

How to Become a Marine Biologist



If you like working in a variety of places, enjoy research and interacting with animals, like math and science, have initiative and can handle working in different conditions you might want to be a Marine Biologist

A Masters degree will allow you to specialize in marine biological fields like marine mammals or fisheries. You can also go straight from your Masters to your PhD.

Marine Biologist

Other advancements or career choices (professor, researcher, etc)

PhD

Your PhD work should include field research, conferences and publications.

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

Masters

College

Bachelor's degree in Biology, Marine Science, Oceanography, Fisheries, or other related fields

Look for internships and field experience for the summer

High School

Attend and present at professional conferences and try to publish your research.

Middle School

Attend science camps and other outdoor opportunities. Locate researchers doing interesting things and open communication with them



* Different marine biologist jobs may have more or less requirements. This is a generalized example to get you started on the right path.

Marine Biologist Job Description:

A marine biologist studies plants and animals that live in the ocean, their behavior and adaptations, roles in the food chain, and how humans can effect these organisms. They often concentrate on a specific organism or habitat. Marine biologists can work out in a field, lab, or in an office depending on the work they are conducting. Not only do marine biologists do research but they are also involved in educating the public about the marine environment.

Pay Range:

\$25,000 - \$50,000 starting

Location:

Throughout Alaska

Schools in Alaska that offer degrees for marine biology careers:

- University Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Anchorage
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Pacific University
- Kenai Peninsula College

A few organizations that hire Marine Biologists:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- US Fish and Wildlife
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Environmental groups
- Consulting agencies



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>