Fisheries Biology

Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Fisheries Biology — concentrations available in Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries

Minor in Fisheries Biology

See Natural Resources for details on the Master of Science degree.

Department Chair
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The Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated the ability to:

- provide a description of how physical and biological factors of aquatic ecosystems determine the distribution and abundance of fish populations and pose testable hypotheses and experiments to identify specific factors that constrain population growth or distribution
- select and implement basic data collection protocols appropriate for characterizing status of fish communities, including assessment of species composition, abundance, and population structure (age, size, genetic)
- convey scientific concepts in written, oral, and visual communication formats, including following basic guidelines for format and structure of scientific reports, papers, or presentations
- describe and explain how fisheries management problems can be expressed as quantitative models, produce useful tabular and graphic summaries of quantitative data, and conduct simple tests of statistical hypotheses
- describe the scientific, legal, political, and social factors that determine goals for fisheries management and conservation, and to identify appropriate management strategies that can be used to achieve these goals
- critically evaluate their own fisheries work as well as fisheries data, information, and conclusions reported in published peer-reviewed literature, unpublished technical reports, and popular media.

The overall goal of the Fisheries Biology Program is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation required to ensure the conservation of fish and aquatic resources that are faced with increasing societal demands and increasing loss of habitat. We stress development of a field-based understanding of the relationships between freshwater and marine fishes and the habitats upon which they depend, but our program is broad enough to provide specialized training in fish population dynamics and fishery management, restoration ecology, systematics, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fish health management, water pollution biology, and wastewater utilization.

Each of these areas has its own important role to play in the overall conservation of fish resources.

Fisheries Biology students have on-campus facilities for hands-on studies: a recirculating freshwater fish hatchery, rearing ponds, spawning pens, and modern laboratories for study of fish genetics, pathology, taxonomy, ecology, and age and growth. Also on campus is the California Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, supported by both state and federal government, and a large fish museum collection.

Off campus, students take classes and carry out research projects at the university’s marine laboratory in Trinidad, about 12 miles north of campus. A 90’ university-owned ocean-going vessel, docked in Eureka, is available for classes and for faculty and graduate student research in nearshore ocean waters. Numerous small boats and a specialized electrofishing boat are available for instruction and research in local bays, lagoons and estuaries.

Our graduates may qualify for certification by the American Fisheries Society as Associate Fisheries Scientists, and many continue their education after HSU, receiving MS or Ph.D. degrees in fisheries biology or other closely related fields.

Possible careers: aquarium curator, aquatic biologist, biological technician, environmental specialist, fish culturist, fish health manager, fisheries biologist, fisheries consultant, fisheries modeler; fisheries statistician, hydrologist, museum curator; reservoir manager; restoration ecologist, sewage treatment water analyst, water quality advisor.

Preparation

We recommend that high school students interested in fisheries biology take as many challenging biology, chemistry, mathematics, and computer classes as possible, and that they also stress oral and written communications.

Requirements for the Major

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 66-80, and “The Master’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 81-83.

The Upper Division Area B General Education requirement is met by the coursework within the Bachelor of Science degree for either option in the Fisheries Biology major:

Core Courses

Shared Requirements for Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Concentrations

Lower Division

- BIOL 105 (4) Principles of Biology
- CHEM 107 (4) Fundamentals of Chemistry
- CHEM 128 (3) Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- FISH 260 (3) Fish Conservation & Mgmt.
- MATH 105 (3) Calculus for the Biological Sciences & Natural Resources
- STAT 109 (4) Introductory Biostatistics
- ZOOL 110 (4) Introductory Zoology
- FISH 220 (3) Water Resources & Conservation [Freshwater Fisheries], or
- OCN 109/109L (3 / 1) General Oceanography / Lab [Marine Fisheries]

Upper Division

- BIOL 330 (4) Principles of Ecology
- FISH 310 (4) Ichthyology
- FISH 314 (3) Fishery Science Communication
- FISH 380 (3) Techniques in Fishery Biology
- FISH 460 (3) Adv. Fish Conservation & Management
- FISH 474 (4) Conservation Genetics of Fish and Wildlife

One quantitative course from:
- FISH 458/FISH 558 (4) Fish Population Dynamics
- STAT 333 (4) Linear Regression Models / ANOVA
- STAT 404/STAT 504 (4) Multivariate Statistics
- STAT 406 (4) Sampling Design & Analysis
- STAT 409 (4) Experimental Design and Analysis

or an approved upper division quantitative course.
Select one concentration and complete requirements.

**Freshwater Fisheries Concentration**

*Core courses plus:*
- FISH 320/FISH 320L (3/1) Limnology
- FISH 370/FISH 370L (3/1) Aquaculture
- FISH 434 (4) Ecology of Freshwater Fish
- FISH 476 (3) Ecology of Running Waters

**Approved Electives** * (9 units required; General Education classes may not be used as approved electives). Include at least two from the following:
- FISH 335 (3) US & World Fisheries
- FISH 375 (3) Mariculture
- FISH 410/FISH 510 (3) Topics in Advanced Ichthyology
- FISH 435 (4) Ecology of Marine Fish
- FISH 458/FISH 558 (4) Fish Population Dynamics
- FISH 471 (3) Fish Diseases
- FISH 571 (3) Advanced Fish Disease & Pathology

One other course approved by your advisor.

**Marine Fisheries Concentration**

*Core courses plus:*
- FISH 335 (3) US & World Fisheries
- FISH 375 (3) Mariculture
- FISH 435 (4) Ecology of Marine Fish
- ZOOL 314 (5) Invertebrate Zoology

**Approved Electives** * (9 units required, General Education classes may not be used as approved electives). Include at least two from the following:
- FISH 370 (3) Aquaculture
- FISH 410/FISH 510 (3) Topics in Advanced Ichthyology
- FISH 434 (4) Ecology of Freshwater Fish
- FISH 458/FISH 558 (4) Fish Population Dynamics
- FISH 471 (3) Fish Diseases
- FISH 571 (3) Advanced Fish Disease & Pathology

One other course approved by your advisor.

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**

14-15 units:

- FISH 310 (4) Ichthyology
- FISH 460 (3) Adv. Fish Conservation & Management

Plus one of the following pathways:

- FISH 320/320L (3/1) Limnology/Practicum or
- FISH 476 (3) Ecology of Running Waters
- FISH 434 (4) Ecology of Freshwater Fish

or

- OCN 109/109L (3/1) General Oceanography/Lab
- FISH 435 (4) Ecology of Marine Fish

* Alternative sets of approved electives may be approved under exceptional circumstances. Discuss with your advisor: