



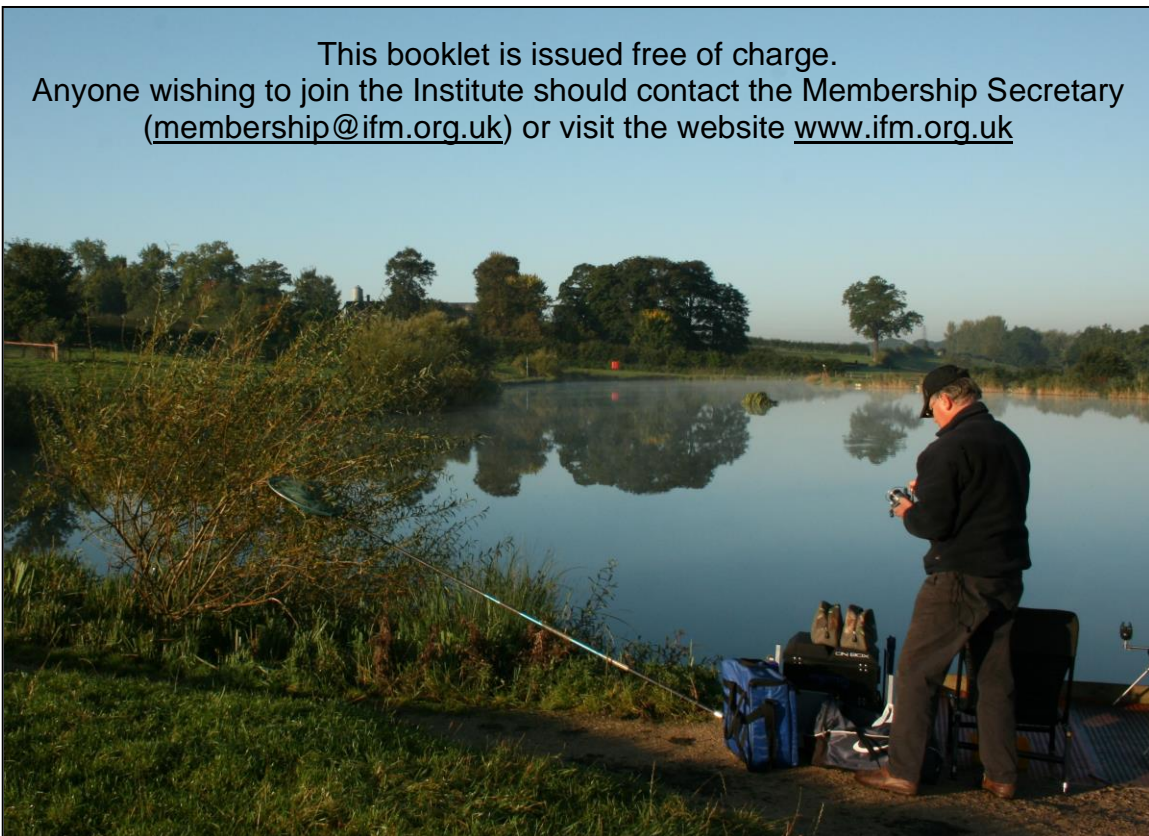
Institute of Fisheries Management

IFM Careers Guide Fisheries

Updated in 2023

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This booklet is issued free of charge.
Anyone wishing to join the Institute should contact the Membership Secretary
(membership@ifm.org.uk) or visit the website www.ifm.org.uk





Institute of Fisheries Management

The **Institute of Fisheries Management** (IFM) is an international organisation of people sharing a common interest in the modern management of recreational and commercial fisheries.

Created in 1969 in the UK, the IFM is dedicated to the advancement of sustainable fisheries management in all its forms. It is a non-profit making organisation, controlled by the membership and governed by trustees and an elected advisory council. Members are drawn from professional fisheries managers, regulatory and research bodies, fishing and angling organisations, water companies and fish farms as well as private individuals. We represent their interests in fisheries at many levels within government and conservation bodies.

The Institute, in partnership with a number of other UK institutes and societies concerned with the environment, is one of the constituent bodies of the Society for the Environment. The Society now has a Royal Charter and is empowered to award the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist.



Institute of Fisheries Management

CAREERS IN FISHERIES

This advisory booklet is intended as a guide for people seeking careers in fisheries. Points of entry into a generalised career structure are indicated for people with differing levels of qualifications, professional expertise and experience.

Interest in a fisheries career is widespread in the British Isles. Traditionally there have always been far more people attempting to obtain employment in this field than there are suitable openings, particularly at the lower entry points. Having said that, there still appear to be plenty of opportunities for the right people to embark on this career. The fisheries sector attracts both the young, starting out on their career path, and also the more mature, looking for a change in career.

Employing Bodies

There are many potential employers in fisheries, but the sector has changed a lot in the last few decades. The Environment Agency (EA) probably employs the largest number of people in freshwater fisheries work in England. Other employers include:-

- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- The Angling Trust
- Inshore Fisheries Conservation Associations (IFCA)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Privatised water companies
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- The Freshwater Biological Association (FBA)
- The Rivers Trusts
- Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department
- Some District Salmon Fisheries Boards
- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Northern Ireland (DAERA)
- The Loughs Agency
- The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources - the Republic of Ireland
- Universities
- Local authorities.

