So you want to be a marine scientist...

Careers in Marine Science

What Are Marine Scientists?

Scientists who study creatures & phenomenon in the ocean. They can be divided into several specialties:

- **Biological.** Studies plants & animals that live relatively close to shore-from plankton to seabirds to tide pool inhabitants.
- **Geological.** Studies the ocean bottom-sea beds, formations & volcanoes –and the minerals found there.
- **Chemical.** Studies the chemicals & compounds that make up the ocean.
- **Physical.** Studies the movement of the ocean & the forces which cause motion such as wind, waves, tides, sea currents, and temperature.

Skills to focus on in school

- **Language Arts.** Writing/English - to publish reports & journal papers and Public Speaking - to present your findings to colleagues, constituents and the general public.
- **Science.** All types: chemistry, biology, physics – learn how to design & conduct experiments.
- **Math.** Particularly algebra, statistics & calculus.
- **Computers**. Word processing, presentations & database applications; Programming skills are desirable.

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Education

- **Biological Technician.** Minimum 2 years of college; Bachelor's degree preferred.
- **Fishery Biologist.** Minimum Bachelor's degree; Master's degree or PhD preferred.
- **Professor.** PhD preferred.
- **Lead Researcher.** Minimum Master's degree; PhD preferred.

Who's Hiring?

- **Federal Government.** Department of Commerce - NOAA Fisheries Service & the Department of the Interior - Fish & Wildlife Service.
- **State Government.** Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources and Aquaculture Development Programs.
- **Colleges and Universities.** State & private colleges & universities and community colleges.
- **Private Sector.** Private research institutions and consultant firms.
- **Non-Profit Organizations.** Environmental & conservation agencies.

Earning Potential

Varies with employer and level of education.

What's in it for You?

- Work can be an adventure! Travel to places many humans have never been to.
- Opportunity to cruise on research ships.
- Work independently & direct your own work schedule.
- Transform your natural curiosity into logic & science.
- Make a difference to some living creature – seals, turtles, fishes, humans.

For more info, please go to:

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
www.pifsc.noaa.gov

Pacific Islands Regional Office
www.fpir.noaa.gov