Careers in science, service, and stewardship!
Everyone gets asked something like...

What are you going to be?
What are you going to do after high school?
What are you going to major in at college?

Maybe you have no idea...

Forget that for a minute...

Animals, plants, nature
What do you like?
What interests you?
What are you good at?

Helping people
turn to page 10

Money
turn to page 3

Leadership
turn to page 10

Math, patterns, computers, modeling
turn to page 8

Science (chemistry, biology, other -ologies)
turn to page 9

Protection the environment
turn to page 5

Decision-making & law enforcement
turn to page 6

Being outside, water, ships, planes
turn to page 7

Being creative, design and media
turn to page 4
Do you like animals?

Rescue whales and seals and investigate their deaths like stranding specialist
Kristin Wilkinson
(turn to page 19)

Protect marine mammals like marine biologist Lynne Barre
(turn to page 25)

Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations like fisheries biologist
Jason Cope
(turn to page 15)

Collect data on fish and endangered species on board fishing boats like fisheries observer
Christine Froschl
(turn to page 23)

Create videos of animals (and people and boats) like filmmaker
Paul Hillman (turn to page 11)

Enforce marine conservation laws and investigate lawbreakers like special agent
Maile Schneider
(turn to page 13)

Study animals, things that affect them, and ways to protect them like research ecologist
Lisa Crozier
(turn to page 21)

Do you like being creative?

Create videos of animals (and people and boats) like filmmaker
Paul Hillman (turn to page 11)

Monitor computer networks and fix vulnerabilities like systems security officer
Mike McCully
(turn to page 27)

Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations like fisheries biologist
Jason Cope
(turn to page 15)

Create new ways to identify toxins in marine animals using chemical analysis like research chemist
Denis da Silva
(turn to page 29)

Study animals, things that affect them, and ways to protect them like research ecologist
Lisa Crozier
(turn to page 21)

Research the impacts of pollution on animals and habitats in the US and around the world like lead research ecotoxicologist
Nat Scholz
(turn to page 31)
Interested in protecting the environment?

- Rescue whales and seals and investigate their deaths like stranding specialist Kristin Wilkinson (turn to page 19)
- Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations like fisheries biologist Jason Cope (turn to page 15)
- Create new ways to identify toxins in marine animals using chemical analysis like research chemist Denis da Silva (turn to page 29)
- Study animals, things that affect them, and ways to protect them like research ecologist Lisa Crozier (turn to page 21)
- Enforce marine conservation laws and investigate lawbreakers like special agent Maile Schneider (turn to page 13)
- Research the impacts of pollution on animals and habitats in the US and around the world like lead research ecotoxicologist Nat Scholz (turn to page 31)

Interested in law enforcement?

- Enforce food safety laws like Whitney Moore (turn to page 33)
- Protect marine mammals like marine biologist Lynne Barre (turn to page 25)
- Enforce marine conservation laws and investigate lawbreakers like special agent Maile Schneider (turn to page 13)
- Collect data on fish and endangered species on board fishing boats like fisheries observer Christine Froschl (turn to page 23)
Do you like boats or being outdoors?

- Make NOAA research possible as a ship captain (or plane pilot) like NOAA Corps officer Justin Keesee (turn to page 17)
- Protect marine mammals like marine biologist Lynne Barre (turn to page 25)
- Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations like fisheries biologist Jason Cope (turn to page 15)
- Collect data on fish and endangered species on board fishing boats like fisheries observer Christine Froschl (turn to page 23)
- Create videos of animals (and people and boats) like filmmaker Paul Hillman (turn to page 11)
- Enforce marine conservation laws and investigate lawbreakers like special agent Maile Schneider (turn to page 19)
- Rescue whales and seals and investigate their deaths like stranding specialist Kristin Wilkinson (turn to page 19)

Interested in math or computers?