In the private sector there are a large number of consultancies that employ staff with fisheries expertise to work alongside other environmental consultants. There are also significant numbers of small consultancies working to provide advice and services to the stillwater fisheries management sector. Of course there are also many private fisheries, from large complexes to smaller syndicates, and even some angling clubs, who employ fisheries managers for their waters.

Fish farming

As well as the substantial salmon industry, farming fish for the table there are also a large number of fish farms that produce a variety of species of fish, to restock and support fisheries across the UK. These have always been seen as an intrinsic part of the fisheries industry.

The majority of fish farming concerns are small, with owners doing much of the work themselves. There are thought to be in excess of 1200 fish farms, of one sort or another, in the British Isles.

To many people, one of the main attractions of fish farming is the idea of working in a rural environment. Whilst this can certainly be an advantage it can also have certain disadvantages:

- Many fish farms are remote and isolated, with little suitable housing in the vicinity; this will apply especially in areas with a growing number of marine fish farmers.
- The fish need to be tended seven days a week and tasks which are fun on a summer's day can be most unpleasant in a mid-winter gale.
- Large-scale fish farming is a relatively new industry in Great Britain and suffers from many of the ills which beset other new businesses, such as poor working conditions or job security.



Checking the water quality is a vital task on any fish farm.

Fisheries Work at the Environment Agency.

Of all the potential employers The EA probably best exemplifies some of the changes in this sector in recent decades. These changes are worth looking at in a little detail as they do give indications about the skills and versatility that are important in today's job market. The Environment Agency structure does not currently have a dedicated fisheries section; although many of the EA areas do have a fisheries technical team. Many of the fisheries functions are instead delivered by fisheries staff who are part of the Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology teams (FBG), Analysis and Reporting teams (A&R), and/or Sample and Collection teams (S&C).

Fisheries staff in the S&C teams will lead on fish population surveys, usually with the assistance of the designated officer from the FBG team, and possibly temporary summer students. This role will also see both FBG and A&R staff lead on investigations into fish mortalities. Increasingly both A&R and S&C staff will not only have to deal with fisheries work, but also carry out surveys of aquatic invertebrates, aquatic and emergent vegetation and other indicators of water quality such as diatoms.

Fisheries staff in the FBG teams may be organised by river catchments. Some teams have all encompassing FBG officers who deal with all the Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology issues, working under the guidance of technical specialists who are experts in their field. Other teams however retained the formula of trying to have both a Fisheries officer and a Biodiversity officer on a river catchment. Their responsibilities include giving fisheries management advice, fish rescues and transfers. With much of the habitat improvement works now carried out by the Rivers Trust in England and Wales, FBG officers spend quite a lot of their time working with non-government bodies on partnership project work, to deliver environmental improvements. This type of work is often on those waterbodies where monitoring, relating to the Water Framework Directive, has highlighted them as below good ecological status. Some enforcement work, previously undertaken by these fisheries staff, is now carried out by Environment officers.

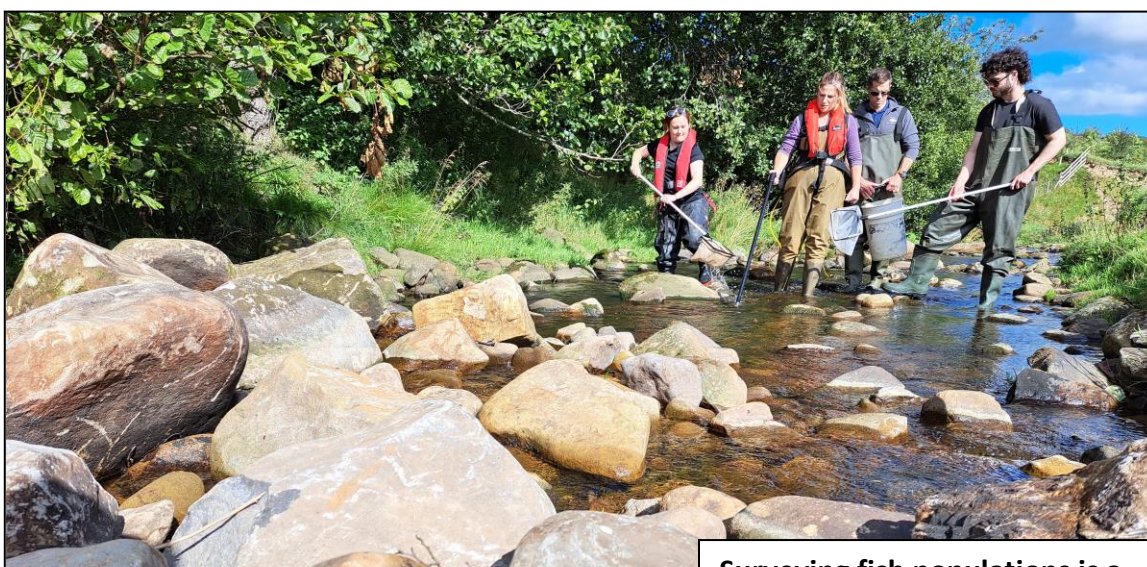
Increasingly, much of the work carried out by fisheries officers is in relation to various permitting systems; such as those relating to fish movements or for using methods other than rod and line for the capture of fish, eel, lamprey and crayfish. As a result, fisheries officers are increasingly office based, which may be less appealing to the type of people who would like a career in fisheries.

