Careers in the NSW Marine Estate

Research Scientist

Dr Melinda Coleman

Purpose

The role involves researching the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, including monitoring current impacts and forecasting future ones on species and habitats, especially kelp forests. Marine managers then use this information to prepare for potential climate-related impacts.

A typical day in my role

In my role, I do a variety of tasks, from desk work such as managing staff and writing scientific manuscripts and analysing data to hands-on work in the genetics lab where I extract DNA from seaweed. When conditions permit, I also participate in fieldwork activities like scuba diving or snorkelling to collect samples from our kelp forests.

Personal attributes

- Persistence
- Organisational skills
- Good Communication

Melinda's Pathway

- University degree in Science
- Fourth year of university, Honours on a specialised marine project
- PhD in Seaweed Science (3 years)
- 3 years work overseas to gain experience
- 3 years postdoctoral research in Australia
- Role with DPI

Quote

"One of the best things is working with a bunch of like-minded people and also the opportunities that my job and my research has offered me over the years to work and travel all over the world."

Dr Melinda Coleman
RESEARCH SCIENTIST
www.marine.nsw.gov.au

How to become an Environmental Research Scientist

You need a bachelor degree in science majoring in Environmental Science or a related field to work as an Environmental Research Scientist. It is also common to complete postgraduate studies.

Scan the QR code for more information

www.yourcareer.gov.au/occupations