



INCORPORATING



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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Professional Development Programme (PDP) position at the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban

Position:

The Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) hereby invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of a Doctoral (PhD) student. The position will be funded by the PDP programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF). Appointments will be for one year, renewable for subsequent years (up to three years) depending on funds and progress.

Project description:

A project to study larval connectivity patterns and genetic diversity of shallow water spiny lobster *Panulirus homarus rubellus* in the South West Indian Ocean region is available. The project will rely on a suite of molecular markers to investigate the influence of oceanographic features on larval dispersal pathways and genetic connectivity at ocean-wide (South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar) and local scales. Settlement patterns at a local scale will be investigated through collection and sequencing of drifting larvae in the vicinity of reefs with adult lobster populations. Models of water movements (currents, eddies) to simulate larval dispersal patterns and predict population structure will be developed. This is a challenging project, expected to take at least 3 years.

The successful candidate will be hosted by ORI, and will register for a PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The candidate will be supervised by Prof Johan Groeneveld (ORI) and co-supervised by genetics experts at UKZN and Stellenbosch University.

Qualifications:

The successful PhD candidate will hold an MSc degree in biological sciences, and have a strong background in using genetic analyses to assess population diversity, structure and connectivity. The candidate must be a South African citizen.

Applications:

If you meet the requirements and would like to apply for this PDP position, submit your Curriculum Vitae, details of at least two referees and a covering letter of motivation to the Oceanographic Research Institute, by either:

- e-mail: jgroeneveld@ori.org.za
- Fax: (031) 3288188
- Hand delivery: Prof Johan Groeneveld, South African Association for Marine Biological Research,
1 King Shaka Avenue, Point, Durban

Enquiries can be made telephonically to (031) 3288180 (office hours) or through email.

ORI reserves the right not to make an appointment to the position as advertised.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2014

Should you not have heard from us by **30 April 2014**, please consider your application unsuccessful.