Aquatic Biology Career Outlook 2013-2014

Aquatic Biology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:
**Major:** Aquatic Biology (B.S.)
**Field of Emphasis:** Aquatic Systems, Fisheries Biology, Wetlands Ecology

**Department Website:**
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/biology/aquatic

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:**
Aquatic biology involves the study of physical, geological, chemical, and biological factors that influence the productivity and integrity of freshwater systems. Aquatic biology includes the study of lentic (still) and lotic (moving) water. The aquatic biology major is designed for students preparing for careers with local, state, and federal agencies involved with water quality and natural resource management. With the appropriate selection of elective course work, it can also provide an ideal foundation for students intending to pursue graduate studies in limnology, aquatic ecology, and fisheries biology. Students should consult with their academic advisor in Aquatic Biology prior to developing their program. The aquatic biology program at Bemidji State University is the only institution in Minnesota to offer a four-year program.

**EMPLOYMENT AREAS:**
According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, zoologists and wildlife biologists held about 19,800 jobs in 2010. Depending on their position, zoologists and wildlife biologists may spend considerable time in the field gathering data and studying animals in their natural habitats. About 60 percent of all zoologists and wildlife biologists were employed by federal and state governments; 7 percent worked in management, scientific, and technical consulting services research; and 7% worked for development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences.

**PROJECTED DEMAND FOR AQUATIC BIOLOGY MAJORS IN MINNESOTA:**
According to iseek.org, 670 biologists are employed in Minnesota, though competition for openings will be high due to the small number of jobs at the moment. Pay is closely tied to level of education. The average wage for a Zoologist (Aquatic Biologist falls in this category) in Minnesota is $26.78 an hour. This would include those who have advanced degrees.

**PROJECTED DEMAND FOR AQUATIC BIOLOGY MAJORS NATIONWIDE:**
FOCUS II reports the nationwide demand for Marine and Aquatic Biologists is projected to grow faster than average through 2018, with people established in their career, including masters & Ph. D. level graduates, generally earning between $51,850 and $90,400 per year. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers biologist’s beginning salary averaged $40,700 a year for bachelor’s degree recipients in 2012.

**PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES:**
Of the Bemidji State University 2011-2012 Aquatic Biology graduates, 57.1% have found employment in their field within one year of graduation, while 33.3% are continuing their education. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status.

**LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES:**
(This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)
- Aquarium-MinnAqua MN DNR: MinnAqua-Aquatic Educator, Duluth, MN
- American Preclinical Service, LLC: Study Coordinator I, Minneapolis, MN
LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)

Bemidji State University Water Institute
Lab Technician
Bemidji, MN

Department of Natural Resources
Winter Creel Clerk
Bemidji, MN

Ducks Unlimited
Research Technician
Minot, ND Great Lakes

Gander Mountain
Fishing Supervisor
Cottage Grove, MN

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Biologist
Spirit Lake, IA

JF New & Associates
Ecological Resource Specialist
Walkerton, IN

Metropolitan Mosquito Control
Inspector
St. Paul, MN

MinnAqua
Aquaculture Technician
Renville, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Creecler
Lake City, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Biologist
Bemidji, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Technician
Bemidji, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Ecologist Specialist
Brainerd, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Intern
Grand Rapids, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources
Technician
Lake City, MN

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Wetland Researcher
MN

Missouri Department of Conservation
Pollution & Control Specialist
Brainerd, MN

Northeast Technical Services
Botanist
Chillicothe, MO

RMB Environmental Laboratories
Field Services Assistant
Detroit Lakes, MN

Sanford Health
Patient Care Technician
Sioux Falls, SD

Self-Employed
Professional Angler/Outdoor Promotions
Brainerd, MN

United States Department of Game & Fish
Biological Aid
Minot, ND

US Department of Agriculture
Agriculture Technician
Hibbing, MN

US Department of Interior
Aquatic Biological Science Technician
International Falls, MN

Wabasha County Environmental Services
Environmental Health Specialist
Wabasha, MN

West Central Environmental Consultants
Environmental Technician
Morris, MN

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES HAVE GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:

Bemidji State University, Bemidji MN
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR

California State University, Long Beach, CA
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
University of Nebraska, Kearny, NE

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
Western Nebraska Community College, Alliance, NE

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study 1997-2012. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2014)
Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2013. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2013)
FOCUS II, Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2013)
For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 102 Sanford Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.

For more job listings please visit:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/