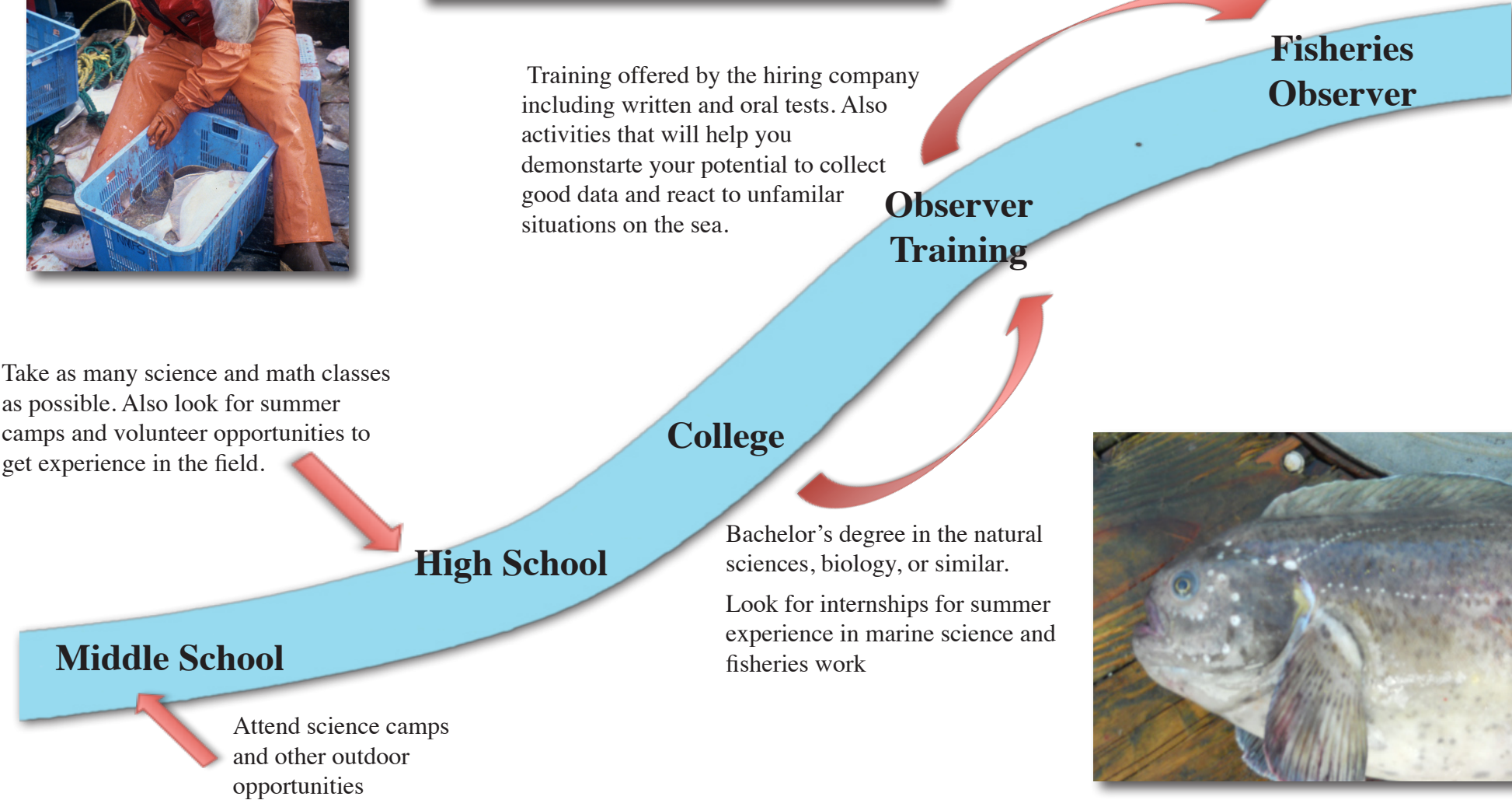


# How to Become a Fisheries Observer



If you like working outside, enjoy being on boats, like math and science, have initiative and can work independently you might want to be a Fisheries Observer.

Take as many science and math classes as possible. Also look for summer camps and volunteer opportunities to get experience in the field.



\* Different observing organizations may have more or less requirements. This is a generalized example to get you started on the right path.

### **Fisheries Observer Job Description:**

Fisheries observers monitor and record catch data from fishing vessels and processing facilities. Some of the information observers collect is fish length, weight, sex, age-structures, and species. They may also keep track of bird and marine mammal sightings along with any interactions. Observer programs often are responsible for collecting the largest part of fisheries management data and is a very important job. Opportunities to do marine mammal and crab observing work are also available.

### **Pay Range:**

\$3,900 - \$6,340 a month

### **Location:**

Mostly Dutch Harbor and Kodiak areas

### **Schools in Alaska that offer degrees for observer careers:**

- University Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Anchorage
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Pacific University
- Prince William Sound Community College
- Kenai Peninsula College

### **A few organizations that hire Fisheries observers:**

- Alaskan Observers, Inc.
- Saltwater Inc.
- Northwest Observers
- TechSEA International Inc.

### **Places to find more information:**

- Organizations websites
- Future Alaskans Website - summer opportunities, internships, camps, jobs, etc.  
(<http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/future>)
- Job boards (some examples):
  - <http://www.jobs.state.ak.us>
  - <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/jobs>
  - <http://www.alaskajobfinder.com>

