

- **PDRA in Active Acoustic Monitoring of Offshore Wind Ecosystem Effects**

- SAMS Oban
- Contract type - Fixed Term – 28 months
- Full Time – 37 hrs per week, Mon-Fri
- Closing date: 3 August 2026

Salary range: Grade 5 /Grade 6 £32,546.00 - £38,249.00 per annum

Company

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is an equal opportunity employer; we welcome applications from people with disabilities. We value the diversity of the people we hire and serve.

Diversity at SAMS means fostering a workplace in which individual differences are recognised, appreciated and respected, as well as responded to in ways that fully develop and utilise each person's talents and strengths.

Job Description

- Your main responsibilities will be:
- **Conduct research** including:
- Lead design, development and application of processing techniques for active acoustic data from multi-frequency echosounders on autonomous landers and ships to discriminate large

zooplankton, individual fish and schools, including investigating differences between species groups.

- Investigate the mechanisms affecting prey fish presence and behaviour around offshore wind farms using coincident biophysical measurements.
- Contribute to the design and data collection of multi-platform and ship field campaigns, with responsibility for survey design, data collection and equipment.
- **Contribute to wider projects** investigating environmental interactions of offshore renewable energy and advanced monitoring systems. 70%
- **Present and discuss findings** at project partner meetings as well as national and international conferences. Build new collaborations. 5%
- **Develop a publication strategy**, and publish findings in high impact peer-reviewed journals. Assist the Principal Investigator (PI) with areas of enterprise and income-generating activity to support projects and your career development. 25%
- **Contribute to SAMS education activities**, including supervision and/or lecturing of post-graduate and undergraduate students. (where opportunities arise)

Requirements and Qualifications

- PhD (or equivalent) in relevant subject (marine or environmental science, acoustics, quantitative ecology, engineering, physics, applied mathematics, oceanography etc.).
- A strong background in data analysis and statistics (e.g., R, MATLAB or Python).
Experience with predictive modelling techniques is an advantage for interpretation of results and design of future large-scale distributed and coordinated monitoring campaigns.
- An interest in the oceanographic and ecosystem effects of large-scale marine anthropogenic structures and predator-prey interactions – processing oceanographic and ADCP data is an advantage.
- Experience processing echograms into data products, e.g., school detection, quantifying scattering layers, echometrics, fish tracking and

single-echo detection is beneficial – experience with broadband data, and using Echoview or alternatives such as Matecho, Echotype, ESP3 or LSSS is an advantage.

- Experience with echosounder survey design, equipment preparation, data collection and calibration is beneficial – experience with moored echosounders is an advantage.

- **Dimensions – Scope of role**

- Conduct research to support projects on the environmental interactions of marine renewables, completing project deliverables and identifying new research opportunities.
- Lead-author two 3*/4* publications and others as a co-author over the project cycles.
- Contribute to new research grant proposals, led by PI and in collaboration with wider networks.
- Take ownership of your career trajectory, seeking support from your line manager.
- Support research elements of wider projects with the PI, where time allows.
- Represent SAMS at national/international conferences and workshops.
- Co-supervise interns and student projects, where required.

- **Our Ideal Candidate**

- The candidate will lead processing of echosounder datasets, including school detection, quantifying scattering layers, echometrics, fish tracking and single-echo detection, and have experience in data analysis and statistics. Experience with predictive modelling is an advantage for interpretation of results and design of future large-scale distributed and coordinated monitoring campaigns.
- The candidate will have a PhD (or equivalent) in relevant subject (marine or environmental science, acoustics, quantitative ecology, engineering, physics, applied mathematics, oceanography etc.) and research experience to support publishing and disseminating results. An interest in oceanographic and ecosystem effects of large-scale marine anthropogenic structures and predator-prey interactions is beneficial, and

experience processing oceanographic and ADCP/CTD data is an advantage.

- There are opportunities for new data collection. Experience with echosounder survey design, equipment preparation, data collection and calibration, particularly with moored echosounders is beneficial. A proactive approach to health and safety is essential, along with the ability to contribute to a positive safety culture. Excellent communication skills and attention to detail are also key, ensuring effective collaboration across projects and with external partners.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted to recruitment@sams.ac.uk by 3 August 2026.

Interviews will be held week commencing 10 August 2026.

(Job Ref No: D12/26.BW

(Scottish Association for Marine Science)

(SAMS, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA)

(01631 559000)

(recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

([Vacancies — Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban UK](#))

Attention: (SAMS People team)