Aquatic Biology Career Outlook 2009-2010

Aquatic Biology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

Major: Aquatic Biology (B.S.)
Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/aquatic_biology

Major Highlights:
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, biological scientists held about 91,300 jobs in 2008. About 40 percent of all biological scientists were employed by Federal, State, and local governments. Federal biological scientists worked mainly for the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Defense and for the National Institutes of Health. Most of the rest worked in scientific research and testing laboratories, the pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing industry, or educational institutions.

Projected Demand for Aquatic Biology Majors in Minnesota:
The DISCOVER guidance system reports about 640 currently employed marine biologists in Minnesota. An advanced degree is recommended. The average salary is about $29.50 per hour for marine biologists. Hydrologists have starting salaries of $37.25 per hour and the demand is expected to grow rapidly. It is also recommended to have an advanced degree.

Projected Demand for Aquatic Biology Majors Nationwide:
The DISCOVER guidance system reports the nationwide demand for marine biologists has a moderate growth rate, with a 0.9% expected growth rate per year. The average starting salary for marine biologists was $43,500 annually, in 2009. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, beginning salary offers in July 2009 averaged $33,254 a year for bachelor's degree recipients in biological and life sciences.

Placement Information for Aquatic Biology Graduates:
Of the Bemidji State University 2008-2009 aquatic biology graduates, 85.7% have found employment in their field within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.

A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Aquatic Biology Graduates:

- American Preclinical Service, LLC
- Department of Natural Resources
- Great Lakes Aquarium-MinnAqua MN DNR
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- JF New & Associates
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control
- MinnAqua
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Missouri Department of Conservation

American Preclinical Service, LLC
Department of Natural Resources
Great Lakes Aquarium-MinnAqua MN DNR
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
JF New & Associates
Metropolitan Mosquito Control
MinnAqua
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Missouri Department of Conservation

Study Coordinator I
Winter Creel Clerk
MinnAqua-Aquatic Educator
Fisheries Biologist
Ecological Resource Specialist
Inspector
Aquaculture Technician
Pollution & Control Specialist
Technician

Minneapolis, MN
Bemidji, MN
Duluth, MN
Spirit Lake, IA
Walkerton, IN
St. Paul, MN
Renville, MN
Brainerd, MN
Chillicothe, MO
### A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Aquatic Biology Graduates (cont.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Aquatic Ecologist Specialist</td>
<td>Brainerd, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Intern</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Technical Services</td>
<td>Lab Technician I</td>
<td>Virginia, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td>Professional Angler/Outdoor Promotions</td>
<td>Brainerd, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Department of Game &amp; Fish</td>
<td>Biological Aid</td>
<td>Minot, ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>Agriculture Technician</td>
<td>Hibbing, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Department of Interior</td>
<td>Aquatic Biological Science Technician</td>
<td>International Falls, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabasha County Environmental Services</td>
<td>Environmental Health Specialist</td>
<td>Wabasha, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Central Environmental Consultants</td>
<td>Environmental Technician</td>
<td>Morris, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Colleges and Universities Where BSU Aquatic Biology Graduates Have Gone to Continue Their Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University, Long Beach, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Nebraska Community College, Alliance, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:**
- Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2008. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2009)
- DISCOVER. The American Testing Program, Educational Technology Center, Hunt Valley, MD (2009)

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.