

FISHERIES SCIENTIST

A catchy career.



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Fisheries scientists come from many different backgrounds, but all are dedicated to effective management, use, and conservation of aquatic plants and animals. As researchers, managers, administrators, or educators, they use their expertise in biology, ecology, statistics, genetics, economics, policy and administration, and law to protect and enhance recreational, commercial, and aquacultural fisheries resources.

Fisheries scientists can hold research or management positions dealing with species or habitat evaluation. They can be federal biologists monitoring commercial harvests of fishes, crabs, shrimps, or oysters, or state biologists studying sportfish populations. Some work as disease specialists at federal fish hatcheries, aquatic resource specialists for environmental consulting firms, or production managers for private aquaculture facilities.

To be a fisheries scientist, you should earn a bachelor's degree in fisheries science, biology, or zoology. You may need a master's degree in a fisheries program. Your education should include courses in aquatic ecology, vertebrate and invertebrate biology, zoology, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, and microbiology, as well as courses in communications, sociology, economics, and administration.

In high school, take courses that emphasize [biology](#), [chemistry](#), [mathematics](#), [computer science](#), [writing](#), and [speaking](#).



Photos: Mike Kerper; Tom Campbell