- Create new ways to identify toxins in marine animals using chemical analysis like research chemist Denis da Silva (turn to page 29)
- Study animals, things that affect them, and ways to protect them like research ecologist Lisa Crozier (turn to page 21)
- Monitor computer networks and fix vulnerabilities like systems security officer Mike McCully (turn to page 27)
- Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations, like fisheries biologist Jason Cope (turn to page 15)
Do you like science?

Research the impacts of pollution on animals and habitats in the US and around the world like lead research ecotoxicologist Nat Scholz (turn to page 31)

Create new ways to identify toxins in marine animals using chemical analysis like research chemist Denis da Silva (turn to page 29)

Protect fish by programming computers to model fish populations like fisheries biologist Jason Cope (turn to page 15)

Study animals, things that affect them, and ways to protect them like research ecologist Lisa Crozier (turn to page 21)

Interested in leadership?

Make NOAA research possible as a ship captain (or plane pilot) like NOAA Corps officer Justin Keesee (turn to page 17)

Research the impacts of pollution on animals and habitats in the US and around the world like lead research ecotoxicologist Nat Scholz (turn to page 31)

Do you like helping people?

Monitor computer networks and fix vulnerabilities like systems security officer Mike McCully (turn to page 27)

Study the impacts of laws on people (like fishermen) like social scientist Suzanne Russell (turn to page 35)

Enforce food safety laws like Whitney Moore (turn to page 33)
My job is to make videos about NOAA. I do everything—scriptwriting, shooting, editing, and distribution (like uploading to YouTube). Video is so important to communicate your message. I help NOAA communicate with the public about the research and work we do. And I really enjoy telling stories, so it’s the perfect fit!

On location, I spend the day filming lab research, commercial fishing operations, interviews with scientists, etc. I love following scientists into the field to film their research.

In my office, I process and organize video that I’ve recorded. I also have to take care of the equipment and research video topics, write scripts, and edit videos.

I get to travel around working with many different people to tell many different stories. I learn something new from every video I work on, and sometimes I get to see a new part of the country too!

And back in my office, working on the “movie magic” in post production is really satisfying.

I’ve always had a strong interest in photography and filmmaking. After getting a bachelor’s degree in biology, I thought I’d study animal behavior.

But when I explored options, I realized that I wanted to tell a wide variety of stories about animals and science. So instead of becoming a researcher, I get to dive into stories about whales, seals, fish, science, and our understanding of the natural world.

The best way to get into this field is to volunteer and intern. In my early 20s I volunteered on a couple film crews. The first was filming a documentary in Botswana. Then I volunteered on an underwater film in Glacier Bay National Park while working as a biologist there.

Those experiences helped me get into graduate school to study science and natural history filmmaking. I interned as a filmmaking assistant at NOAA and I’ve been here ever since!

Being able to write is important, and photography, too, to be a camera operator. One of the easiest things you can do is watch movies and take notes. Take any opportunity you can to work in the industry. Get experience working with different filmmakers and production companies. That, and the networking connections you make, will help you.
Maile Schneider, special agent

I investigate violations of marine conservation laws, including the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. It's incredibly important to protect our marine resources. Punishing law-breakers helps prevent future damage, and fines help us right wrongs.

I follow up on leads that I uncover or that a concerned citizen sends me. I contact witnesses and suspects, investigate incidents, and write reports about my findings in order to put together a case.

I also patrol areas of Puget Sound and do education and outreach events in order to increase public knowledge of federal rules and regulations.

I like that a lot of my job is outdoors. It's fun to interact with new people. Sometimes my work requires me to work long hours, but I know it's necessary to get the job done.

I became interested in environmental protection when I took an environmental science class in high school. While working on my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy, I started as an intern at NOAA Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement. I did that for three years.

I like that a lot of my job is outdoors. It's fun to interact with new people.

To do this job, you need to study both marine science and criminal justice.

I became interested in environmental protection when I took an environmental science class in high school. While working on my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy, I started as an intern at NOAA Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement. I did that for three years.

