

Exciting short-term seaweed research project

The Bivalve Shellfish Association of South Africa (BSASA) are looking for suitably experienced consultants to assist with a four-month project, from December 2021 to March 2022, to synthesise and collate baseline data to inform the understanding of the potential to commercially cultivate seaweed (focus on African kelp) along the Southern Africa's West Coast. The scope of the work entails the following:

- a) Co-ordination and collation of relevant reports, outputs and monthly progress reports.
- b) Focused stakeholder engagement with key specialist and value -chain stakeholders to inform commercial, community and sustainable production as well as
- c) Collaborate with relevant Scientists and DFFE staff to assess potential link with other aquaculture activities in the Saldanha Bay (using African kelp as an Integrative Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) platform to improve aquaculture sustainability by applying a 'circular' use of waste for more efficient economically and eco-friendly production for aquaculture farmers. This will entail the review and synthesis of existing data and other desk-top research to understand opportunities for sea-based aquaculture. This would include:
 - a. Mapping area available for commercial production in Saldanha Bay (based on environmental conditions and approved lease sites)
 - b. Model how much kelp might be produced (based on basic nutrient calculations) and how much nutrients could be removed.
- d) Offshore GIS satellite study of the available offshore area for kelp cultivation using existing shapefiles/data available.
- e) An enterprise-development desktop study (and combine this in liaison with stakeholder workshops and engagements) to map the inputs needed for commercial kelp cultivation, constraints, market potential and value- chain opportunities. Including: Mapping the requirements for a seaweed product development value chain.

Key requirements:

- a) Availability to delivery outputs within tight timeframe, between January and March 2022
- b) Team with qualification (Masters and higher) and experience (case studies and references) in marine biology, aquaculture, GIS and enterprise-development (feasibility and market assessments).

Please send you interest, qualifications and experience to deidre@vikingaquaculture.co.za by the 30th of November 2021. Further information can be requested from Deidre.

Research Assistants

Additionally, the Bivalve Shellfish Association of South Africa (BSASA) requires one or two Research Assistants to assist with the following aspects of the project between 1st of December 2021 – 31st of March 2022:

To assist with storage and maintenance of (gametophyte) cultures at an Abalone farm in Buffeljags, Western Cape and Marine Research Aquarium at Sea Point, Western Cape. This will entail:

- i) Literature review of available resources
- ii) Sporulation of seed stock
- iii Maintenance of gametophyte cultures
- iv) Production of sporophytes by rope seeding

Key requirements:

- a) Availability during the period stipulated
- b) Honours in Marine Biology/Aquaculture or related field
- c) Any experience with seaweed would be beneficial but not a requirement.

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