

# Career Outlook: Aquatic Biology

## Aquatic Biology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Major:** Aquatic Biology (B.S.) **Minors:** Aquatic Systems, Fisheries Biology, Wetlands Ecology

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

**Department Website:** <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 18,500 jobs in 2020. 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 63% of all zoologists and wildlife biologists, excluding education, hospitals, and postal services; 9% worked in management, scientific, and technical consulting services research; 6% worked for colleges, universities, and professional schools; and 4% 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 the same as for zoologists and wildlife biologists, projected to grow 5%, through 2030, with people established in their career generally earning between \$41,720 and \$106,320 per year. The 2020 median pay was \$66,350 per year including those workers with advanced degrees.

### **PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES:**

Of the 12 Bemidji State University 2019-2020 Aquatic Biology graduates, 50% have found employment in their field within one year of graduation and 3 graduates have gone on to continue their education. This does not include students unavailable, not seeking employment, or had unknown status.

### **PARTIAL LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES\*:**

**(This list includes employment from graduates between 2018 and 2020.)**

Castle Danger Brewery	Lab Assistant	Two Harbors, MN
Conservation Corps	Soil & Water Corps Member	Lewiston, MN
Department of Natural Resources	Fisheries Laborer	Detroit Lakes, MN
Headwaters Science Center	Educator	Bemidji, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	NR Tech	St. Paul, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Creel Study	Baudette, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Aquatic Plant Management Technician	Brainerd, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Natural Resources Technician	Bemidji, MN

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

- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL
- Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX

\*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 2019-2020. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2022)  
Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2021-2022. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2022)  
Occupational Outlook Handbook. U.S. Dept. of Labor, JIST Publishing Inc., Indianapolis, IN (2021)

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

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