited for the permanent position of

Aquarist 3

The successful candidate will be required to take operational responsibility for assigned exhibits, species, and systems within the aquarium, ensuring high standards of animal welfare, husbandry, and exhibit management at uShaka Sea World, in Durban. The role includes mentoring junior staff and contributing to specialised functional areas under the supervision of the Senior and Lead Aquarists.

The responsibilities will include:

- Take responsibility for the health, welfare, and condition of assigned animals and exhibits, ensuring adherence to established husbandry standards and protocols. Independently perform and oversee advanced husbandry practices, including feeding, enrichment, behavioural monitoring, animal care interventions and required maintenance tasks.
- Monitor, interpret, and respond to animal health and behavioural indicators, escalating concerns where necessary.
- Maintain stable and optimal exhibit conditions, including water quality monitoring, system checks, and first-line troubleshooting of Life Support Systems (LSS) and required maintenance.
- Maintain all allocated areas (including back of house areas).
- Ensure accurate and timely record keeping using the Species360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) database and other operational logs.
- Mentor and guide junior staff (e.g., Aquarist levels 1 and 2, divers, etc.), supporting skills development and ensuring compliance with SOPs.
- Assist with the coordination of daily operational activities within assigned areas, including task allocation and workflow management, as well as stepping in to cover work areas in the absence of other team members when required.
- Contribute to and develop expertise in a specialised functional area within Curatorial, such as:
 - Quarantine and biosecurity
 - Live food and fish culture
 - Animal nutrition and diet management
 - Dive coordination
 - Life Support System (LSS) operations
 - Research and development
- Participate in animal collections, transfers, quarantine procedures, and rehabilitation programmes where required.
- Lead or contribute to small-scale projects, including exhibit design, enrichment initiatives, and operational efficiencies.
- Ensure compliance with all safety, animal welfare, and biosecurity standards.
- Work flexible hours, including weekends and public holidays, and participate in standby or after-hours duties where required

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (RF) NPC

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Registration No. 1951/000002/08 | Public Benefit Organisation No. 930025295 | Non-Profit Organisation No. 000-347 NPO

SAAMBR is a Non-Profit Company and a member of: IUCN (World Conservation Union) and WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums)

Accredited member of AAWHC (African Association for Wildlife in Human Care)

ORI is academically affiliated with the University of KwaZulu-Natal

The following will be required of the successful applicant:

- Matric certificate or equivalent.
- Relevant tertiary qualification (Marine biology, Zoology, Aquaculture, or related field).
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in an aquarium or similar animal care environment.
- Demonstrated competency in animal husbandry, water quality management, and exhibit maintenance.
- Experience working with Life Support Systems (LSS) and aquatic systems.
- Proven ability to work independently and take ownership of operational areas.
- Experience in mentoring or guiding junior staff.
- Competent swimmer
- Class IV, V or VI Commercial Dive qualification. (Registered commercial dive supervisor will be advantageous).
- Computer literacy, including experience with ZIMS or similar animal record systems.
- Valid driver's license. (An EB license will be advantageous).
- A motivated individual with strong communication skills (English required; isiZulu advantageous).
- Physically fit and able to perform manual and operational duties associated with the role.
- Willingness to receive required vaccinations due to occupational exposure risks.

Submit your Curriculum Vitae and letter of motivation by either:

- E-mail: recruitment@saambr.org.za
- Hand Delivery: The South African Association for Marine Biological Research 1 King Shaka Avenue, Durban

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 20 August 2026

Appointments will be made in line with SAAMBR's employment equity requirements. In line with the Protection of Personal Information Act, all personal information submitted as part of your application will be used solely for recruitment purposes and handled in a lawful, responsible, and confidential manner. SAAMBR reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Only potential short-list candidates will be contacted. Should you not have heard from us by **25 September 2026**, please consider your application unsuccessful.