



Applications are invited for the permanent position of

Senior Animal Care Specialist

The South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) is a marine conservation organisation based at uShaka Marine World in Durban. We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced animal care professional to play a key role in leading and supervising operational animal care activities for our marine mammals and seabirds, including behavioural husbandry programmes, staff development, animal welfare and wellbeing, and daily operational coordination.

The responsibilities will include:

- Supervising and coordinating daily animal care operations and staffing.
- Leading behavioural husbandry, enrichment, and welfare implementation activities.
- Mentoring, training, and evaluating junior staff and practitioners.
- Supporting management with operational planning and KPI implementation.
- Assisting with welfare assessments, animal management plans, and medical conditioning programmes.
- Monitoring operational performance, welfare indicators, and environmental conditions.
- Supporting conservation messaging, media opportunities, and stakeholder engagement.
- Maintaining departmental records, reports, and operational documentation.
- Participating in guest-facing interactions, including presentations to large audiences.

The following will be required of the successful applicant:

- At least a matric certificate or equivalent, with a relevant tertiary qualification being preferred.
- At least 5 years' relevant experience, showing advanced behavioural husbandry and welfare competency.
- Demonstrated leadership and operational coordination experience.
- Strong operational coordination capability.
- Experience with staff supervision and performance support.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Computer literacy including reporting and database systems.
- Valid Code B driver's license.
- Ability to meet the physical requirements of the role, including being able to swim confidently and complete a prescribed swim test, lift and handle equipment weighing a minimum of 25 kg, and able to move quickly and efficiently when required.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and public holidays.

Advantageous:

- Experience in marine mammal and/or bird care within an aquarium, zoological, conservation or similar environment.
- Ability to communicate in an additional language.
- Class IV or V Commercial Diving registration.

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (RF) NPC

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Registration No. 1951/00002/08 | 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

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 24 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 **23 September 2026**, please consider your application unsuccessful.