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Fisheries Biology, B.S.

Our program is all about learning by doing. The nearby ocean, bay, rivers, and lagoons play an important role in your education, and resources like our on-campus fish hatchery and oceangoing vessel, along with passionate professors, give you cutting-edge knowledge and hands-on learning to help you excel in your career.

Experience Your Learning

Hands-on learning in these freshwater and marine environments gives you real-world experience and prepares you for a successful career.

First-year students participate in the Klamath Connection, where they explore the relationships between science, traditional ecological knowledge, the environment, and Native American communities all through the lens of California's second largest river, the Klamath River.

The Fish Hatchery is a unique classroom setting for hands-on education. Faculty mentored student research activities give students the opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom.

The Marine Lab is located in Trinidad, 14 miles from the Cal Poly Humboldt campus. The lab has a 40,000 gallon state-of-the-art seawater system and is a short walk to sandy beaches, rocky intertidal zones, and subtidal kelp beds.

The R/V Coral Sea is one of the largest research vessels dedicated to undergraduate education and research in the US. The vessel is an oceangoing laboratory for students and available for research charters.

Did you know?

- The study of Natural Resources and Fisheries was spawned at Humboldt in 1940, when 10,400 salmon eggs were delivered to our campus hatchery.
- Humboldt is the only CSU institution that offers an undergraduate degree in Fisheries Biology. It is also the only academic institution in the state of California to offer a master's degree with an emphasis in Fisheries.
- Our Fish Collection contains more than 50,000 specimens, with more than 1,200 cataloged species.



Academics & Options

Fisheries Biology, B.S.

Program Concentrations

Freshwater Fisheries

This option focuses on the biology and ecology of fish that occupy a wide range of freshwater habitats. Fisheries management, conservation biology and restoration ecology are considered. Emphasis is also placed on how water quality and land use practices affect watersheds and freshwater ecosystems.

Marine Fisheries

This option focuses on the biology and ecology of fishes inhabiting marine and estuarine environments. The R/V Coral Sea and many smaller boats support “hands-on” field studies in coastal waters, Humboldt Bay, lagoons, and many local estuaries. The Telonicher Marine Laboratory allows for the culture and study of the early life stages of marine fishes.

Aquaculture

This option focuses on rearing of marine and freshwater fish, water quality, disease management, and aquarium maintenance. The on-campus fish hatchery and the Telonicher Marine Laboratory provide working environments for fish rearing. Students interested in aquaculture may also study at the University’s seaweed farm in Humboldt Bay.

Minor

Fisheries Biology Minor

Although a minor is not required for graduation, it will complement your studies and enhance your career opportunities by bringing fishes and their habitats to the forefront of your discipline.



Careers

Our graduates are known throughout the country for being highly prepared for the job market and have gone on to pursue a variety of careers.

- Aquaculturist
- Aquatic Biologist
- Customs Inspector
- Fish Hatchery Manager
- Fish & Game Warden
- Fisheries Biologist
- Habitat Restoration Specialist
- Reservoir Manager
- Wastewater Treatment Analyst
- Watershed Restoration Specialist



I knew I wanted to be a fisheries biologist since I was a kid, and Humboldt’s Fisheries Biology program is renowned throughout the country. It laid the foundation of knowledge I needed to become a specialist in the field of fisheries biology. The hands-on lab and field work were excellent.”

Chris Mayes (‘10, Fisheries Biology),
fisheries biologist, U.S. Forest Service