I also patrol areas of Puget Sound and do education and outreach events in order to increase public knowledge of federal rules and regulations.

I suggest getting an internship with a resource protection agency like NOAA or the Department of Fish and Wildlife - or work as a fisheries observer for a little while to get experience with the fishing industry.

Being able to write and speak well is important too. One of the most useful classes I've taken was on writing for environmental studies because I learned how to write good reports. I use the skills I learned in that class all the time.
I study populations of fish. I love the creativity my job requires - asking new questions and finding new ways to answer them. My research helps make important decisions about fishing that impact a lot of people. It's a big responsibility.

I spent most of my time in my office, writing code for my computer models, reading the latest research, and going to meetings. During the summer, I spend some time on research ships, measuring and dissecting fish to get data for my computer models.

My work includes coding, math, biology, working with people, and seeing many sides of an issue. I love traveling and talking to scientists, fishermen, and people all over the world.

I started at NOAA after finishing a PhD in 2008. I got a BA in integrative biology, then studied population modeling, genetics, and fish.

Statistics are very important (and pretty fun!). Take statistics as soon as you can and get comfortable with calculus. Being able to write computational computer code is essential for my job, especially the computer language "R."

My job isn't just numbers, though. Being able to communicate is just as important! Take a scientific writing course if possible. Being willing to learn new things and work with others is critical. You can't do it all alone, and if you can't work with others, you won't have fun. Being curious and adventurous is a plus, too.

You don't have to go out to sea if you don't want to, but it's half the fun!
I'm a Lieutenant in the NOAA Corps, which is a uniformed service, like the navy. Our mission is to support NOAA's work by being leaders and operating NOAA's boats and planes. We make it possible for NOAA scientists to get their research done. Basically I'm a ship's captain, a diver, and I get scientists where they need to be to do what they need to do.

Corps officers rotate 2 years at sea and 3 years on land. Right now I manage NOAA's diving center. I train divers and handle administrative work.

At sea, I'm responsible for ship navigation and safety. I also dive to make sure the boat is in good shape underwater and untangle the propeller if it gets stuck.

The best thing about my job is seeing and doing amazing things. Every morning at sea I wake up to a beautiful ocean or coastline. I get to see science in action and sometimes go diving in amazing places.

To become a Corps officer, you need a bachelor's degree in science or math. I use my background in marine biology to understand what the scientists are doing and to better position my ship's resources to support them.

In the Corps, you'll go through the Coast Guard's academy. You can choose between boats and planes, and they'll also try to match your background with fisheries, ocean research, or hydrography. Plane pilots might hunt hurricanes or do aerial surveys of ice or marine mammals.

Because we're commissioned officers, we get the benefits of military service. But we could be called upon to help fight for our country if the need arose, and sometimes move across the country for new assignments.

You can apply to the Corps right after college, but I'd say get some experience first. You may spend 250 days a year at sea - that's a lot of time away. Being a NOAA fisheries observer for several years before joining the Corps prepared me for that.

Leadership is a big part of the Corps, and it's an ongoing skill that you develop. Learn to lead yourself - show that you can see a task through and do it well, even if it's just cleaning up a lab space.
I oversee the West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network. We respond to stranded whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and sea lions in Washington and Oregon. We use the data we collect to protect marine mammals and learn about their health.

Kristin Wilkinson, stranding specialist

I have a bachelor’s degree in conservation of marine ecosystems with minors in marine mammal education and zoology.

I started working at NOAA after working at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center through AmeriCorps, where I coordinated the East Jefferson County Marine Mammal Stranding Network. I recommend getting experience through volunteering or interning.

I would recommend volunteering with your local stranding network if possible, and take as many biology classes as you can. Look for volunteer and internship opportunities related to biology.

To work with the public, you need patience and good communication skills. To work for a stranding network, you’ll need sea legs and the ability to be around dead animals. We can learn important information from animals that died.

