VETASSESS

Information sheet

Fisheries Officer

ANZSCO: 311311 **Group C**

About this document

- The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

Job description

Inspects fishing vessels, gear, licences and catches to ensure that fisheries laws and regulations are obeyed.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Fish Inspector
- Boating and Fisheries Patrol Officer

Fisheries Officer is a VETASSESS Group C occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher, in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

In addition to this, applicants must have at least one year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level completed in the last five years in a field which is highly relevant to the nominated occupation. If employment is not post-qualification, then three additional years of highly relevant employment are required.

If the qualification is not in a highly relevant field, two years of employment at an appropriate skill level, completed in the last five years which is highly relevant to the nominated occupation is required. This is reduced to one year if there is an additional qualification at least at AQF Certificate IV level in a highly relevant field.

A positive assessment of both qualifications and employment is required for a positive Skills Assessment Outcome.

GROUP C	Criteria for a positive Skills Assessment						
	Post-qualification Pathways						
	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level		**With highly relevant major field of study**		**Additional highly relevant qualifications**		**Highly relevant employment duration**
1	AQF	+		+	N/A	+	1 YEAR minimum
2	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	Minimum AQF Certificate IV level with highly relevant major	+	1 YEAR minimum
3	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	No additional highly relevant qualifications	+	2 YEARS minimum
	Pre-qualification Pathway						
	Highly Relevant employment duration						**Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level**
4	3 YEARS minimum + 1 YEAR minimum (Within last 5 years)	+			With or without highly relevant major field of study	+	AQF

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under **Group C** . Please note that in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a suitable assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

An additional qualification in a highly relevant field of study at a minimum AQF Certificate IV level is required. Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the AQF Certificate IV.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

For example, an applicant for the occupation Program or Project Administrator completed a non-relevant AQF Diploma qualification in April 2024 and later completed an AQF Certificate IV in Project Management in May 2026. The applicant commenced employment with the organisation in May 2024 and remains employed there.

Under Pathway 2, the applicant satisfies the minimum educational requirement for a Group C occupation through the AQF Diploma qualification. Accordingly, employment is counted from the completion date of the Diploma qualification, meaning employment from May 2024 onwards may be considered toward both the required Qualifying Period (QP) and any remaining eligible period for the points test.

As the later Certificate IV qualification is highly relevant to the occupation, the applicant may access the reduced employment requirement applicable under Pathway 2. In this case, only one year of QP is required, and that employment may be counted from the post-Diploma period rather than from the Certificate IV qualification completion date.

Pathway 3

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **two** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 4

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher with or without a highly relevant major field of study to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **four** years of employment at an appropriate skill level that includes at least **one** year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Qualification

Highly relevant qualifications would be in the field of:

- Fisheries Compliance
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Natural Resource Management
- Environmental science
- Environmental management
- Diploma in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance)
- Diploma of Justice Studies

With highly relevant employment, we could also consider criminal justice/criminology, or law.

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Employment Criteria

Tasks may include:

- May examine imported plants and animals, and products such as timber, seeds and dried fruits and make quarantine arrangements
- May initiate or assist in legal action to enforce regulations, appear in court to give evidence in cases involving breaches of the regulations
- Makes sure that commercial fishing regulations are obeyed
- Patrolling and investigating waterways for unlawful fishing activities and the removal of protected marine life
- Educating, advising and providing information on a wide range of topics relating to fish and their protection
- Check that fish are sold through legal markets and that fish markets do not sell undersized fish
- Assist in the supervision of shark nets
- Assist other agencies by responding to emergency situations such as oil spills, the beaching of whales, and shark-related incidents
- Keep vessels and equipment in good order
- Produce statistical reports and undertake other clerical duties.

- May initiate or assist in legal action to enforce regulations
- Inspecting commercial and recreational fishers to ensure compliance with legislation
- Inspecting wholesale and retail fish premises to ensure that fish are legally sourced.
- Preparing briefs of evidence and prosecuting matters in court
- Undertaking surveys to collect, analyse and prepare reports related to fisheries management issues
- Promoting marine management programs and policies
- Ensuring compliance within marine protected areas and reserves
- Assisting in the execution of major operations which target illegal activities and conducting search warrants of premises, factories and restaurants
- Providing advice to Fisheries management
- Educating, advising and providing information to the community on a wide range of topics relating to fish and their protection, responsible fishing and regulation changes
- Assisting with the delivery of education programs to angling clubs, schools, multicultural groups and other forums through informative talks and practical fishing sessions
- Survey oyster, pearling, fishing and prawning leases to ensure regulations are observed
- Responding to fishing offence reports and investigate alleged breaches of legislation