

Sasha Saugh

OBJECTIVE

As an aquatic veterinarian specialising in aquaculture I aim to help aquaculture farmers improve production and decrease losses by through health and welfare management strategies such as: biosecurity and welfare risk assessments; farm specific health plans; and training. I aim to partner and collaborate with relevant institutions on aquaculture research & development projects, where I can add value with my combined veterinary & research skill set.



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WORK EXPERIENCE

2018– current (based in South Africa and consult globally)

Aquatic veterinarian • Aquaglobal Veterinary Consulting Pty. Ltd • South Africa

This is an all aquatic mobile veterinary practice. Consults undertaken through telehealth services (i.e. online) and site visitations.

Responsibilities: health and welfare assessments, including necropsies; biosecurity risk assessment, auditing and planning; herd health surveillance; health certification; training veterinarians and technicians; and reviewing and drafting national policy documentation for aquaculture. Research support including data analysis on any aspect of aquaculture work. Currently serving as a member of the Shrimp Technical Working Group for the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC).

2022-2023 (part-time, remote work)

Aquaculture/animal welfare specialist • Shrimp Welfare Project (SWP)

Responsibilities: reviewed and refined of shrimp aquaculture welfare standards for SWP; technical advisor for SWP on shrimp health and welfare issues; drafted research project proposals and provided technical inputs into experimental design and interpretation; drafted of articles of a technical nature for publishing to the aquaculture community.

2013– 2017

Aquatic state veterinarian • Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) • South Africa

Responsibilities: lead the drafting and implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare Plan for South Africa; served as biosecurity co-ordinator for a research aquarium; undertook health and welfare assessments on research animals including necropsies; served as technical advisor for disease surveillance and monitoring plans, legislation and policies concerning aquaculture; import and export control for marine aquaculture animals/commodities; participated in international audits on South African health management systems; and trained technicians.

EDUCATION

University of Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom

MSc Aquatic Veterinary Studies (2021/2022)

Dissertation (thesis distinction): Peri-slaughter management and post-harvest intervention strategies in decapods: this

project had two components, one that evaluated commercial practices in *Penaeus vannamei* from a welfare perspective, and how this impacted product quality; and the second component that evaluated the spoilage microbiome of *Nephrops norvegicus* as part of a time-controlled study to identify potential targets for phage removal, with the aim of extending product shelf life. The first component served as a scoping study for a UK importer of *P.vannamei* products to identify high risk farms for further investigation and the second component served as preliminary work for phage discovery.

University of Pretoria, South Africa

Bachelor of Veterinary Science (2006/2012)

University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

Bachelor of Science (Biological Sciences) (2003/2005)

Specialist education / certification:

- Aquavet ® II, Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals, Cornell University, USA (June 2019)
- Aquavet ® I, An Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, USA (May-June 2018)

- World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA) certified aquatic veterinarian (valid until 2024)

SKILLS

- Diagnostic skills (cytology, parasitology, histopathology, microbiology, molecular techniques (DNA extraction and purification, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)); and necropsies.
- Disease surveillance and monitoring
- Biosecurity risk assessments
- Biosecurity auditing and planning
- Health certification
- Training in aquatic animal health
- Analytical skills (using R Studio)
- Research
- Project management
- Leadership

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA)

South African Veterinary Council (2012-current)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Certificates for conferences/ workshops attended and for qualifications available upon request. Referees information available on request.