From my office, I spend a lot of time talking to my network and getting ready for our next project.

At least once a week, I’m in the field doing observations, responding to stranded animals, releasing rescued animals, or teaching people about marine mammals.

The best part of my job is working with people and organizations that all share a passion for marine mammals and making a difference.

I recommend volunteering with your local stranding network if possible, and take as many biology classes as you can. Look for volunteer and internship opportunities related to biology.

To work with the public, you need patience and good communication skills. To work for a stranding network, you’ll need sea legs and the ability to be around dead animals. We can learn important information from animals that died.

The best part of my job is working with people and organizations that all share a passion for marine mammals and making a difference.
I study the impacts of climate change on salmon and fish listed under the Endangered Species Act. I use models to predict their risk of extinction and the results of management decisions, and I communicate that information to policy-makers. I love that my work has real impacts on the world.

Lisa Crozier, research ecologist

I usually work at my computer. I do a lot of modeling, which means math and coding. I also spend a lot of time talking to people - to get the raw data I need for my models, and to talk about the results I find.

Sometimes I help people collect data for my models in the field. I watch and ask a lot of questions. It's really fun. I go all over the Northwest and California.

NOAA is an influential federal agency. When they make a decision about a species, it has real implications. The coolest part of my job is feeling like I've contributed to our understanding of the risks to endangered species and solutions to some of these problems.

I went back to school to study science, and got a PhD in zoology (ecology and evolution). Then I got a post doc* position at the University of Chicago, and another at NOAA. I've been here ever since.

I don't work closely with animals on a daily basis anymore. I miss that, and I might do more of it in the future.

I got a BA in Philosophy and didn't take any science classes. I hadn't thought about what kind of career I wanted until after I graduated. I wanted to make a difference and work on problems that I found compelling - which for me was conservation.

I need to ask questions I think are important, otherwise I wouldn't be willing to spend 40 hours a week pursuing this. I also love that I work independently, surrounded by amazing, creative people.

Because of my liberal arts background, I have a different perspective on fisheries, which is helpful. Don't feel held back if you lack a particular skill - you can learn it.

It helps to have good quantitative skills, especially math. I also do coding, running models, and describe the outcome - so being able to write is important. I use the computer languages "R" and winBUGS.

Diversify! Do internships, meet people, and really think about what's compelling to you.

* 'Post doctoral' positions are temporary, mentored research and academic training positions you might get after earning a PhD.
Christine Froschl, fisheries observer

I work as a biologist on commercial fishing vessels, where I study the fish brought on board. The data I gather helps keep track of the overall fish population - and endangered species. I help make sure that we'll have plenty of fish for many years to come. I work whenever the fishermen work - and they work 24/7! It's a hard but important job.

When fish are hauled on board, I'm on deck collecting samples. I record the number and weight of different species caught. I'm at sea for 2 to 3 months at a time. You live and work on the boat, which can be mentally and physically exhausting.

The best part of this job is meeting and working with people. On the ship, you rely on the people around you. I've made a lot of friends and I enjoy hearing their stories.

To be a fisheries observer, you'll need a bachelor's degree in biology. I have a BS in ecology and evolutionary biology. A good mental attitude, observational skills, and patience are important, too. In this job, your routines will change or be interrupted!

Deciding to work out at sea is a decision that needs a lot of thought. It can be dangerous, and you should ask yourself if you're willing to be away from home for months at a time.

On the other hand, you don't have to be an observer for your whole career! It's a great stepping stone to other NOAA jobs like marine biologist, fisheries research scientist, and NOAA Corps.
Lynne Barre, marine biologist

I protect all marine mammals - like whales, dolphins, and seals - in Oregon and Washington. I also manage programs that help fish and protect habitats.

People are always eager to learn about marine mammals. Doing outreach and education is one of my favorite parts of my job. And sometimes I rescue whales!

