

## 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.*

Sources: NOAA (<https://swfsc.noaa.gov/textblock.aspx?id=54>); New Hampshire Sea Grant (<http://www.marinecareers.net/marine-biology>); Stanford University Hopkins Marine Station (<http://hopkins.stanford.edu/careers.htm>); About Bioscience (<http://www.aboutbioscience.org/careers/marinebiologist>); Biotechnology Industry Organization (<https://www.bio.org/articles/what-biotechnology>)