

DR MEGAN CLAIR LAIRD

WORK: +27 21 701 3420
FAX: +27 21 702 5280
E-MAIL: megan@anchorenvironmental.co.za
POSTAL ADDRESS: Anchor Environmental Consultants, Suite 8 Steenberg House, Steenberg Office Park, Tokai, 7945, South Africa

SUMMARY PROFILE

Megan gained experience in marine biology and zoology on the West and South Coasts of South Africa during her undergraduate degree. While working towards her honours qualification at UCT, she gained experience in birding, fish dissections and rocky shore sampling. She has both recreational and commercial diving qualifications as well as a skipper's ticket. Megan has marine intertidal and sandy shore experience in both the cool-temperate and subtropical coastal regions of South Africa and has worked as a Marine Mammal Observer on research vessels offshore. In addition to her career in marine biology, Megan has an interest in wildlife photography, videography and environmental journalism.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MARINE BIOLOGY (University of Cape Town)

STATUS: Graduated June 2013
DISSERTATION TITLE: Taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of South African Actiniaria and Corallimorpharia (sea anemones)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN ZOOLOGY (University of Cape Town)

STATUS: Graduated in December 2007
CONTENT: Biostatistics, systematics and the history and philosophy of Science
DISSERTATION TITLE: Determinants of breeding success in the African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*: is climate change a looming threat?
DISSERTATION TITLE: The distribution and abundance of the introduced barnacle *Balanus glandula* in South Africa

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ZOOLOGY AND ECOLOGY (University of Cape Town)

STATUS: Graduated in December 2006
CONTENT: Chemistry, mathematics, statistics, Earth and geographical sciences, botany, ecology, marine biology

AWARDS: Deans Merit List and Golden Key Society Member

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (FULL TIME)

DATE	COMPANY	POSITION	EXPERIENCE
May 2013 - present	Anchor Environmental Consultants	Senior marine consultant	Toxicity testing, effluent plume analysis, Coastal Water Discharge Permits, scientific diving, marine impact assessments, invertebrate studies and baseline reports

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (PART TIME)

DATE	COMPANY	POSITION	EXPERIENCE
Jan 2013 – April 2013	CapFish	Marine Mammal Observer, Environmental Control Officer & Fisheries Liaison Officer	MMO, ECO and FLO on multi-beam and 3D seismic survey vessels off the coasts of South Africa and Namibia
July 2010 – April 2013	Pisces Environmental Services	Field Biologist & report writer	Marine benthic and rocky shore surveys and invertebrate identification in Namibia
July 2008 – April 2013	Noffke Environmental and Technical Services	Scientific diver and lab assistant	Lobster and abalone surveys (FIAS) and marine invertebrate identification
July 2008 – July 2011	Anchor Environmental Consultants	Scientific diver and field biologist	Marine benthic, sandy beach and rocky shore surveys, riverine sampling
July 2007 – Dec 2011	Department of Zoology and Botany, UCT	Senior biology demonstrator	Teaching first and second year university students
July 2007 – Dec 2012	Research Diving Unit, UCT	Scientific diver	Construction, searches, scientific work, equipment deployment and recovery
Jan 2004 – Dec 2004	Pangea Solutions	English teacher	Teaching English to foreigners through an internet based application
Jan 2001 – Dec 2003	Two Oceans Aquarium	Educator	Teaching visitors about marine life

VOLUNTEER WORK

DATE	COMPANY	POSITION	EXPERIENCE
Mar 2009	Two Oceans Aquarium	Diver	Tank cleaning and collection dives
Dec 2008 – present	National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)	Coxswain (Class III)	Navigation, helming, first aid, fire fighting, 4x4 driving and rescue
June 2008 - June 2010	White Shark Research in False Bay (UCT)	Research assistant	Collecting behavioral data and boat crew for Alison Kock
April 2008 & Oct 2008	White Shark Projects, Kleinbaai	Marine Biologist and crew	Eco-tourism and boat crew
Feb 2007 & June 2008	Seal Research in False Bay (UCT)	Research assistant	Recording seal behaviour and performing seal counts for Alta de Vos
Dec 2006 – Jan 2007	De Hoop Nature Reserve	Field Biologist	Beach patrols, data capture and management of digital library
April – Dec 2006	Baboon Research Project, Tokai Forest	Research assistant	Recording foraging behaviour of Chacma baboons for Dr. Tali Hoffmann
Dec 2005	Tree-grass Program, Kruger National Park	Field Biologist	Measuring top-kill and bark thickness, quantifying re-growth

