

Rainard Scholtz

Graaff-Reinet • Eastern Cape
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Driver's Licence and Own Car



Personal statement

I am an Aquaculture graduate from the University of Stellenbosch with a passion for marine aquaculture. My passion comes from my belief that aquaculture is the only way to preserve marine species that are under threat from over fishing and uncontrolled harvesting. Aquaculture in South Africa needs to grow not only to save endangered local species but to create jobs and food for the country.

I am currently working at a RAS catfish farm while simultaneously completing my masters degree.

I am highly motivated to do a PhD once my MSc is completed ideally focusing on marine aquaculture specifically nutrition or genetics.

Education

University of Stellenbosch

(February 2018 – Current)

MSc Aquaculture and nutrition

Key skills gained:

- Hands on experience in conducting research in an aquaculture field.
- Implementation of biosecurity and production plans for the research trial.
- Disease management and mitigation
- Data collection and analysis
- Experience in dealing with the pressure of full time research for a MSc degree as well as full time work for a company
- System design
- Feed manufacturing
- Water quality assessment
- Digestibility analysis of feed
- Fish fillet quality analysis
- Proximate analysis of fish fillet
- Statistical analysis of data recorded during trials

University of Stellenbosch

(January 2015 – January 2018)

BSc Agri Animal science with Aquaculture

Key Skills gained:

- In depth understanding of Aquaculture production systems and management practices.
- Knowledge of Aquaculture environmental risks and biological security
- An Understanding of the role feed plays in the growth and development of animal as well as knowledge of feed formulation to optimize growth and production of livestock.
- Analytical and conceptual thinking, with a conscientious approach to managing workloads.
- Ability to handle, analyse and interpret complex data, before presenting it back based on the overall analysis made.
- Advancements of herd genetics through the process of selective breeding.
- Accomplished communication skills, both written and verbal, developed through numerous essays and presentations.
- Proficiency in all areas of Microsoft Office, including, Excel, Word and PowerPoint.
- Able to do statistical analysis using Excel.

Notable Modules – Genetics, Biometry, Animal nutrition, Aquaculture, Conservation ecology, Animal physiology

Notable results: Passed both final year Aquaculture modules with distinctions.

University of Pretoria

(January 2014-November 2014)

BSc Biological science

Key Skills gained:

- Understanding of the use of statistical analysis in biological science field
- Proficiency in all areas of Microsoft Office, including Access, Excel, Word and PowerPoint.

Notable Modules – Genetics, Biometry, Zoology, Animal nutrition.

Penryn College

(2009-2013)

Subjects completed in matric

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Science
- Accounting
- English home Language
- Afrikaans 1st additional language
- Life Orientation

Work Experience

Research Supervisor at Karoo Catch in Graaff-Reinet, Eastern Cape

(May 2018-Present)

Duties:

- Design and construct a system stand-alone research and development system to be used for trials with juvenile fish
- Supervise a team doing feed trials with juvenile fish
- Assist with waste water repair system (algae raceways and biogas system) improvements and adaptations to the system.
- Conduct water quality analysis
- Implementation of internal microbiological analysis to monitor microbial load of the water.
- Improve efficiency of production tasks, such as harvesting and sampling.
- Monitoring of biosecurity.
- Risk analysis of a system.
- Mitigation/ Prevention of risks in a system.

Key skills gained:

- Supervise a team in order to achieve research related goals.
- Decision making under pressure.
- Problem solving (during disease outbreaks and water quality reductions)
- Determining mitigation factors.
- Determining preventative measures to reduce likelihood of risks.
- Communication skills in order to transfer knowledge to workers as well as to communicate with colleagues.
- Solving problems related to biosecurity.

Relevant skills

- Highly proficient in with computers, all office programs as well as statistical analysis software such as SAS and minitab.
- Knowledge of feed formulation
- Aquaculture system design experience

Hobbies & Interests

I have a keen interest in photography, especially wildlife.

Fishing is one of my holiday activities, either deep sea or from the shore.

Sports are important to me and I participate in cricket and rugby at the University of Stellenbosch.

References

- Mr Philip Steenkamp, farm manager at Karoo Catch
- Dr Khalid Salie, senior aquaculture lecturer at Stellenbosch University and MSc supervisor (+27 82 412 6120)
- Mr Henk Stander, aquaculture lecturer at Stellenbosch University (+27 82 331 8761)
- Mark Jocelyn, Masters Student at Stellenbosch University (+27 83 294 4151)
- Stellenbosch University (+27 21 808 9111)
- University of Pretoria (+27 12 420 2073)
- Penryn College (+27 13 758 9000)