Most EA regions also have small teams of bailiffs. Their responsibility is to check anglers' rod licenses and to be observant of illegal fishing activity. This is usually part-time work, and often requires the person to work weekends, when there are the most anglers on the bankside. The Angling Trust, which is the sports national governing body, has established a Volunteer Bailiff Scheme (VBS) in many parts

of the country. Bailiffs are also employed by some riparian owners to maintain their own fisheries.

Fisheries staff are also employed within the Agency Head Office and the Agency National Fisheries Laboratory at Brampton, Cambridgeshire. The Environment Agency's fish hatchery at Calverton in Nottinghamshire, and a salmon hatchery in Northumbria, also employ a number of staff.

The Environment Agency also make use of temporary members of staff to assist the regular staff in the delivery of the various work streams, such as ecological surveys that have to be completed during the summer months. Temporary staff are often employed via temping agencies. Of course, as with many lines of work, casual employment or volunteer work is often a good way to gain experience with these large organizations. Numerous full-time staff at the Environment Agency gained their current positions via this route, and for those reading this who are still keen to get a 'foot in the door' of the Environment Agency or Natural Resources Wales, it really is a good starting point.



Surveying fish populations is a major part of the work that the Environment Agency does and so electrofishing is a key skill. Here a group of students are taught the basics of electrofishing equipment and the use of this technique to survey fish.

Other Fishery Work

Increasingly many people seeking employment in the fisheries field are being engaged by private consultancies in the environmental sector. These employers will be carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments, environmental surveys including fish surveys and many other projects in this sector. Consultancies may be working for clients such as the privatised water companies, the construction industry, highways, etc. Some of these consultants may also work as contractors for the Environment Agency, for example some local investigative work, fish scale reading and sorting samples of aquatic invertebrates have all been contracted out in the past few years. Some of this work may only be short-term, however it does provide the opportunity to gain valuable experience in such techniques as electro-fishing and netting, which is highly desirable to any future employees.

The Rivers Trusts movement has really taken off in the last decade, with most catchments now having a Rivers Trust. Some of these are now quite large organizations and will employ specialist staff, including fisheries staff.

Much of the fisheries management in the UK is carried out by small enterprises. A lot of, if not most, angling provision is at owner-run fisheries or by angling clubs. This provides two major opportunities for those looking for a career in fisheries. Firstly, the dream for many, owning your own fishery. It is true that some people do start their career in fisheries management by buying or developing their own fishery. Secondly, running or working for one of the companies that offer advice and services to these fisheries and angling clubs. This section on the industry does show the importance of a wide skill set and a ability to turn your hand to a variety of tasks.

Seine netting. A key skill in fisheries management,



Generalised Career Structure and Entry Points

An attempt has been made to describe a simple generalised career structure in fisheries which, with only minor modifications, is applicable to the staff structures of most employing bodies.

Generally, it is advisable to obtain the highest qualifications you can before seeking permanent employment in the fisheries field. It really must be stressed however, that any opportunity to gain valuable practical experience should be taken. Many aspects of fisheries management require practical skills, so experience can be an important factor when employment decisions are made.

Five entry points are distinguished and the usual requirements for entry at each of these is shown below:

	Requirement for Entry
Point 1	<p>A general interest in fisheries. Some experience of fishing methods (netting, electrofishing). Dealing with anglers or police work is useful for water bailiff positions. The IFM certificate is an advantage and will almost always secure an interview.</p>
Point 2	<p>For a head bailiff or hatchery manager level position, experience of working in a post at Point 1 is the major requirement. For technical assistant posts, minimum GCSE standard is normally required, and further qualifications are an advantage. The IFM Diploma is a distinct advantage for entry points 2-4.</p>
Point 3	<p>Experience in a relevant post at Point 2 or a degree in a biological subject coupled with other relevant experience. Postgraduate experience is particularly useful for research posts.</p>
Point 4	<p>Experience in a relevant post at Point 3, or a higher university degree (masters) in a biological subject, coupled with a number of years involvement in the fisheries field.</p>
Point 5	<p>A university degree coupled with several years of working in a relevant post at Point 4 is a minimum requirement.</p>

Within each of the five levels there is a wide salary progression.

Many of those keen to enter fisheries have undertaken a biological course, often to a degree level, others are still at school and others are seeking new careers (e.g.: leaving the armed forces). Most of the positions for qualified staff (entry points 3-5) go to biologists with specialist post-graduate training or fisheries experience.

Prospective candidates who can reinforce their biological knowledge with other relevant skills will be viewed most favourably by employers. Such skills may include:

- Experience of practical fisheries management. For example, participation in an Angling Club work party.
- Engineering training and experience, particularly agricultural or marine engineering.
- Livestock husbandry experience, with evidence of understanding of animals.
- A general agricultural training, including such skills as bricklaying, erection of concrete structures or laying concrete, plumbing and electrics, together with a general aptitude to make things work in a farming environment.
- Having a full driving license can mean the difference between getting a job and not, particularly at the lower entry points.
- Good interview skills are important!

