

SGC-006a

Job Description

SAERI (Falklands) Limited (SFL)



Job Title:	Seabird and Marine Mammal Observer (SMMO)		
Department:	Environmental Monitoring		
Reports to:	Senior SMMO; Marine Programme Manager		
Level:	D1	Salary Range:	£37,601 + £50/day seagoing
Probation?	Yes ☒ No ☐	Period	6 months

Job Purpose (Succinctly summarise the reason for the role)

This is an exciting opportunity for two Seabird and Marine Mammal Observers (SMMOs) to join a dedicated offshore monitoring programme within SAERI (Falklands) Limited (SFL), the consultancy arm of the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). The programme will collect high-quality information on the distribution, abundance and behaviour of seabirds and marine mammals to support environmental monitoring associated with offshore hydrocarbon development and exploration in the Falkland Islands, including commitments under the Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan (EMMP) for the Sea Lion Field development.

Working under the guidance of the Senior SMMO / Training Coordinator, the successful candidates will undertake offshore seabird and marine mammal observations using internationally recognised European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) methodologies. Applicants will be qualified SMMOs with current JNCC-accredited ESAS Surveyor accreditation and the skills and experience required to undertake professional offshore survey work.

The Senior SMMO will provide programme coordination, quality assurance, standardisation and ongoing mentoring and professional development. The SMMOs will also contribute to the longer-term objective of developing local capacity for seabird and marine mammal observation in the Falkland Islands.

Job Facts & Figures

These are two two-year full-time positions with SFL, subject to programme review. The programme is intended to commence as soon as practicable to establish contemporary baseline and monitoring data ahead of and during increasing offshore hydrocarbon development activity in the North Falkland Basin.

Observers will undertake deployments aboard a range of offshore vessels operating in Falkland Islands waters. Significant periods at sea will be a core requirement of the posts.

The successful candidates will:

- maintain and further develop high standards of seabird and marine mammal identification;
- undertake ESAS-standard offshore surveys in accordance with programme protocols and maintain the competencies required for professional SMMO deployment;
- collect and quality-check data for a long-term environmental monitoring dataset; and
- work professionally with SFL staff, vessel crews, hydrocarbon industry clients and environmental stakeholders.
- The positions will report to the Senior SMMO and will be line managed by SFL.

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Main Accountabilities:

The successful candidates will undertake the following:

- Conduct systematic seabird and marine mammal observations at sea using ESAS survey protocols and agreed programme Standard Operating Procedures.
- Accurately record survey effort, species, abundance, behaviour, flight direction, vessel associations and relevant environmental conditions.
- Participate in programme induction, standardisation exercises, refresher training and ongoing professional development to ensure consistency of survey methods and data quality across observers and deployments.
- Develop reliable identification skills for Falkland Islands and wider South Atlantic seabirds and marine mammals, including migratory and non-breeding species encountered offshore.
- Enter, check and manage survey data in accordance with agreed data management and QA/QC procedures.
- Maintain binoculars, cameras, electronic recording equipment and other survey equipment in good working order.
- Prepare daily survey records and assist with routine technical summaries and reports supporting hydrocarbon environmental monitoring and EMMP requirements.
- Work constructively with vessel masters and crews and comply with all vessel and offshore health and safety requirements.
- Undertake deployments aboard a range of offshore vessels supporting hydrocarbon development and associated environmental monitoring.
- Contribute to programme review, refinement of methods and development of local SMMO capability.

The job description is not an exclusive or exhaustive definition of the duties attached to this post. The successful incumbent shall undertake such additional or other duties as may reasonably be required by their line manager commensurate with the position.

Additional Information:

SAERI (Falklands) Ltd (SFL) is a 100% owned subsidiary of the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). Its clients include local and international governments, industries, and others through carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environmental Baseline Surveys, Environment Baseline Description, Risk Assessments, applied fisheries science; fisheries management advice and stock assessments.

SFL offers a dynamic working environment with opportunities to develop exciting consulting opportunities and collaborations locally and internationally in what is considered to be a scientific 'frontier' region.

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Person Specification:			
Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Education and Training:			
Degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent relevant professional experience	X		A
Relevant offshore safety and medical certification, or willingness and ability to obtain these	X		A/I
Current JNCC-accredited ESAS Surveyor accreditation	X		A/I
Appropriate personal sea survival certification	X		A/I

Knowledge, Skills and Experience:	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Demonstrated experience undertaking ESAS or equivalent systematic offshore seabird surveys	X		A/I
Strong seabird identification skills, including pelagic species	X		A/I
Good computer literacy and demonstrated competence in accurately recording, entering and managing field data	X		A/I
Knowledge of ESAS survey methods and the five core competency areas: bird identification, visual acuity, application of methods, recording stamina and navigation	X		A/I
Familiarity with Falkland Islands and South Atlantic seabirds and marine mammals		X	A/I
Experience using binoculars, GPS, cameras and electronic field-recording equipment	X		A/I

Person Specification:			
Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Personal Attributes:			
Ability and willingness to undertake regular and extended offshore deployments	X X		I/R I/R
Ability to work well in a small team and live and work aboard vessels	X		I/R
Strong observational skills and attention to detail	X		I/R
Enthusiasm for learning and developing new identification and survey skills	X		I/R

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Resourceful, adaptable and able to work independently in remote offshore environments	X		I/R
Familiarity with the Falkland Islands environment		X	I/R
Commitment to health, safety and professional conduct offshore	X		I/R

Method of assessment:

A - Application Form

I - Selection Interview

R – Reference

P - Presentation