

# 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 17,100 jobs in 2021. 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 67% of all zoologists and wildlife biologists, excluding education, hospitals, and postal services; 6% worked in management, scientific, and technical consulting services research; 4% worked for colleges, universities, and professional schools; and 5% 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 1%, through 2031, with people established in their career generally earning between \$42,420 and \$103,900 per year. The 2021 median pay was \$64,650 per year including those workers with advanced degrees.

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

Of the 19 Bemidji State University 2020-2021 Aquatic Biology graduates, 62.5% have found employment in their field within one year of graduation and 6 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 2021.)

MN Department of Natural Resources	Aquatic Plant Management Technician	Brainerd, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Creel Study	Baudette, MN
Headwaters Science Center	Educator	Bemidji, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Fisheries Census Clerk	Spicer, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Fisheries Laborer	Detroit Lakes, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	NR Tech	St. Paul, MN
MN Department of Natural Resources	Parks and Trails Associate	Isle, MN
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.	Project Manager	Brainerd, MN
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	Sea Turtle Research Assistant	Columbia, SC
Conservation Corps	Soil & Water Corps Member	Lewiston, MN

### **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU AQUATIC BIOLOGY GRADUATES CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION:**

- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
- University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN
- University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, La Crosse, WI
- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI

\*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 2020-2021. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2023)

Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2022-2023. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2023)

Occupational Outlook Handbook. U.S. Dept. of Labor, JIST Publishing Inc., Indianapolis, IN (2022)

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

**For more job listings please visit:**

## *Handshake*

<https://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/career/events-guides-resources/job-listings/>



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