

SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS

NEWSLETTER – September 2007

1. Feedback from the AGM

The AGM was attended by 10 members and 2 prospective members in Pietermaritzburg on the 20th August. Topics of discussion included membership and defaulters in particular, the Journal, Congresses and the way forward, particularly with the handover to a new Exco in 2008. Thanks to Chris Dickens for providing a venue at the Institute for Natural Resources.

It was decided to send defaulters a friendly reminder to settle outstanding accounts and to implement a payment deadline for future subs payments. It was also noted that the Treasurer receives payments from institutions which do not identify the members they are paying for. The Society pays for the Journal subscriptions in advance and it costs the Society if members do not settle their accounts.

The Editor will ask NISC to submit a list of titles for each new issue of the Journal and this will be included in the newsletter. Details of a discount on page charges for members publishing in the Journal are given below.

Chris Dickens and Guy Bate have undertaken to investigate a congress in the KZN Midlands or Drakensberg for mid 2008.

2. Subscriptions for 2008

Nisc have given notice of their 2008 fee for online Journal subscriptions for Society members (R240 for all categories), and together with the Society's Membership (R25), brings the annual subscription to R265 for next year. *Bona fide* students may still apply to the Exco for a substantially discounted membership fee, including online access to the Journal.

We are aligning our subscriptions with our payment to NISC by sending out accounts for 2008 in November. This is so that we can send a list of paid up members to NISC at the beginning of each year. Members who have not yet paid for 2007 can include that payment (and/or other outstanding payments) together with the payment for 2008. Although the Exco regrets the inconvenience of being billed twice in the same year, it will simplify the

administration of the Society's accounts, especially as the Society has already paid NISC on behalf of members with outstanding fees. The President will be writing to those with outstanding subscriptions in this regard.

3. Publishing discount

From Michelle Weyl (NISC): Discounted page charges for subscribers.

All pre-existing fully paid up subscribers will receive a 33.3% discount on page charges for journals where these charges are levied. This discount only applies if the corresponding author of the article is a subscriber. Discounts in page charges will not be given to authors who order or pay for their subscriptions after they have been invoiced for page charges.

Society members who receive their subscriptions as part of their society membership will only qualify for this discount if they have paid their society membership in full prior to their being invoiced for page charges. Please note that membership will have to be paid for the year in which you will receive a subscription to volume of the journal you are writing in.

4. Employment opportunities

From Dean Impson:

CONSERVATION SCIENTISTS (AQUATIC ECOLOGIST)

River Conservation Unit

Jonkershoek (Stellenbosch) and George

The River Conservation Unit (RCU) of CapeNature's Scientific Services Unit seeks to appoint four Conservation Scientist (aquatic ecologists) for a twelve-month, fixed-term and renewable contract period. The RCU in partnership with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry implements the River Health Programme (RHP) in the Western Cape Province.

Responsibilities:

- ◆ Undertake river health assessments across the Western Cape Province using standardised RHP indices
- ◆ Contribute towards and compile RHP products
- ◆ Update databases with data collected from survey work

Requirements:

- ◆ Suitable tertiary qualification in biological sciences (especially botany, ichthyology, hydrology, estuarine ecology, freshwater ecology)
- ◆ Working experience on rivers and wetlands is strongly recommended
- ◆ Ability to work in-field and as part of a team
- ◆ Physical fitness to perform fieldwork on rivers
- ◆ Computer competence (MSOffice)
- ◆ Good communicative skills in two of the three official languages of the Western Cape
- ◆ Good report-writing skills
- ◆ Willingness to travel as and when required
- ◆ A valid Code EB Drivers Licence

Contract details:

- The contract should commence at the successful candidate's earliest convenience
- The total remuneration level is commensurate with experience and qualifications but should not exceed R170 000 per annum
- The successful candidates will report to the Manager of the River Conservation Unit

ENQUIRIES: Dean Impson Tel: 021 866 8019 Email: impsond@cncjnk.pgwc.gov.za

To apply, send a letter of application and concise CV to The Manager, Private Bag X5014, Stellenbosch, 7599 or fax (021) 866 1523 or email gildens@cncjnk.pgwc.gov.za before or on Friday, 21 September 2007

Preference will be given to EE candidates. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. CapeNature reserves the right not to make an appointment

From Linda Coetzee:

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

invites applications from suitably qualified people for the position of

AFRICAN COELACANTH ECOSYSTEM

PROGRAMME (ACEP) MANAGER

(4-year contract post)

The **South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)**, based in Grahamstown, is a National Research Facility of the National Research Foundation. The Institute is a world-renowned centre for the study of aquatic biology with particular emphasis on ichthyology. ACEP is a flagship programme of SAIAB.

The successful candidate's responsibilities will include:

The provision of the leadership necessary to co-ordinate and integrate scientific, capacity building and educational contracts of ACEP, an offshore, ship-based research programme along the East Coast of South Africa. In particular the ACEP Manager will need to ensure that the project contributes meaningfully to the understanding of physical and biological processes that dominate the coast, influence conservation, fisheries and ecosystem health and functions. High on the agenda is the need to develop sufficient understanding of coelacanth biology and ecology to provide well-informed scientific recommendations on coelacanth conservation and management. In addition to leadership, the manager is expected to ensure quality control of scientific, educational, promotional and awareness outputs, and to take responsibility for research activities on the ships and underwater (submersible) operations.

Candidates should have the following qualifications and attributes:

- A minimum of an MSc degree, preferably in coastal science. A PhD degree in the aquatic sciences would be advantageous.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in one or more of the following fields:
 - operational ship board research and diving research
 - managing projects, people and budgets

- training post-graduate students

Interested persons that meet the requirements can obtain application forms and further information about the post from Mrs Linda Coetzee: phone 046-603 5801; fax 046-622 2403; email L.Coetzee@ru.ac.za. CVs without application forms will not be accepted. Additional information on the Institute can be viewed on the website: www.saiab.ru.ac.za.

Correspondence will be conducted with short-listed candidates only.

Closing date: 8th October 2007

SAIAB is committed to employment equity and redress.

From Michelle Harrison:

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Faculty of Science

Department of Zoology

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

(Peromnes Grade 8/7) Ref: 4546

Core purpose: The purpose of this post is to create, develop and facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills by individuals in order that they are able to function effectively within a profession and as productive members of the broader society.

Key performance areas:

- Teach undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Develop course material for undergraduate and postgraduate modules
- Provide research supervision of postgraduate students
- Provide expertise in Conservation Biology and/or Global Change
- Perform teaching related administrative duties
- Conduct research and publish results in peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Attract external research funding
- Interact with relevant industry groups, government departments and independent research institutes to further the goals of the Department and the University
- Participate in departmental administration and community services (eg involvement with professional bodies)

Core competencies:

- A PhD in Zoology
- Proven research and teaching record, preferably in conservation biology and/or global change issues
- Prospect of an NRF rating within three years, if not already rated
- Strong quantitative skills
- Ability to work with and contribute to a team effort
- A proven record of attracting external funding

- Demonstrated abilities to teach undergraduate students and supervise postgraduate students

In order to be considered for appointment to this post, candidates should have a PhD in Zoology.

For further information, contact Prof T Wooldridge,
tris.wooldridge@nmmu.ac.za, Tel: 041 504 2690/2425.