

# PDRA in Marine Mammal Ecology

- Location: SAMS site, Dunbeg, near Oban
- Hours of work: 37 hours per week
- Salary range: Grade 5/6 (depending on experience); Grade 5: £31,396 - £34,980. Grade 6: £37,099 - £41,732 per annum
- Contract type: Fixed Term – approximately 3 years

## 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:

- Prepare equipment for and undertake fieldwork – prepare passive acoustic moorings, drifting and towed hydrophone arrays. Deployment and recovery of acoustic moorings, conducting visual and acoustic surveys using towed or drifting arrays, as well as marine mammal photo-ID surveys.

- Support SAMS Marine Mammals Research Team with equipment maintenance, data storage and long-term data curation.
- Use programming (e.g., R, Python, MATLAB), GIS skills and statistical modelling proficiency (e.g., habitat and species distribution modelling and/or population impact modelling) for complex data analyses in support of multi-disciplinary research projects.
- Model species distribution and habitat preferences using passive acoustic and/or visual data to support Marine Protected Area (MPA) monitoring and species conservation.
- Plan and write scientific reports, papers and policy briefs.
- Apply understanding of impacts on marine mammals, for example from fisheries, aquaculture and underwater noise (e.g., from shipping or the marine energy sector) in the context of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) processes.
- Demonstrate and further develop knowledge of the ongoing national and international regulatory and technical developments with regards to PAM, MPAs, underwater noise and fisheries management.
- Support SAMS Marine Mammals Research Team in the tendering process for commercial projects, and deliver advice and research outputs to developers, consultancies and government agencies relating to the various life stages of offshore developments.
- Comply with quality management in the SAMS delivery team to ensure compliance with ISO9001 standard.
- Be pro-active in the application and development of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures.

# Requirements and Qualifications

- PhD with focus on marine mammals, bioacoustics and/or species distribution modelling.
- Technical knowledge and expertise in assessing impacts to marine megafauna from industrial sectors such as marine energy, fisheries or aquaculture.
- Technical knowledge and demonstrated practical experience undertaking EIA/HRA impact assessments.
- ENG1 and PST certificates (or equivalent/higher).
- • Good understanding and application of project management principles, including the different components required to ensure successful delivery (e.g., some knowledge of costing/estimating, finance and time management).

## **Relevant experience:**

- Evidence of scientific publications and experience sharing knowledge in reports, workshops and at conferences.
- Statistical analysis experience for various data types and long-term data sets.
- Experience with species distribution/habitat and population impact modelling (e.g. GAMs, BRTs, iPCoD, DEPONS etc).
- Experience with analysis of photo-ID data.
- Experience with data quality control and data validation processes.
- Experience in offshore vessel-based survey organisation, execution and management (particularly relating to deployment and retrieval of PAM equipment).

- Experience operating and maintaining passive acoustic monitoring equipment (e.g., Soundtraps, RTSYS EA-SDA14 & Sylence, C-/F-PODS).
- Experience with mooring design and acoustic mooring preparation, including use of acoustic release mechanisms.
- Good knowledge, experience and practice of project management to successfully deliver technically complex commercial contracts and projects.
- • Demonstrated previous experience of successful project delivery and the ability to apply that experience in research and commercial projects.

### **General skills:**

- Ability to analyse complex temporal and spatial, visual/acoustic datasets.
- Expertise in acoustic data analysis for marine mammals (e.g., PAMGuard, C-POD/F-POD.exe) and underwater sound (e.g., PAMGuide, MATLAB, MANTA).
- Expertise using standard programming languages (e.g., R, Python, MATLAB) and GIS software (e.g., QGIS).
- Expertise in acoustic data analysis using other acoustic analysis software (e.g., Raven, AviSoft).
- The ability to progress and deliver multiple research and commercial projects concurrently.

## **How to Apply**

Applications may be submitted by e-mail, handed in to our reception team or by postal mail no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025.

Interviews will be held shortly after the closing date.

(Job Ref No: D10/25.DR)

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

Attention: (SAMS HR team)