



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Blue Marine Conservation Placement
TEAM:	Conservation and Fisheries
REPORTS TO:	Marine Conservation Team Leader
JOB PURPOSE:	To work with the Marine Conservation Team to deliver the objectives of the Ascension Island Marine Protected Area (MPA). In particular, to deliver the MPA workplan, and MPA Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Strategy and Public Engagement Strategy.

MAIN DUTIES:

- Conduct abundance, age, growth, reproductive and diet studies on marine species around Ascension Island, in particular for commercial or recreationally fished species.
- Monitor Ascension Island's marine environment using research methods set out in the MPA Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Strategy.
- Input data into databases and carry out quality assurance of data holdings.
- Collaborate with external researchers and assist in other marine projects that deliver the objectives of the MPA Management Plan.
- Assist with the preparation of reports and presentations for donors, project partners and non-specialist audiences.
- Assist with the management of the Marine/Fisheries Laboratory at the Conservation Centre in Georgetown; ensuring that it is clean, well-stocked and services the project efficiently.
- Assist with the management and maintenance of the survey boats, scientific equipment, dive equipment and facilities; this includes a compressor, cylinders, regulators and BCDs.
- Initiate and take part in engagement activities with the island community and school to build awareness of, and support for, marine conservation and responsible resource use.
- Publicise the MPA and the work of the AIG Marine Team through delivery of the MPA Public Engagement Strategy.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To undertake the main duties of the post (detailed above) to the highest possible standard.
- Work closely with other on-Island team members, and other stakeholders to complete the main duties of the post and towards a sustainable programme for marine research and conservation on Ascension Island.
- Comply with Health and Safety at Work procedures.
- To abide by the AIGCFD data management policy with regards to responsible archiving and documentation of scientific datasets.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Knowledge, skills, experience and personal attributes

Essential

- A sound knowledge of marine conservation and fisheries biology.
- Post-16 education including study of biology or environmental sciences.
- An advanced SCUBA qualification (PADI Rescue Diver or equivalent), with significant diving experience (ideally 100+ logged dives) and an excellent awareness of dive safety (Note: Ascension Island has no re-compression chamber so responsible and conservative diving is of paramount importance)
- A clean, valid driving licence.
- A good level of physical fitness and be able to work for short periods at sea, in sometimes challenging conditions.
- Must be numerate and computer literate, with a sound knowledge of Microsoft Office applications (Access, Excel, Word)
- Good interpersonal skills with a proven ability to work effectively in a small team.
- The successful candidate will be self-motivated, happy working both independently and in a team setting, and willing to sometimes work extended hours (often at weekends) and on projects outside of core duties if required. Flexi-time is available.

Desirable

- Experience in conducting underwater surveys (fish and invertebrates), and/or tagging of marine species
- A powerboat handling qualification and experience of handling RIBs at sea.
- Experience of living and working on conservation issues in small and remote communities and/or on small islands.

This Job Description indicates the main duties and responsibilities of the post. It is not intended as an exhaustive list.

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) reserves the right to amend this Job Description from time to time according to operational needs. Any changes will be discussed with you and confirmed in writing. Please note that you share with AIG the responsibility for making suggestions to alter the scope of your duties and improve the effectiveness of your post.

Updated: April 2021