

Research Fellow (Elasmobranch Species Distribution)



Role Description

GRADE Grade 5
LOCATION Sighthill, Edinburgh
LINE MANAGER James Thorburn

Role Summary

The Research Fellow will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the SharkScape project. SharkScape is a three-year, multi-institute initiative that aims to advance understanding of the distribution and sensitivities of priority elasmobranch species in Scottish waters. The project adopts a participatory approach to collect data that will help inform conservation and management efforts for these critical species. The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will play a central role in delivering the objectives of the SharkScape project, which include compiling and assessing existing data, conducting targeted research to address knowledge gaps, and producing outputs to support conservation management.

Line Management Responsibility for:

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently



Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research and Scholarship

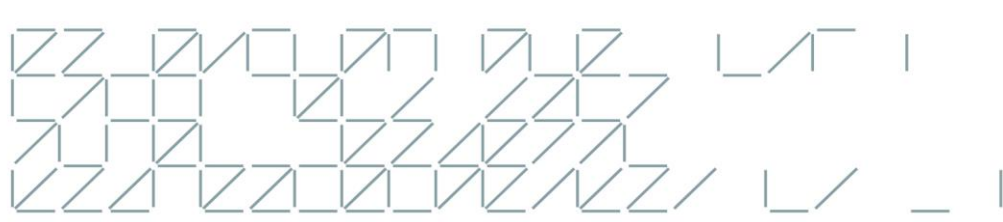
- Lead data collation and analysis to assess the current state of knowledge on priority elasmobranch species, identifying knowledge gaps and synthesising findings into actionable insights.
- Design and implement field and analytical research programs targeting key gaps in species distribution, biology, and sensitivity to anthropogenic activities.
- Contribute to a comprehensive geospatial database of elasmobranch species distribution and associated sensitivities.
- Lead the preparation of high-impact, open-access peer-reviewed publications and project reports.
- Disseminate results to academic/research/industry/governmental audiences

Project Management:

- Coordinate the delivery of SharkScape’s interconnected work packages across project stages, ensuring alignment with the overarching research objectives. This will include liaising with colleagues from across the SharkScape consortia.
- Manage stakeholder engagement activities to ensure meaningful collaboration with partners, including national governments, offshore industries, and conservation groups.
- Prepare progress reports and project documentation for funders and partners, ensuring timely and accurate communication of project outcomes.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education / Qualifications		
• PhD degree in a relevant subject	✓	
• Master’s degree or equivalent professional experience in a relevant subject		✓
• Home Office Personal License training with experience in PIL Categories A, B and C		✓



Skills / Experience

- Demonstrated experience in conducting interdisciplinary research in the marine environment, preferably with elasmobranch species or other marine vertebrates. ✓
 - Strong quantitative skills, including geospatial data analysis, statistical modelling, and/or ecological modelling. ✓
 - Excellent written and oral communication skills, including experience publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting at conferences. ✓
 - Excellent organisation, prioritisation and time management skills. ✓
 - Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to work in a team and on own initiative. ✓
 - A proactive and collaborative approach to engaging with diverse stakeholders. ✓
 - A full UK driving license ✓
 - Proven project management experience, with the ability to deliver complex projects involving multiple stakeholders. ✓
 - Familiarity with marine policy frameworks such as Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy or OSPAR initiatives. ✓
 - Experience in participatory research or cross-sectoral collaborations. ✓
 - Experience working under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. ✓
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