

A Day in the Life of Associate (marine biologist)



Name: **Nicole**

Degree: **PhD (Marine Biology)**

Years at JBS&G: **7.5**

Why I Chose JBS&G

I was wanting a job change from Government to private consultancy and was attracted to JBS&G's approach to assessment and approvals with their specialized team – many having ecology/ marine backgrounds, their wide range of projects and clients and the opportunity for individual growth.

What My Week Typically Looks Like

Everyday and week is different, but a typical week would involve client meetings / liaison, internal team meetings, report writing for approvals, technical report reviews, data analysis and proposal writing.

I typically spend a great deal of time working with clients to understand their project needs and preparing subsequent approval documentation with a focus on environmental aspects. This includes, but is not limited to, assessments for threatened species, native vegetation, marine habitats and marine water quality and includes the preparation of a range of supporting environmental management plans. With any marine based project, I am commonly involved with the design and ongoing management of baseline monitoring programs (e.g. water quality). This also requires working with Government regulators and other marine specialists with the goal to ensure the monitoring program and data output is robust and scientifically sound.

Example Day Snapshot

- 8:30am** Arrive at the office, check emails and plan out day
- 9:00am** Resourcing meeting with the team to discuss workloads
- 10:00am** GIS mapping: creating figures or maps to include in reports
- 12:00pm** Fortnightly mentoring meeting discussing a topic for development or receiving advice on field and office tasks
- 1:30pm** Work on data analysis, report writing or completing odd jobs such as updating data in spreadsheets, preparing supporting documents or writing proposals.
- 4:00pm** Preparation for any field work for the next day or wrapping up on any remaining tasks

The Types of Projects I Work On

- Baseline Marine assessments in Port environments for ongoing Port operations and required upgrades
- Dredging related projects including technical reviews and preparation of Dredge Management Plans
- Desalination projects
- Use of waste products to make cementitious materials

What Surprised Me Most

What most surprised me was the autonomy.

How I'm Developing

- Now managing large scale Projects
- Preparing high level and large-scale Proposals for future work
- Providing mentoring support to less experienced colleagues and receiving mentoring from more experienced colleagues.

What Makes This Role Rewarding

What makes this role rewarding is the variety and problem solving involved - no two projects are ever the same! Also, the amazing team-culture, working with amazing people and always learning. It is also wonderful to see projects getting delivered and client / stakeholder satisfaction.

Advice for Future Graduates

Some of the key attributes to succeed beyond grades would be curiosity – thinking outside the box, initiative – be on the front foot, communication – with colleagues, clients and others – always be willing to learn from others but also be willing to communicate your ideas to others with confidence.

Scan to stay connected for future opportunities