Increasingly interviews for qualified positions with the various government agencies are competency based. It is assumed that the candidates being interviewed possess the necessary training and knowledge to do the job. The candidate will generally have to provide examples from previous roles that demonstrate their ability to communicate, work in teams, solve problems, prioritise and manage time effectively.

Transferable Skills.

Transferable skills are a core set of skills and abilities, which can be applied to a wide range of different jobs and industries. They're usually picked up over time and can be gained from all sorts of experiences such as previous jobs, charity and voluntary work, education, hobbies or at home. Fisheries work is full of transferable skills so think about what you can do and include them when you're applying for work. They are also gained whilst working in fisheries, which makes transition to other work streams easier.

Some of the most often considered transferable skills are;

Leadership - simply motivating others is one of the most important skills.

Time management - the ability to set your own timetable and complete tasks

in the most time-effective way, create to-do-lists, delegate, ask for help, and break up projects accordingly.

Self-starting – much of the time you would be expected to work through things and sort out simple problems on your own.

Communication - this is particularly important in customer facing industries like fisheries, but good communication is an extremely versatile skill that's an important part of every role and contributes to the smooth running of any workplace. You don't have to be a public speaker but a willingness to talk to the wide range of people you'll meet is definitely a positive.

Research and analysis - Any experience of gathering, organising, and evaluating any type of information is useful. The management of a fishery is largely about organising and evaluating information.

Adaptability – As already pointed out many jobs require work outside fisheries. Adaptability and willingness to learn new skills are vital in this more generalist era.

It is useful to make a list of these transferable skills as you move towards a career in fisheries and they should be emphasised in any job application.



The Importance of experience.

The importance of gaining experience in the field of fisheries management cannot be overstated. As already mentioned, this is a very practical career so any experience of the practical side of the industry is desirable when looking for a job. However, there is another important aspect to this - a career in fisheries management is not for everyone. It can, and does, involve long hours working in wet and cold conditions, for little pay. When you are sitting in a warm office, or classroom, being out on the bankside in the sunshine, talking about fish and angling sounds like the perfect job. The reality of getting up at 6am on a winter morning to travel to site so you can drag a hundred-metre seine net round an icy lake all morning, can come as a rude awakening. Facing that reality early on the career journey can save a lot of time and money.

Training for a career in Fisheries

Anyone considering further training prior to entering fisheries can either undertake general training in practical skills, as described previously, or there are specialist courses related to fisheries, described below. There are many entry routes for anyone starting an education leading to a fisheries career and we have tried to lay out all the available options. Starting with our very own correspondence courses and going on to look at Further and Higher Education institutes that may have suitable courses.

Institute of Fisheries Management Correspondence Courses

The IFM has delivered correspondence courses for over 40 years, as well as short courses and other training opportunities. The two main courses are the IFM Certificate in Fisheries Management and the IFM Diploma in Fisheries Management. Both these qualifications are recognised by employers within the industry and obtaining a Diploma entitles the holder to professional status within the IFM.

IFM Certificate Course

The Certificate in Fisheries Management is set at Level 3 standard (A level equivalent) and aims to provide knowledge to the level required by persons aspiring to employment as a supervisory water bailiff or fisheries inspector in the water industry, or similar positions in commercially run fisheries. It also provides a sound knowledge base for people interested in running their own fisheries. The course is organised on a modular basis, with a core module covering freshwater biology and water quality. Additional modules cover fish culture and husbandry, fisheries law, fisheries enforcement, fishery maintenance and improvement, and angling and recreation. There is an optional practical weekend every year to cover some of the practical skills.

The certificate course is designed to be completed in a full year, with module exams in January and June. To complete the course you must pass exams in 6 of the 7 available modules.

IFM Diploma Course

The Diploma is set at Level 4 standard (undergraduate degree level) and is therefore more advanced and demanding than the Certificate. The course attempts to impart the knowledge required by persons employed in positions such as area fisheries managers in the water industry. This course extends over two years, with freshwater biology, fisheries management, fishery law and fisheries administration covered in one year, and fish husbandry, fish disease, water quality, fisheries conservation & management and recreation & amenity in the other year.

Weekend field courses are held each year and students are also expected to complete a project. Completion of the course requires passing exams and assignments for 8 out of the 9 available modules as well as passing the project assessment.

In 2024 the IFM will be launching further modules emphasising marine and transitional waters.

Tutorial systems are in operation for both Certificate and Diploma Courses, with feedback provided to students submitting test papers and essays to course tutors. The IFM also has a mentor scheme.

For more information on the courses please contact: -

Ian Wellby

Tel: 07800 632419

Email: ian.wellby@ifm.org.uk

Other IFM Courses

The IFM offers a range of short courses, including a 2-day electrofishing certificate, Freshwater Fish Identification and Biosecurity.

The IFM also organises a range of conferences from the Annual Conference to specialist conferences on a variety of subjects. These cover all aspects of fisheries management. The IFM branches also organise local day courses and evening talks on topical issues. Details can be obtained from Branch Secretaries, the Institute's quarterly publication 'FISH' or the Institutes Website (www.ifm.org.uk)

FE and HE Fisheries Management Education courses or relevant institutes

Post-school education has changed a lot in the last decade, particularly in the sector known as Further Education (FE). This sector is mainly college based and deals primarily with post-16 education, offering qualifications below degree level. This is distinct from Higher Education (HE) which refers to Universities and other institutions offering courses at degree level and above. FE in the United Kingdom is usually a means to attain an intermediate, advanced or follow-up qualification necessary to progress into HE, or to begin a specific career path outside of university education. FE is offered to students aged over 16 at colleges of Further Education, through work-based learning, or adult and community learning institutions.

Traditionally, many fisheries workers have started their careers at FE institutes that offer specific fisheries management courses, often using these as an access path to Higher Education.

The changes that have occurred have made it very difficult to complete an up-to-date list of institutes that offer FE courses suitable for someone starting

their career path in fisheries management. As a result of this we have put together a list of FE institutes that do now, or have in the past, offered courses relevant to fisheries management. We recommend that anyone interested in this path should approach each institute and ask them directly what courses they have available that year, and how that course would suit their particular career aspirations. With this sort of education, it is important to shop around to get the best experience in your education. It is a big commitment, so make certain that you are absolutely sure what you will be getting from each institute. Particularly remember that fisheries management is a very practical occupation and so any institute offering a fisheries management course should have resources available to give practical experience and demonstrations. Most of the better colleges have their own fish farms and access to lakes and rivers to provide lots of practical experience to their students.

Blackpool and The Fylde College,

Ashfield Road

Bispham

BLACKPOOL, Lancashire

FY2 0HB

Tel: 01253 504343

Email: info@blackpool.ac.uk

Example course – Foundation in Marine Biology [Marine Biology - Foundation Degree | Blackpool and The Fylde College](#)

Cornwall College

Killigrew Street

FALMOUTH

Cornwall

TR11 3QS.

Tel: 01326 310323

Email: falenquiries@cornwall.ac.uk

<https://falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk/subject-areas/marine-natural-environment/>

Easton and Otley College (an Associate College of UEA)

Charity Lane

Otley

IPSWICH

Suffolk

IP6 9EY

Tel: 08000 224556

Email: info@eastonotley.ac.uk

Example – BSc in Wildlife and Countryside Management [BSc \(Hons\) Wildlife and Conservation | Easton College](#)

Hadlow College (University of Greenwich)

Hadlow
TONBRIDGE, Kent
TN11 0AL
Tel: 020 8331 9000
Email address: courseinfo@gre.ac.uk
Website: www.gre.ac.uk

Example Courses Available

FdSc Aquaculture & Fisheries Management
Aquaculture and Fisheries Management BSc (Hons)

Plumpton College

Ditchling Road
PLUMPTON, East Sussex
BN7 3AE
01273 890 454

Example Course

Fisheries and Aquatic Science
[Fisheries & Aquatic Science - Plumpton College](#)

Sparsholt College Hampshire

Sparsholt
WINCHESTER, Hampshire
SO21 2NF
Tel: 01962 776441
Email address: courses@sparsholt.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk>

Example Courses Available

[Fishery Studies & Fish Management courses | Sparsholt College](#)
Aquaculture and Fishery Management BSc (Hons)

Barony College - Part of Scotlands Rural College (SRU)

Barony Education Office
SRUC Barony Campus
PARKGATE
Dumfries
DG1 3NE
Telephone: [01387 860251](tel:01387860251)
E-mail: barony@sruc.ac.uk
Environment Management - [SRUC | Course catalogue](#)

Inverness College (University of the Highlands and Islands)

3 Longman Road,
Longman South,
Inverness
IV1 1SA

Example course

[BSc \(Hons\) Environmental Science \(uhi.ac.uk\)](http://uhi.ac.uk)

Aquaculture Modern Apprenticeship [Aquaculture NPA - UHI Inverness](#)

Moulton College,

West Street,
Moulton, Northampton,
NN3 1RR
01604 491131, fax 01604 491127
E-mail: enquiries@moulton.ac.uk ;
www.moulton.ac.uk

Example courses

[Countryside officer | Moulton College](#)

Reaseheath College,

Reaseheath,
Nantwich, Cheshire,
CW5 6DF
01270 625131, fax 01270 625665
E-mail reception@reaseheath.ac.uk ,
www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Example Course

[Environmental Conservation - Reaseheath College](#)

Rodbaston College,

Rodbaston,
Penkridge, Stafford,
ST19 5PH
01785 712209, fax 01785 715701
E-mail: rodenquiries@rodbaston.ac.uk ;

Example course

Countryside Management Level 3 - [Countryside Conservation and Environmental Management – South Staffordshire College \(southstaffs.ac.uk\)](#)

**Sea Fish Industry Authority,
Seafish Training & Standards Division,**

Seafish House, St.Andrews Dock,
Hull HU3 4QE,
01482 327837, fax 01482 223310

E-mail training@seafish.co.uk,

[Seagoing training](#) | [Certificates](#) | [Seafish](#)

Seafish is the Government-appointed National Training Organisation for the fishing, merchenting and processing, retailing and frying sectors of the sea fish industry. **Example course** - Seagoing training

Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC)

Marine Scotland Science Freshwater Laboratory
Faskally, By Pitlochry
Perthshire
PH16 5LB

Tel: 01224 294408

Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC)

The SFCC is an association of Fisheries Management Scotland, Fisheries Trusts, Scottish Government, SEPA, SNH and others interested in evidence based management of freshwater fish and fisheries in Scotland and delivers training courses in : Electrofishing, Habitat surveying, Scale reading, etc.

[Training Courses – Fisheries Management Scotland \(fms.scot\)](#)

Shuttleworth College,

Old Warden Park
Nr. Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
SG18 9EA

Tel:- 01767 626222

Fax:- 01767 626235

E-Mail: enquiries@shuttleworth.ac.uk ;

Example Course

[Countryside & Environment Intermediate \(Level 2\) – SOB355 | Bedford College \(bedfordcolleggroup.ac.uk\)](#)

University of Aberdeen

University of Aberdeen
University Office, King's College
Aberdeen
AB24 3FX

Tel:- +44 (0) 1224 273504

Fax:- +44 (0) 1224 272034

Email address:- sras@abdn.ac.uk

Example courses

BSc (Hons) Conservation Biology. [Conservation Biology | Undergraduate Degrees | Study Here | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)

Aberystwyth University

Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion
SY23 3FL
Undergraduate Admissions Tel:- 01970 622021
Email:- ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Example course

Marine & Freshwater Biology - [Aberystwyth University - Marine and Freshwater Biology C164 BSc](#)

Bangor University

Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2DG
Tel:- 01248 383717
Email address:- admissions@bangor.ac.uk

Example Course

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology - [Marine Biology BSc \(Hons\) | Bangor University](#)

University of Cumbria

Fusehill Street
Carlisle, Cumbria
CA1 2HH
Tel:- 0845 606 1144
Website:- <http://www.cumbria.ac.uk>

Example courses

BSc (Hons) Marine and Freshwater Conservation

University of East Anglia

Norwich Research Park,
Norwich, Norfolk,
NR4 7TJ,
Switchboard: +44 (0) 1603 456161

Example Course

BSc Ecology and Conservation
[BSc \(Hons\) Ecology and Conservation 2024/25 | UEA](#)

Edinburgh Napier University

Craiglockhart Campus,
Glenlockhart Road,
Edinburgh
EH14 1DJ
Tel:- 0333 900 6040

Example course

Marine and Freshwater Biology BSc (Hons) - [Marine & Freshwater Biology BSc \(Hons\) | Edinburgh Napier University](#)

University of Essex

Wivenhoe Park, Colchester

Essex

CO4 3SQ

United Kingdom

Tel:- 01206 873666

Email address:- admit@essex.ac.uk

Example Course

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology (3 years)/ including year abroad (4 years)

[Marine biology | Your subject guide | University of Essex](#)

The University of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow, 71 Southpark Avenue

Glasgow

G12 8QF

United Kingdom

Contact

Tel: 0141 330 2999

Example course

BSc (Hons) Marine and freshwater Biology - [University of Glasgow -](#)

[Undergraduate study - 2024 Degree programmes A-Z - Marine & Freshwater Biology](#)

Hatfield

University of Hertfordshire,

Hatfield Campus, College Lane,

Hatfield,

Herts,

AL10 9AB

01707 284000

Example course

BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Ecology.

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-environmental-management-and-ecology>

Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

Edinburgh Campus

Edinburgh

EH14 4AS

United Kingdom

Contact

Tel: 0131 451 3376

Website: <http://www.hw.ac.uk>

Example course

BSc(Hons) Marine Biology (4 Years)

[BSc \(Hons\) Marine Biology Degree | Heriot-Watt University \(hw.ac.uk\)](#)

University of Hull

University of Hull International Fisheries Institute (Hifi),
Cottingham Road, Hull
HU6 7RX

Tel:- 01482 466421

E-mail:- hifi@hull.ac.uk;

Example Courses

B.Sc. (Hons) Aquatic Biology with Fisheries.

<https://www.hull.ac.uk/faculties/subjects/biological-and-marine-science>

Lancaster

Lancaster University,
Bailrigg,
Lancaster,
LA1 4YW

Tel:- +44 (0)1524 65201

<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/>

Example courses

The Environmental Biology BSc (Hons) includes a Aquatic Ecology module.

[Environmental Science BSc Hons \(F750\) - Lancaster University](#)

University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool
Foundation Building, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L69 7ZX,
Tel:- +44 (0)151 794 5927

Example Courses

Biological Science BSc (Hons)

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/biological-sciences-bsc-hons/module-details/>

Liverpool John Moores University

70 Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, Merseyside
L3 5UA

Tel:- 0151 231 2121

Example Courses

BSc (Hons) Biology programme

[BSc \(Hons\) Biology | Undergraduate course | Liverpool John Moores University \(ljmu.ac.uk\)](#)

King's College London

Strand,
London
WC2R 2LS,
Tel +44 (0) 20 7836 5454

Example Courses

Environmental Science for Sustainability MSc

[Environmental Science for Sustainability - King's College London \(kcl.ac.uk\)](https://www.kcl.ac.uk)

Queen Mary University of London

Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
Tel: +44 (0)20 7882 5555
email: sbcs-admissions@qmul.ac.uk

Example Courses

BSc Zoology

[Zoology - Queen Mary University of London \(qmul.ac.uk\)](https://www.qmul.ac.uk)

The University of Manchester

Oxford Rd
Manchester
M13 9PL
Tel:- +44 (0) 161 306 6000
<http://www.ls.manchester.ac.uk/>

Example Courses

BSc Biology (3 Years)

[BSc Biology \(2024 entry\) | The University of Manchester](https://www.manchester.ac.uk)

Plymouth University

Drake Circus
Plymouth, PL4 8AA
Tel:- 01752 585858
Email address:- admissions@plymouth.ac.uk

Example course

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology (3 or 4 years)

[BSc \(Hons\) Marine Biology - University of Plymouth](https://www.plymouth.ac.uk)

University of Portsmouth

Academic Registry
University House, Winston Churchill Avenue
Portsmouth, PO1 2UP
Tel:- 023 9284 5566
Email address:- admissions@port.ac.uk

Example course

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology

[BSc \(Hons\) Marine Biology | University of Portsmouth](https://www.port.ac.uk)

University of Stirling

Student Recruitment & Admissions Service

University of Stirling

Stirling, Scotland

FK9 4LA

Tel:- 01786 467044

Email address:- admissions@stir.ac.uk

Website:- <http://www.stir.ac.uk>

Example courses

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and BSc (Hons) Aquaculture

Swansea University

Admissions Office

Singleton Park, SWANSEA

SA2 8PP

Tel:- 01792 295111

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Example course

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology (Three years)

[Marine Biology, BSc \(Hons\) - Swansea University](#)



Careers in Profile

IFM Training asked some of its members to answer a few questions on their career to date to see if there was any gems of wisdom they had to impart to new starters. The following are the results.

Careers in Profile – Jon Wall

Jon Wall Fisheries Limited was established in 2000 to provide fisheries of all types with high quality services in all aspects of fishery management from fish stocking to weed cutting.



First experience of fish?

Sea Fishing with my Grandad down on the Kent coast.

What School did you go to and what subject GCSE/O levels subjects did you choose?

Ratcliffe College,
Maths, English, French, Geography, Chemistry, Biology, Physics

What College did you go to and what subjects did you choose?

Loughborough College, Loughborough, Leics

I did A Level Chemistry, Biology, Economics. These were chosen as Sparsholt College back in the day required you to study 2 A'levels and pass one in a science related subject.

I then went on to the Barony College in Dumfriesshire to do the Scotvec National Certificate in Fish Farming.

Did you go to University?

Yes I went to Aberdeen University and did a Btech(hons) in Aquaculture.

What was your first job and how did you get into fisheries?

I worked at Bentham Trout Farm in Lancs. In order to do the Sparsholt course at that time, as well as needing the A levels, you were also required to work in the industry for a year. I managed to secure a paid position as a farm labourer at the trout farm.

First boss?

Keith Easton, Fisheries Scientist, NRA Trentside Offices.

Best job?

Is working for yourself.

Job now?

Managing Director of Jon Wall Fisheries

Future?

Any news business venture possibly non fisheries related.

Person who helped you/inspired?

Keith Easton, Fisheries Scientist, NRA Trentside Offices

Why did you join IFM or similar professional organisation?

To meet similar, likeminded people.

Biggest issue at present -self

Wondering how long I will be able to carry on working in fisheries as job is very physical.

Biggest issue at present - fisheries

Dealing with the new Environment Agency permitting / consenting systems

Biggest regret/if could change something, what?

Wishing that I could of set up on my own business earlier!

Greatest satisfaction.

Running your own business

Humorous story

Spending the day in Lancaster docklands, rescuing eels and other fish from a disused factory lagoon site that was going to be demolished. Then taking the rescued fish 500 yards away in order to release them back into the sea, however the tide was out and as i carried them over the mud flat to the sea, I then find that I was stuck in the mud and needed rescuing! I did manage to get the fish back to the sea.

Advice to newbies.

The best advice I can give is to study in something that YOU enjoy doing. There is nothing worse than studying a subject that you do not have any interest in.

Making a career in fisheries is exceedingly difficult and it is only through hard work and determination that I managed it. I was told that I was unlikely to get many qualifications but in fisheries although some qualifications are important, it is also more about your attitude to the work.

Careers in Profile – Scott West (IFM Fellow, former fisheries scientist, Director of catchments at RSK Binnies.***First experience of fish?***

Feeding the ducks on the river Tone in Somerset as a child and seeing chub steal the bread! I was captivated from there on and a chub was my first fish I ended up catching.

What School did you go to and what subject GCSE/O levels subjects did you choose?

Bishop Fox's in Taunton, Somerset. A mix of GCSE's, the usual suspects. Although capable I was never too interested at school, with the sciences being my only loose interest, it wasn't until I had some great career advice and support that I realised I could do something related to water and fish.

What College did you go to and what subjects did you choose?

Somerset College of Arts & Technology, studying architecture but again this was quickly forgotten about in favour for Sparsholt College and fisheries studies. I'm proud to still be in contact with my Sparsholt peers to this day including Mr IFM careers himself, Mike Lee and of course our own Director of Operations Paul Coulson.

Did you go to University?

Yes, following on from Sparsholt I entered the second year at Plymouth University, reading fisheries science. Although I wish I had started this degree in the first year looking back having missed a lot of the core maths involved! From there I signed up to a Masters at Plymouth in fish biology but this was put on the back burning in favour of a year surfing around the globe. On return I had diversified somewhat and undertook a post graduate certificate in education (PGCE) at post 16 level.

What was your first job and how did you get into fisheries?

Excluding a mass of work placements and loose fisheries experiences my first real fishy job was working in an aquatic wholesale warehouse, receiving overseas imports and maintaining systems. Fisheries was always the goal but looking back I know how important all the indirectly related roles were in build experience and developing skills. My first direct fisheries role was with the IFM as their first development officer in 2008.

First boss?

First boss I remember as being a real mentor was Dr Steve Dury from Somerset County Council, he gave me an opportunity and helped me develop, I still bump into him now and again at events. First fisheries boss was the IFM's own David Bunt and Ian Dolben, top guys!

Best job?

Tricky one but I think a previous role with the Rivers Trust movement as a fisheries scientist and team manager, here I got to mix hands on practical fisheries science alongside managing a team of great people as well as working with leadership on trust strategies.

These days my work has moved out of direct fisheries to larger scale catchment and nature-based solutions, where I can build in river and fisheries restoration into projects.

Job now?

Director of catchments with RSK Binnies, a large engineering and water-based consultancy. My role is based around natural capital and working up large scale projects to deliver meaningful catchment scale restoration and

improvements using natural based solutions to deliver ecosystem benefits to people and the environment.

Future?

As my work is now wider than just fisheries, it's even more important to stay connected to the IFM, to get my fishy fix! Alongside this I manage my own fishery a hobby.

If I can continue to feel like I'm making a difference to rivers, wetlands and still waters then I'm happy. It's important to understand both the environmental and political landscapes and adapt accordingly to make the most of resources and opportunities, especially in conservation.

Person who helped you/inspired?

There have been a number along the way. It's something that's really helped me by having people who take an interest and support you. If I had to pick one, I guess it would be my PGCE teacher training mentor, Geoff Jones, someone who helped me realise I had something to offer. Alongside Geoff, there are too many IFM members to mention, I have worked with many of the years and it's always inspiring to learn from the team.

Why did you join IFM or similar professional organisation?

If you're mad about fish (as most of us are) the IFM is the place to be! It's also such a great movement to mix with like-minded individuals and keep up with what's current in the world of fisheries.

Biggest issue at present -self

Navigating the uncertainty of natural capital markets and investments to provide income for those that can provide nature benefits.

Biggest issue at present - fisheries

Wow, tricky one, we live in difficult times, I worry about fisheries losing its identity within organisation as austerity measures take hold in recent years, I worry about the succession of fisheries professionals coming through the ranks, I worry about the general aging populations of angling clubs who don't have younger members coming through and I worry about fish welfare and the image angling can represent in some cases. Hey, maybe I worry too much?

Biggest regret/if could change something, what?

Not trying at school in the early days, I wasted some time before realising what I wanted to do but I think that's part of the journey for us all. I wouldn't change a thing; we live by trial and error!

Greatest satisfaction.

Easy one: Taking young people off either fishing or kick sampling, kids love fish and that makes me smile. We should all be thinking about the future generation, it's them that will be keeping our fisheries sustainable. Plus watching fish use the improvement we make is ultimately rewarding.

Humorous story

The monster fish encounter.... Way back when working in aquatics, we got some Peruvian stone fish in which were aptly named “monster fish” no one had much idea on these fish and at 5am when you’re picking an order you mind isn’t on any potential dangers.... So, I scoop up this little monster fish and using my hand under the net drop it in the bag, bang it injects me with its dorsal and for the next 2 hrs I’m spaced out, nauseous and have a crazy pain in my hand! A quick call to the ecotoxicology labs in London and the fish is identified, by which time the effects wore off, one trippy little fish and a reason pay attention at 5am when working in a fish warehouse!

Another classic is the old life jacket deployment when not expecting it, always a treat.

Advice to newbies (probably the most important question).

Fisheries can be small industry / sector, so get involved with the major players through things like the IFM, networking is hugely important and although jobs can be limited its always clear to see those that have gone the extra mile for their career. We are lucky working in fisheries as everyone we meet shares that same passion so it’s ultimately worth the effort. Gets some qualifications and seek advice and support from those already in the game. Finally expand your interests, one role might lead into another, and a wide skill set is important not just for fisheries work but careers in general.

Summary

There can be few things in life more rewarding than doing a job that you love. It is a truism that if you choose a career in an area that interests you and you are passionate about, you will never work a day in your life. It is equally true that fisheries can involve long hours, cold and wet conditions and the financial rewards are never going to be great. So, think long and hard before starting down this path.

Obviously educational achievements will be important for your career but equally important is the practical skill you can obtain from experience. This can be as simple as volunteering with your local angling club but can also be obtained through summer internships and work experience placements.

Fisheries is a smallish field, but the people who work in the field tend to be friendly and willing to help in any way they can. The best advice I can give to you is ASK.

Good luck in your journey, the rewards can be great.



An IFM Electrofishing practical where the police turned up to make sure we weren't stealing any fish. But even the tutors have fun on a day when you catch gongons in the survey.