

WESTON, LAURA

Name of Organisation: Lwandle Technologies (Pty) Ltd
Profession: Marine Biologist
Position in Firm: Senior Marine Scientist
Date of Birth: 07/03/1990
Years with Firm: 4 years
SACNASP No.: 116173

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Laura has a background in zoology and marine biology, with particular interest in fisheries science. She is currently completing her PhD at the University of Cape Town, looking at the biology and habitat utilization of Jacopever, an important bycatch species. She completed her MSc in 2013 at the University of Cape Town, where her thesis looked at the temporal and spatial variability in the infection by a specific type of parasite in the South African sardine, and the utility of this parasite as a stock identification tool. Prior to that, Laura was based in Grahamstown, where she completed her undergraduate and BSc(Hons) degrees.

Following the completion of her Masters, Laura volunteered for an NGO doing a tour around the South African coastline, educating underprivileged children about the marine environment. She took up her post with Lwandle Technologies in July 2013, where she became a member of the scientific team, working as a marine scientist. Since joining Lwandle, Laura has been involved in the management and reporting aspects of a variety of marine specialist studies, and the fieldwork related to these. Typically, this work has comprised the development of marine environmental baseline reports, specialist environmental impact assessments and monitoring studies for oil and gas and other offshore and port development projects, in Angola, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa. More specifically, this involved the characterization of the marine ecology and water and sediment quality in some of these areas, through a variety of different methods.

EDUCATION

PhD Fisheries Biology	University of Cape Town, Cape Town	Current
MSc Applied Marine Science	University of Cape Town, Cape Town	2013
BSc(Hons) Marine Biology	Rhodes University, Grahamstown	2011

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Laura is registered as Professional Natural Scientist in zoological science with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (registration # 116173)

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

2013- 2015 Marine Scientist, Lwandle Technologies, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 – current Senior Marine Scientist, Lwandle Technologies, Cape Town, South Africa

KEY EXPERIENCE

An abridged list of Laura Weston's project experience is presented below:

2017	Metocean specialist study and gap analysis for oil and gas exploration offshore of central Mozambique, for Impacto, on behalf of ExxonMobil.
2017	Marine ecology specialist study and EIA for a tidal pool development at Port St Johns Second Beach, South Africa, for EOH Coastal and Environmental Services.
2017	Development of a pollution monitoring program at hotspot locations within the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, for the Benguela Current Commission.
2016	Baseline Report and Marine Mammal Impact Assessment for a seismic survey offshore of central Mozambique, for EOH Coastal and Environmental Services.
2016	Marine Ecology Baseline Description for a proposed pipeline development offshore of the Inhambane Province, Mozambique, for ERM on behalf of Sasol.

- 2015 Marine Ecology IFC PS6 Critical Habitats Assessment on behalf of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in Palma Bay, Mozambique.
- 2015 Baseline report for oil and gas infrastructure development in Luanda Bay, Angola for ARC on behalf of Pumangol.
- 2015 Coral identification guide for the Quirimbas Archipelago, northern Mozambique, on behalf of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.
- 2015 Environmental survey, baseline reporting and marine ecology impact assessment for a port development, for ERM on behalf of ItalThai, Mozambique.
- 2015 Metocean data collection for the proposed dig out port at the Old Durban International airport site on behalf of Transnet in Durban, South Africa.
- 2014 ROV shallow water pipeline survey on behalf of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in Palma Bay, Mozambique.
- 2014 Environmental survey report for oil and gas exploration for ARC on behalf of Statoil in Blocks 38 & 39, Angola.
- 2014 Marine component of an EIA for proposed phosphate mining for Namibian Marine Phosphates, Namibia.
- 2014 Environmental survey report and fieldwork associated with the bio monitoring programme on the effects of dredging and dredge spoil behaviour for the Port of Cape Town on behalf of Transnet.
- 2013 Marine baseline reports for the Angola Block 19 and Block 24 exploration drilling for, ARC, on behalf of BP.
- 2013 Environmental report outlining the gaps present in data previously collected for the Sonaref oil refinery development in Lobito Bay, for ERM, on behalf of Sonangol, Angola.
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