PUBLICATION RECORD**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

- Daly M, Perissinotto R, Laird MC, Dyer D and Todaro A. 2012. Description and ecology of a new species of *Edwardsia* de Quatrefages, 1842 (Anthozoa, Actiniaria) from the St. Lucia Estuary, South Africa. *Marine Biology Research*. **8(3)**: 233-245
- Laird MC and Griffiths CL. 2008. The abundance and distribution of the alien barnacle *Balanus glandula* in South Africa. *African Journal of Marine Science*. **30(1)**: 94-100
- Laird MC and Griffiths CL. (Submitted 2015). Additions to the South African sea anemone (Cnidaria: Actiniaria) fauna, with expanded distributional ranges for known species. *African Invertebrates*.
- Laird MC and Griffiths CL. (In progress). Biogeography of South African Actiniaria and Corallimorpharia.
- Laird MC and Griffiths CL. (In progress). Monograph of South African Actiniaria and Corallimorpharia.
- Laird MC, Rodriguez E and Griffiths CL. (In progress). A new species of sea anemone (*Anthostella* n. sp) from South Africa.

POPULAR ARTICLES

- Laird MC. 2012. Diving into the watery realm of clownfish. Triton website: www.tritondiving.co.za
- Laird MC. 2010. Flowers of the sea. Divestyle magazine. March/April 2010 issue.

CONSULTING PROJECTS

- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2015. *Effluent Plume Analysis for the Proposed Waste Water Treatment Works at Britannia Bay*. Report no. 1657/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants.
- Laird MC, Clark BM and Hutchings K. 2015. *Marine Baseline Report for the Proposed Marine Pipeline Servitude at Coega Industrial Development Zone*. Report no. 1563/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Coega Development Corporation. Pp 51.
- Hutchings K, Laird MC and Clark BM. 2015. Marine Impact Assessment for the Simonstown-Glencairn Railway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Work. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Marutleng SHE Services.
- Clark BM, Hutchings K, Massie V, Laird MC, Biccard A, Turpie J and Harmer R. 2015. *The state of Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon 2014/2015*. Technical Report. Report no. 1653/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for the Saldanha Bay Water Quality Trust.
- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2015. *Effluent Characterisation, Effluent Plume Analysis and Impact Assessment for the Lucky Star Ltd St Helena Bay Fish Processing Factory*. Report no. 1581/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for SRK Consulting.
- Hutchings K, Laird MC and Clark BM. 2015. Baseline Marine Report for the Upgrade of Discharge of Treated Sewage Effluent into the Sea at Cape Recife, Port Elizabeth. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit.
- Pulfrich A, Hutchings K, Biccard A, Laird MC and Clark B. 2014. Survey of Sandy-Beach Macrofaunal Communities on the Sperrgebiet Coastline. Consolidated Beach Monitoring Report: 2014. Report prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for NAMDEB Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd.
- Laird MC, Hutchings K, Liebau V and Clark BM. 2014. *Marine Ecology Baseline Report for Proposed Abalone Aquaculture Farm at Brand-se-Baai, West Coast, South Africa*. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for SRK Consulting. Pp 37.
- Laird MC, Hutchings K, Liebau V and Clark BM. 2014. *Marine Ecology Screening Report for Proposed Abalone Aquaculture Farms at Doringbaai, West Coast, South Africa*. Report no. 1627/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for SRK Consulting. Pp 34.
- Clark BM, Laird MC, Hutchings K, Liebau V, Biccard A, Turpie J and Parker-Mallick N. 2014. *The state of Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon 2013/2014*. Technical Report. Report no. 1581/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for the Saldanha Bay Water Quality Trust. Pp 377.
- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2014. *Baseline Marine Biodiversity Assessment for the Proposed Durban Dig-*