My job includes everything from untangling whales from fishing nets, teaching people that seal pups are best left alone, and keeping track of injured or dead animals...

...to meeting with scientists, government agencies, aquariums, environmental groups, and concerned citizens. Together we coordinate the protection of different species and make sure our decisions are based on the best science available.

The coolest part of my job so far has been helping rescue Springer, an orphan killer whale calf. We captured her, gave her a checkup, and then took her back up to Canadian waters to reunite with her family.

She is still alive and well over 10 years after the rescue!

I started studying marine mammals in high school, spending a summer studying humpback whales. I got a BS in biology and a Master’s in animal behavior. After that I spent almost three years working on research projects with dolphins, sea turtles, and tiger sharks in Australia.

In Australia, I met a team from National Geographic and began working on their "Crittercam" project attaching underwater video cameras to various marine animals (seals, whales, sharks, and sea turtles) to learn about their behavior underwater.

When I got back to the US, I started working for NOAA.

Early on in my career I went to a marine mammal conference. It was a great place to hear about the most recent research and meet people studying marine mammals.

I was able to talk to students, professors, and researchers. Just asking people how they got started gave me ideas about the different directions my career could take.
I'm a systems security officer. I monitor NOAA's security systems and look for vulnerabilities and find ways to fix them. I love that my job combines serving my country and working with computers.

My job is to protect government data and resources. I'm in charge of cyber and computer security as well as physical security, like video cameras and badges.

I spend a lot of time reading up on the latest technology news, exploits, and cyber attacks. I also practice attacks and defense using my test systems.

I work with our tech people, policy-makers, and scientists to close security holes. That can mean programming a patch or teaching people about passwords.

I travel around the west coast to 16 NOAA sites. I conduct security audits and run workshops for employees.

I'm a big believer in education, so I answer everyone's computer questions!

What is IT?

"Information Technology"

Systems for storing, retrieving, and sending information

I started learning about computers when I was 10. You can teach yourself how to fix computers. Play around with them. Join a tinkering or coding club.

Right after high school, I started working as a computer technician for a school district. I got certifications from Microsoft and Cisco and, a couple years later, took one class at a time to get my bachelor's degree.

I have a BS in organizational leadership, but you can start with basic certifications like the CompTIA A+. Then, you can branch out depending on what you're interested in. You could go on to a degree in computer science or engineering.

To be an IT security officer, you need real-world skills in many areas - security cameras, locks, software, and application development, plus your regular IT help desk knowledge. The best thing you can do is get experience. I've done just about every job in IT over 15 years, plus 10 years of playing with computers as a kid. The longer you're around this stuff, the better you're going to get at it.
I study toxic chemicals in marine organisms. These can be chemicals that we now know are toxic (like in plastic) or natural chemicals, like all the human hormones that end up in our wastewater. I find pollutants that we didn’t know were out there and come up with methods to measure them in fish and marine mammals. It’s the early warning that something is wrong.

I spend a lot of time finding ways to solve problems like how to measure pollutants or fish hormones for aquaculture*, then applying the answers to samples. Then I sit in my office and write reports or crunch numbers to see what tests I need to do next.

My research helps identify problems with contaminants. Fish don’t need anti-depressants or caffeine, but they’re swimming in medications and other chemicals that we flush away.

When I was younger, I didn’t know what I wanted to do. Like most kids in Brazil, I wanted to play soccer. But I always liked chemistry. I got a BS in chemistry and found out about environmental chemistry. I wanted to work on pollution problems, so I got a PhD in chemical oceanography, then a post doc* at NOAA, and I’ve been here ever since!

I love solving problems. The answers to my work don’t exist until I come up with them! You’ve got to be curious and study a lot. You can’t give up or say, “this isn’t going to work.”

Studying chemistry, oceanography, and environmental science in high school or college will help you get into this field. You can get experience by interning—we always need extra help doing chemistry lab work. You won’t see fish, it’s all graphs and numbers— but there’s a good story behind them!

