



Wildlife Career Card—Employer #3

State fish hatchery

This fish hatchery breeds native fish to be transplanted into streams and lakes. Fish are hatched here and reared through their early stages of life. Fish raised here are used to help restore native aquatic populations, provide fish for National Wildlife Refuges, and supplement fish stocks in decline.

1. Fisheries Technician/Culturist

Description:

Monitors and maintains the right environment for fish, helping to raise them from eggs and stocking them in lakes and streams.

Duties:

- Assist in propagation, rearing, and stocking of fish.
- Drive and operate heavy equipment to transport fish and maintain facilities.
- Keep accurate records on fish production.
- Educate hatchery visitors about fish biology and fish culture.

Skills and experience:

- Knowledge of aquatic organisms and principles of raising fish.
- Ability to operate and maintain vehicles.
- Ability to collect and record wildlife data.
- Ability to follow instructions and handle stressful situations.
- Physical ability to perform manual labor, including cleaning tanks.

Education and training:

- Entry-level positions require a high school diploma or GED only.
- More advanced positions require two years of experience related to aquaculture or aquatic biology.
- Valid driver's license, and frequently, the ability to obtain a commercial driver's license.

2. Educator/Interpreter

Description:

Teaches hatchery visitors and student groups about the operation of the hatchery, fish conservation, nature, and outdoor recreation.

Duties:

- Develop and deliver educational programs for youth and adults.
- Run hands-on fishing education programs and events.
- Conduct hatchery tours.
- Lead nature hikes, bird tours, and other outdoor education and recreation programs on the lands surrounding the hatchery.

Skills and experience:

- Enjoyment of teaching all ages.
- Comfort with, and willingness to handle, fish, insects, and other aquatic wildlife.
- Physically fit and acquainted with outdoor activities including fishing.
- Ability to write and develop lesson plans and educational materials.

Education and training:

- College degree or equivalent experience, with a major in wildlife management, zoology, fisheries management, botany, or another biological science.
- Course work in natural resource interpretation, environmental education, natural resource communications, or similar subjects.