

Dr Jennifer Veitch
South African Environmental Observation Network

Dr Jennifer Veitch is an oceanographer who uses numerical models as a tool to better understand ocean processes that are difficult to observe in a cohesive way. Her area of expertise is the Benguela system, from the Angola-Benguela Frontal Zone at its northern boundary to the Goodhope Jet at its southern.

Jennifer leads the SOMISANA (A Sustainable Ocean Modelling Initiative: a South African Approach) initiative, which means to ‘work together’ in Sepedi and underscores the intention of moving forward in a multi-institutional and transformative approach. The vision is to: *facilitate the local development and sustainability of an operational ocean current forecast system for the South African exclusive economic zone and to do so in a transformative fashion.*

Her team has developed South Africa’s first ocean current forecast model, coupled to an oil trajectory model that is disseminating results freely, and operationally. To achieve the human capacity required to sustain such and initiative, Jennifer regularly delivers lectures and supervises a number of students from various universities across South Africa.



As a member of the Coastal Ocean and Shelf-Seas Task Team (COSS-TT) of Oceans Predict, the Eastern Boundary Upwelling System Research Focus and Atlantic Region Panel and the Atlantic Research Panel of CLIVAR, she hopes to be able to make meaningful South African contributions to the next decade of Ocean Science.