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NORTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER HOSTS TWO HUTTON SCHOLARS **Junior Biologists to gain hands-on experience in stream ecology, fisheries science**

The NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) will host two students this summer as part of the 2006 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, an innovative education program sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The scholars, Hong-Nhi Do and Pranoti Hiremath, were two among 56 students selected this year to participate in the program and will be awarded a scholarship from AFS.

Led by NWFSC scientist and Hutton Program mentor Dr. Beth Sanderson, Do and Hiremath will participate in a large-scale ecological study designed to benefit endangered salmonids. The scholars will spend the summer sampling streams, helping with laboratory studies, and learning about stream ecology. Dr. Sanderson's research study is designed to enhance understanding of the importance of returning adult salmon as sources of nutrients (i.e., fertilizer) to streams in the Salmon River Basin in Idaho.

The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Application to the program is open to all sophomore, junior, and senior high school students regardless of race, creed, or gender. Each student chosen for the program is awarded a \$3,000 scholarship and is matched with a professional mentor for a summer-long, hands-on experience in fisheries science.

For most students, the Hutton Program is their first exposure to a professional work setting where they learn what qualities are necessary to be successful in that environment and the importance of being able to function well as part of a team. The students will gain an awareness of conservation issues and the importance of healthy aquatic systems; participate in projects that benefit habitat restoration, protection, and management; and gain an understanding of what is involved in being a fisheries biologist and of the career opportunities available in the field.

The NWFSC conducts research to help conserve and manage living marine resources and their habitats in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. The center's research assists resource managers in making sound decisions that build sustainable fisheries, recover endangered and threatened species, sustain healthy ecosystems and reduce human health risks. The center is particularly active in the Puget Sound region and is currently working to advance scientific efforts that inform policy decisions affecting recovery of salmon and killer whales in Puget Sound.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

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On the Web:

Northwest Fisheries Science Center: www.nwfsc.noaa.gov

NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

American Fisheries Society and the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program:
www.fisheries.org