- out Port, Isipingo*. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Jeffares and Green Engineering and Environmental Consulting. Pp 32.
- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2014. *Estuarine Ecology Impact Assessment Report for the Construction of a Floating Dry Dock at the Dormac Repair Quay, Bayhead Dock in the Port of Durban*. Report no. 1575 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for WSP Environment and Energy. Pp 69.
- Laird MC, Tunley KL and Clark BM. 2014. *Marine Specialist Impact Assessment Report for Proposed Granger Bay Land Reclamation and Revetment Construction*. Report no. 1432/1 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. Pp 40.
- Laird MC, Biccard, A and Clark BM. 2013. *Alien species survey at the Port of Ngqura*. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Transnet National Ports Authority. Pp 45.
- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2013. *Proposed Replacement of Existing Breakwater at the Salamander Bay Special Forces Regiment 4 Boat Park*. Prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Greenmined Environmental. Pp 38.
- Laird MC and Clark BM. 2013. *Toxicity of Twelve Water Samples Collected in a Transshipment Area off Beira, Mozambique to Skeletonema costatum and Parechinus angulosus*. Report numbers 1444/8 to 1444/12 prepared by Anchor Environmental Consultants for Consultec Consultores Associados Lda. Pp 23.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Laird MC. 2014. Toxicity testing as a tool to evaluate impacts of pollution on marine life. South African Marine Science Symposium (SAMSS).
- Laird MC. 2012. Biogeography of Actinia and Corallimorpharia in South Africa. South African Society for Systematic Biology (SASSB).
- Laird MC. 2008. Taxonomy of sea anemones. South African Marine Science Symposium (SAMSS).

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Laird, MC. 2008. Sea anemones in a changing climate. International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP).
- Laird, MC. 2009. Biodiversity of South African sea anemones. Biodiversity and Society (DIVERSITAS OSC2)
- Laird, MC. 2009. Systematics of South African sea anemones. South African Society for Systematic Biology (SASSB)
- Laird, MC. 2010. Taxonomy in South Africa. SABBI taxonomy conference and student workshop.
- Laird, MC. 2011. Systematics of South African sea anemones. South African Society for Systematic Biology (SASSB).
- Laird, M. 2011. Biogeography of sea anemones. South African Marine Science Symposium (SAMSS)
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OTHER SKILLS AND TRAINING

- DRIVING:** Code B drivers licence with own vehicle
- DIVING:** Commercial Class IV Dive Supervisor (2011)
CMAS Nitrox diving course (2011)
Commercial Class IV diving license - SCUBA (May 2007)
Recreational PADI Advanced Open Water diver (2004)
- MARINE:** Category B Skipper's License with rescue and diving endorsement (2015)
Personal Safety and Social Responsibility with Personal Survival Techniques (2012)
MTU diesel maintenance course (2011)
Chart work and Navigation Certificate - module I, II & III (2010)
HF and VHF radio operator (2009)
Outboard engine maintenance certificate (2010)
Category D Skipper's License (2006)
- RESCUE:** First Aid level 3 with an additional section on Diving Medicine (2009-2017)
Fire fighting (2009-2018)
Survival course - Proficiency in life rafts (2010)
- COMPUTER:** MS Suite, ArcGIS, PhotoShop, Primer & Permanova, Statistica, CorMix
- MICROSCOPE:** Oil immersion, phase contrast and photography
- HISTOLOGY:** Histology training course - processing, paraffin embedding, microtome, staining (2010)
Illustration, cnidae identification and measurement, and external anatomy
- INTERESTS:** Swimming, cycling, running, triathlons, surf skiing, hiking, underwater photography

REFEREES

CONTACT	COMPANY	POSITION	DETAILS
Prof. Charles Griffiths	Department of Zoology, UCT	Head of Marine Biology Research Unit and Ph.D. supervisor	Phone: 021 650 3610 email: charles.griffiths@uct.ac.za
Dr. Barry Clark	Anchor Environmental Consultants	Director	Phone: 021 701 3421 email: barry@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Brad Geysler	National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), Hout Bay	Ex-station commander, Station 8	Phone: 082 372 8792 email: bradg@lam.lithotech.co.za