AQUACULTURIST

Aquaculturists understand the growth, development and production of aquatic animals. Aquaculturists work to bring a variety healthy fish, lobsters, crabs etc. to our dinner table from aquatic environments.

USDA

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Assist with all aspects of fish husbandry: feeding, fish grading, fish movement, water quality monitoring and fish inventory
- Grow fish and shellfish as cash crops or for release into freshwater or saltwater
- Supervise and train aquaculture and fish hatchery workers
- Collect and record growth, production, and environmental data
- Conduct and supervise stock examinations to identify diseases or parasites
- Sort different types of breeding stock in order
- Incubation and short-term rearing of fish in net pens or small ponds
- Routine maintenance of facility and equipment
- Oversee operation and maintenance of freshwater and/or seawater aquaculture systems
- Provide insight into planning facilities and construction of new aquaculture systems
- Manage automated building and equipment control systems
- Provide technical support for various projects with researchers and universities
- Assist those interested in aquaculture in the development of commercially viable aquaculture systems and processes
- Design, supervise and implement biological studies on aquatic resources
- Assess fish population in various bodies of water
- Compile, analyze and interpret biological data and compile technical reports
- Identify and treat diseases found in fish populations
- Manage fish inventory and production in a hatchery
- Administer and execute policies relating to operations, train, supervise and assist hatchery workers
- Provide leadership for delivering education, training and information to a variety of audiences that may farmers, educators, agency personnel and citizens
- Work to find ways to improve spawning, setting, growth rates and disease prevention in hatcheries

WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

A Bachelor's degree in fisheries or biological science or Master's in aquaculture or related field

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, a focus on sciences such as biology, environmental science and chemistry

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Large commercial fisheries that produce and harvest fish; government environmental agencies or extension

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK

Poor Good Excellent

SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Fisheries Society
- National Aquaculture Association
- World Aquaculture Society

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

$60,000