



Careers in Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Beginning as the U.S. Fish Commission on Fish and Fisheries 140 years ago, the role of the Fish and Aquatic Conservation program has evolved from a singular focus on stock assessment and propagation for subsistence and recreational purposes, to a more holistic and collaborative approach to managing populations of fish and other aquatic species through conserving and restoring habitat and managing for threats of invasive species and climate change.



Facilities on the Ground

Employees in the Fish and Aquatic Conservation program are located nationwide in 154 facilities.

- **72 National Fish Hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery**
- **65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices and the Alaska Conservation Genetics Laboratory**
- **9 Fish Health Centers, 6 Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program**

Service staffs conduct scientific assessments of: the health, status, and trends of populations of priority species; the quantity and ecological function of important aquatic habitat; and the importance of specific pathways for the movement of invasive species and pathogens. They identify and implement habitat restoration projects focused on restoring fish passage and stream/river connectivity. Work at hatcheries focuses on propagating and restoring populations of fish, native mussels, and other aquatic species to stable, healthy populations and recovering or precluding the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Economic Benefits

The portfolio of aquatic conservation work and activities conducted by the Fisheries Program and its partners supports not only healthy ecosystems, but also local and regional economies.

- **Generates \$3.6 billion in annual contributions to the Nation's economy**
- **Annually generates \$28 in economic return for each Federal dollar invested**
- **Generates 13.5 million angler days**
- **Creates 68,000 jobs in a multitude of businesses**



Working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American people





Positions in Fisheries

Fishery Biologist: are the basic workforce of the Fish and Aquatic Conservation program. They monitor and evaluate wild and hatchery fish in their natural environment; conduct population abundance, water flow, and habitat studies; restore and recover declining, threatened, and endangered aquatic populations; and collect, analyze, and report on aquatic data. Fishery Biologists share new developments in science by writing scientific journal articles and making presentations at professional meetings.

Science and Technology Specialists: represent many scientific specializations including: geneticists, who identify priority fishes for management activities; cryogenicists, who collect genetic information from endangered populations for use in restoration and recovery of species; biostatisticians, who analyze data to describe fish interactions; nutritionists, who make new and improved fish foods; microbiologists, who develop new tools and drugs for use in identifying fish diseases and treatments; and physiologists, who study the impacts of different environmental disturbances on fish condition.

Information and Education Specialist: support communications and outreach efforts. They may speak to students in their classrooms, speak to the public at an

important event, or meet with news media. They create communication tools including newsletters, videos, and news releases, and explain important Service issues or events to radio, television, and newspaper reporters and the public.



Maintenance Workers: perform a broad range of duties throughout the Service such as maintaining buildings, roads, dikes, or water control structures; build and repair fences, gates, signs, kiosks, and boardwalks. Maintenance workers also operate and care for machinery including pumps, furnaces, trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, etc. Many others also clear and excavate land, construct and maintain canals and ditches, and apply chemicals.



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