* Post doctoral positions are temporary, mentored research and academic training positions you might get after earning a PhD.
Nat Scholz, ecotoxicologist

I lead a team of 25-30 researchers. We work on reducing pollution and its impacts on many different species, from orcas and salmon to small fish at the base of food chains. Our job is to do science to understand what threats pollution poses around the US and the world - and to tell people about it.

I oversee my team’s research on everything from oil spills and hurricanes to stormwater runoff. I do a lot of writing and thinking about how to do our research. I also need to make sure that our science is very thorough and accurate because it will impact peoples’ jobs and health.

Our work on stormwater runoff (which carries toxic chemicals from roads into streams and oceans) includes everything from chasing storms to talking to governments, teachers, and citizens.

We’re studying how to make rain gardens that filter out pollution, and are affordable and practical to build.

Problems like oil spills and hurricanes take us around the world. We’ve been from the Gulf of Mexico and San Francisco Bay to Panama and Australia, studying the effects of spilled crude oil on the embryos of fish like tuna and mahi mahi.

My job is part public health, part conservation biology. It’s different every day, and that’s pretty cool.

I wanted to be a marine biologist ever since I was a kid. I got a bachelor’s and master’s degree in the marine biological laboratory at Woods Hole, and a PhD in zoology. I started as a postdoctoral researcher, then got hired at NOAA. I started out leading a group of 5 or 6 researchers, then moved up to become program manager.

There are many paths to my position. My team includes fisheries biologists, chemists, toxicologists, engineers, oceanographers, physiologists, developmental biologists, and we have an MD/PhD who specializes in pediatric genetics and molecular biology.

It takes all of us working together with those different perspectives to get the job done.

Look for experiences that are diverse.

Many subjects are important to this kind of work, not just science - history, how law becomes policy, creative writing, and visual arts.

Having that cross-disciplinary skillset is necessary to succeed, and not everyone has that.
Whitney Moore, seafood inspector

I'm a seafood safety inspector. I investigate and collect data to protect anyone who buys or eats seafood. I really enjoy working with people and I love that I get to work with the public in a way that promotes health and safe business practices.

I plan inspections, conduct investigation, take samples, and collect data to make sure that our seafood is safe and properly labeled.

I spend about half my time in my office working on reports and about half my time going to seafood processing facilities to inspect and take samples.

Sometimes I travel to give presentations, take training courses, or audit fishing vessels and shore-based processing plants.

I've always wanted to be a federal employee because my mom was one and she loved it - she had a good job and always had time for her kids.

To be a food safety inspector, you need a bachelor's degree and 30 hours of science. I have a BS in Biology and a minor in chemistry.

I never took any food science courses and I really enjoy that I stumbled into this field. But if you can take even one food science course, it would be helpful.

The most helpful thing I did for myself was trying a job that I thought I wanted. I found out very quickly that it was not the job for me, and I chose another career path before I spent more time on classes and training in that field.

I've always wanted to be a federal employee because my mom was one and she loved it - she had a good job and always had time for her kids.

To be a food safety inspector, you need a bachelor's degree and 30 hours of science. I have a BS in Biology and a minor in chemistry.

I never took any food science courses and I really enjoy that I stumbled into this field. But if you can take even one food science course, it would be helpful.

The most helpful thing I did for myself was trying a job that I thought I wanted. I found out very quickly that it was not the job for me, and I chose another career path before I spent more time on classes and training in that field.
Suzanne Russell, social scientist

I work with people who depend on marine resources, like fishing or whale watching, for their livelihoods. I look at how laws impact them and their families.

Social science uses surveys and analyses to study people. My goal is to help manage fish and protected species in ways that work for everyone.

When I'm in the field, the days are very long. I work up and down the coast - sometimes I have to drive a lot. Talking to people and walking with them on and off boats is a lot of work!

