

Career opportunities for Fisheries Graduates

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Introduction

Career opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture graduates are available in range of areas including state and central government agencies, academic institutions and private agencies manning hatcheries, fish farms and input supply. Employment in fisheries and aquaculture has grown substantially since 1980, with an annual average rate of 3.6 percent increase. The estimated demand of fisheries professionals and para-professionals will be in the range of 26,900 a year by 2022 (The Hindu,2018). With the existing intake capacity of 30 professional colleges in the country (ie. 1,079, 417 and 181 respectively for undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD programmes) there exists a huge demand-supply gap. There is also a need of skilled field workers. Opportunities for fisheries graduates exist in a wide range of avenues in the public and private sectors. Entry-level positions require undergraduate degrees or diplomas while higher-level positions often require master's or doctorate degrees.

State government jobs

Departments of fisheries at state level are the major agency dealing with the fisheries development in each state. Department and associated agencies offer employment opportunities for fisheries graduates like Fisheries Extension Officer, Assistant Fisheries Extension Officer, Fisheries Officer, Inspector of Fisheries etc. Recruitment to the posts is conducted Public Service Commission/ Service Selection Boards.

Central government

Career opportunities also exist in central agencies as technical officers and assistant directors in Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), National Fisheries Development Board(NFDB), Export Inspection Agency (EIA), Coastal Aquaculture Authority of India (CAA), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSI) and as Technical Officers and Scientists in Fisheries Survey of India (FSI), National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Indian National Centre for Ocean and Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, etc.

Academic Institutes

Positions in academic and research institutions demand master's or doctorate degrees, especially for the positions of Assistant professors and above. Recruitment to the position of scientists in various institutes (Agricultural Research Service) requires similar qualifications, where selection is conducted by Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB) through a national-level competitive examination.

Administrative jobs

The graduates can apply for various positions advertised by UPSC and State PSCs for various administrative jobs.

Financial institutions

In recent years, graduates from agriculture and allied sectors have opted for employment opportunities in public sector and private banks as probationary officers,

agricultural/rural development officers etc. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development also offer many positions for agriculture and allied sector graduates.

Private Sector

Jobs in private sector exist mainly with feed companies (manager/marketing manager), Hatcheries (Consultants), seafood processing firms (Quality consultants, EIC approved technologists etc).

Entrepreneurship

Fisheries and aquaculture sector has vast potential for entrepreneurship development. Fisheries graduates can initiate their own venture in the areas like ornamental fish culture, hatchery management, Agri-clinic and agribusiness centres, testing and analytical facilities, input supply etc. Technology incubation facility in fisheries research institutes and universities offer initial hand holding for entrepreneurship development.

Overseas employment opportunities

Fisheries graduates have lots of opportunities Middle East and African countries as seafood auditors, consultants in processing firms and hatcheries.

The above-mentioned opportunities are few among the wide range of opportunities available for fisheries graduates. There exists huge number of opportunities in research, extension, education, management and entrepreneurial fronts. Many such positions require further specialization.