

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is a Section 3(a) public entity under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) and is governed by a Board. The organisation is an authoritative voice for weather and climate related services in South Africa and is a member of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to fulfil a range of international obligations of the government. South African Weather Service (SAWS) strives to be a Weather and Climate Centre of Excellence providing innovative solutions to ensure a weather-smart region, sustainable development and economic growth.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is therefore seeking to appoint an efficient and enthusiastic person to undertake the role of:

Senior Forecaster: Marine

Paterson Grade: D1

Salary: R541 726 - R764 406

Centre: Cape Town

(Ref: WS07/052026)

Job summary

South Africa has one of the world's longest coastlines, with a vast number of people residing near the ocean. Our oceans support our economy and form an important part of the culture and heritage of millions of South Africans. The South African Weather Service seeks a Senior Marine Forecaster to join its team based in Cape Town. In addition to the normal range of competencies and experience required of a professional weather forecaster, this candidate should be passionate about championing Marine forecasting at SAWS, with a view to enhancing safety and efficiency along our coast and in our oceans. The Senior Marine Forecaster is responsible for the generation, dissemination and general oversight of Marine weather forecasts and warnings of various kinds in METAREA VII. He/she would be expected to enhance institutional understanding of marine stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of forecast information. Complementary responsibilities include those of Met-Area Coordinator and assisting the Regional Training Centre to implement training and assessment in line with World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) requirements.

Key Performance Areas

Forecasting and Warning Services

- Generate, manage, quality-control and disseminate marine weather forecasts and severe weather warnings according to pre-determined schedules, for both public-good and commercial purposes.
- Provide guidance marine forecasts to coastal regional offices.
- Participate in daily forecasting discussions.
- Ensure that all marine forecasts and severe weather warnings are disseminated via authorized communication channels to user groups.
- Communicate and explain marine weather forecasts and severe weather warnings as required, using authorized SAWS communication platforms.
- Collaborate with Marine Research Unit to monitor, improve and fully leverage marine observation and forecasting systems.

Customer Relations

- Willingness to develop robust understanding of marine stakeholders; their operations, sensitivities and requirements; in order to assist in delivering fit-for-purpose services.
- Liaise with public and commercial clients and ensure that customer communication is carried out effectively.
- Represent SAWS at stakeholder meetings.
- Promote the awareness of marine SAWS products and services to relevant stakeholders.

General Administration

- Monitor marine forecasting targets according to the organizational Annual Performance Plan to ensure they are met.
- Perform routine office administration including periodic reporting leave processing and attendance register administration.

Training, Development and Knowledge Management

- Assist in all training activities related to marine weather forecasting within the Marine Centre office and coastal regional offices.

- Assist in the implementation of marine competency assessments as per WMO requirements.
- Provide mentorship and training to junior personnel.
- Conduct case studies and marine related research to enhance the accuracy and quality of the products and services offered.

Total Quality Management

- Apply prevention and corrective action procedures on all findings related to the office.
- Promote a culture of attention to detail and high-quality work amongst the staff.
- Promote and integrate the SAWS Quality Policy into the office's day-to-day activities.
- Assist with office audits as required.
- Perform regular inspections to ensure all work done is according to documented requirements.
- Ensure that the work environment complies with legislative requirements in relation to Occupational Health and Safety.

Minimum Requirements

Education and Experience

- BSc Meteorology with Honours or equivalent qualification that meets the Basic Instruction Package for Meteorologists (BIP-M).
- Postgraduate certificate in weather forecasting for candidates that have graduated from 2011.
- 5 years of operational weather forecasting experience.

Technical Competencies

- Ability to analyse, interpret and communicate observed data products such as weather charts, surface observations, upper air observations, satellite and radar imagery and visualisations of relevant measured data.
- Ability to analyse, interpret and communicate modelled data products from Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) systems.
- Comprehensive understanding of Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF) and willingness to assist in continuous review and improvement of Marine IBF, based on user feedback.
- Robust understanding of SAWS marine observation and modelling capabilities (forecast/hindcast) and the SAWS Marine Portal.

- Robust understanding of supporting operational NWP activities at SAWS.
- Familiarity with relevant marine observation and modelling information among broader earth science community.
- Understanding of social and physical factors affecting vulnerabilities to marine weather at local and regional scales (e.g., demographics, socio-economic activity, geography).

Behavioural Competencies

- Critical thinking
- Conflict management
- Emotional intelligence
- Public speaking
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal).
- Ability to work well under pressure.
- A valid Code EB or Code 08 driver's license (without endorsements).

Please Note:

Register as user on our website using this link: <https://www.weathersa.co.za/home/vacancies> to apply for the above position and upload your (Comprehensive CV with certified copies of qualifications).

Enquiries for the above-mentioned positions must be directed to: Ms. Portia Takalani, at Tel. (012) 367 6148.

Closing Date: 03 June 2026

Preference will be given to People living with disabilities in line with SAWS EE targets. This is an EE position and preference will be given to females, Africans, Indians and Coloureds (AIC). Correspondence will be limited to short listed candidates only. Candidates who have not been contacted within 3 months after the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. The South African Weather Service is an equal opportunity employer.



Record Reference	HCM-ADVERT-
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