I love learning new things every day, whether by analyzing data or working with someone on their boat and learning about their experiences. You get to hear some great stories!

I think about research to be done like how laws impact fishing communities. Then I gather data, analyze it, and write reports for the people who make decisions. I might spend my day doing research, writing, and working with my colleagues to run an analysis.

My career path is unconventional. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in marine biology (and minors in chemistry and oceanography), I sailed all over the world as a NOAA Corps officer for about 6 years.

Then I switched to doing administration for NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center. After many years, I went back to school for a master's degree in marine affairs with an emphasis on anthropology and a certificate in conservation biology. I knew I wanted to do science, and I discovered this job during grad school.

To be a social scientist, you need to be curious. You have to want to learn from people, and be able to listen - and have fun!

Some math and statistics are good, but that's true for any science. Learn how to interview people. Learn about history and culture. Anthropology or sociology classes will teach you about ethics and perception.

This is a very broad field. You could study psychology, sociology, archaeology, or cultural, environmental, or marine anthropology. Get experience! Volunteer or intern with a lab or a museum.

My goal is to help manage fish and protected species in ways that work for everyone.
What about money?

Working for NOAA has many benefits!

Different jobs get paid different amounts, based on what you do, where you work, and how long you’ve been working. The average annual federal salary is about $79,000.

Other benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and paid vacation and sick leave - plus job stability. Jobs in all 50 states (check out www.legislative.noaa.gov/NIYS/). You also get the chance to serve your country and make a difference.

You can look up pay ranges online (on the Ocean Careers website, click on an area to view careers and salaries in that field):

www.oceancareers.com/2.0/statements.php
www.payscale.com/research/US/Employer=National_Oceanic_and_Atmospheric_Administration/Salary

How to get a job at NOAA

Graduate from high school! Get help if you need it. Check out www.readysetgrad.org.

Brush up your writing skills! Almost every job requires some writing - and the better yours is, the better suited you will be for a wide variety of jobs.

Try it out! Volunteer, do an internship, or take a temporary position to get real world experience and see what kinds of work you like to do (or what you don’t like). A good internship experience will let you meet people, learn skills, and gain experience.

Investigate NOAA opportunities for students at: www.education.noaa.gov/Special_Topics/Student_Opportunities.php?page=page-1

Keep an open mind! You just might stumble upon something you really love.

Think about getting a college degree! Most NOAA employees have a Bachelor’s degree and many have a Master’s degree or a PhD.

Feeling lost? Need more help?

if you feel like there are too many possibilities, or too few, try some of these personality tests and skills inventories.

These tools can help you think about what you'd like to do - but remember, these are just guides! Exploring different careers and profiles will give you a better idea of what speaks to you and what doesn’t. Most career guides categorize careers - but a lot of careers cross those boundaries. Don’t feel boxed in by a category or personality quiz.

The best way to know if you’ll like something is to find a way to try it. Just ask! If someone says no, ask three other people.

Skills Inventories and Personality Tests

Skills inventory: http://www.iseek.org/careers/skillsAssessment

Explore Science Careers

www.pathwaystoscience.org
www.ionfuture.org

Want a marine science career?

Explore marine science careers and find out how to get them:

An Ocean of Possibilities: www.nosb.org/opportunities/career-resources/

MarineCareers.net: www.marinecareers.net
NOAA "Ocean Age" career profiles: www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/oceanage/welcome.html
OceanCareers.com: www.oceancareers.com/2.0/index.php
Are you interested in science, protecting the environment, or serving your country?

Think about working for NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration!

Explore different jobs at NOAA Fisheries with this "choose your own path" book. Every job at NOAA helps fulfill NOAA's mission of "science, service, and stewardship"- working to understand and manage our oceans and atmosphere for people and the planet.

Learn more about the different kinds of research and work at NOAA Fisheries and NOAA at:

www.fisheries.noaa.gov
www.NOAA.gov

Illustrated by Winifred Kehl