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MSc opportunity: Studying reef fish connectivity in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park

An MSc opportunity is available for a motivated student at the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) in Durban, to study reef fish movement behaviour. A two-year student bursary is available through the ACEP funded CAPTOR project <https://www.saambr.org.za/the-captor-project/>. The project will use archived acoustic telemetry data to investigate the spatial ecology and connectivity of two ecologically important reef fish species namely green jobfish (*Aprion virescens*) and potato bass (*Epinephelus tukula*) in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The aim of the project will be to investigate the extent of movement and connectivity between different management zones within the marine protected area (MPA) as well as to determine the extent of movements outside of the MPA.

Applicants should have a passion for fish and the marine environment (either from a fishing or diving background) and must have a BSc (Hons) in biological or environmental sciences. The successful applicant will need to have a strong academic record, including excellent writing and communication skills, and be willing to work independently. The applicant must have a willingness to learn and importantly be able to use R for the data analysis. The student will not necessarily have to be based at ORI and can be registered through any South African University. The MSc is open to South African citizens only.

If you are interested in applying please submit (1) a cover letter, detailing your relevant experience and research interests, as well as your interest in this project; (2) your CV with academic achievements and the names of two references; (3) a copy of your ID; and (4) a copy of your honours dissertation to Dr Bruce Mann (bruce@ori.org.za) and Dr Ryan Daly (rdaly@ori.org.za).

The deadline for applications is the 29 February 2020.

If you have not been contacted within a month of the deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful.

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (RF) NPC

1 King Shaka Avenue, Point, Durban, 4001, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

P. O. Box 10712, Marine Parade, 4056, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Tel: +27 31 328 8222. Fax: +27 31 328 8188. Email: info@saambr.org.za

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

Accredited member of PAAZA (Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria)

ORI is academically affiliated to the University of KwaZulu-Natal

