Career Outlook 2018: Aquatic Biology

Aquatic Biology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Major:** Aquatic Biology (B.S.)  
**Minor:** Wetlands Ecology

**Fields of Emphasis:** Aquatic Systems, Fisheries Biology, Wetlands Ecology

**Department Website:** [http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/biology/aquatic](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/biology/aquatic)

**EMPLOYMENT AREAS AND PROJECTED DEMAND:**

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), zoologists and wildlife biologists held about 19,400 jobs in 2016. Depending on their position, zoologists and wildlife biologists may spend considerable time in the field gathering data and studying animals in their natural habitats. Federal and state governments employed about 59% of all zoologists and wildlife biologists, excluding education, hospitals, and postal services; 8% worked in management, scientific, and technical consulting services research; 7% worked for colleges, universities, and professional schools; and 7% worked for research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences. Many zoologists and wildlife biologists have advanced degrees.

OOH reports the nationwide demand for Marine and Aquatic Biologists is projected to grow 8%, as fast as average, through 2026, with people established in their career generally earning between $39,150 and $98,540 per year. The 2016 median pay was $60,520 per year including those workers with advanced degrees.

**PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES:**

Of the Bemidji State University 2015-2016 Aquatic Biology graduates, 75.0% have found employment in their field within one year of graduation. 19.0% of graduates went on to continue their education. This does not include students not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status.

**PARTIAL LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES**: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN DNR</td>
<td>Creel Clerk</td>
<td>Grand Marais, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN DNR</td>
<td>Watercraft Inspector</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN DNR</td>
<td>General Laborer</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
<td>Stream Technician</td>
<td>Stillwater, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswald Fisheries</td>
<td>Fisheries Technician</td>
<td>Bruce, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Rivers Park District</td>
<td>Park Services Assistant</td>
<td>Bloomington, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>Stream Habitat Assessment Technician</td>
<td>Logan, UT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN

*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.*

**Bibliography:**

- Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study 2015-2016. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2018)
- Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2017-2018. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2017)

For more information, contact Career Services; Decker Hall/218-755-2038/career@bemidjistate.edu

For more job listings please visit:

[http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/)