Careers in Marine Biology

Below is a sampling of possible careers in Marine Biology. However, obtaining a B.S. degree in Marine Biology is just the first step. An advanced degree will be required for the majority of these and other careers.

Sample Position Titles

Aquaculturist
Biomedical biologist
Biological technician
Coastal scientist
Environmental biologist
Environmental educator
Fisheries biologist
Ichthyologist
Lab technician
Marine biologist
Marine biotechnologist
Marine ecologist
Marine education specialist
Marine mammologist
Microbiologist
Molecular biologist
Research scientist
Toxicologist
Underwater archaeologist
University professor

Employers in Academia:

Colleges or universities
High schools
Research centers

Employers in the Government:

Aquariums
Coastal federations
Departments of Agriculture
Departments of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal governments
Local governments
Museums
National and international conservation groups
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
State governments
Wildlife federations

Other Employers:
Consulting firms
Fish & wildlife conservation commissions
National Geographic Society
Private research laboratories
Zoological parks

Potential Fields of Research:

Aquaculture: The farming of finfish, shellfish and seaweeds.
Biomedical biology: The development and testing of drugs, many that are derived from marine organisms.
Biotechnology: The study of cellular and biomolecular processes to develop technologies and products that help improve the health of people and the Earth.
Environmental Biology/Toxicology: The study of contaminants and pollutants in the coastal or marine environment.
Ichthyology: The study of fishes.
Protists: The study of single-celled organisms such as protozoa and microalgae.
Marine ecology: The study of marine life habitats and the interactions between organisms and their environments.
Marine mammals: The study of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and pinnipeds (sea lions, seals and walruses).
Marine mammal bioacoustics and vocalization: The study of marine mammal sounds.
Marine mammal population dynamics: The study of mammalian behaviors and responses to environmental conditions.
Molecular Biology: The study of the formation, structure & function of macromolecules essential to life, such as nucleic acids and proteins. Also the study of disease in organisms.