



# Marine Biologist

Median Yearly Income (2010): \$60, 020

**This unit group is for all biologists and related scientists: Scientists in this field conduct basic and applied research to extend knowledge of living organisms, to manage natural resources, and to develop new practices and products.**

## WHAT YOU DO

*Marine biologists* are responsible for understanding marine life by studying the distribution, abundance and life histories of animals and plants in the sea, and how these aspects are governed by environmental factors.

*In the oceans technology sector*, marine biologists utilize innovative technology to increase our collective knowledge of marine species. For example, marine biologists track marine animals around the world using acoustic telemetry in order to understand migration patterns.



***Marine biologists perform some or all of the following duties:***

## WHAT YOU NEED

- ❖ Enjoy being at sea;
  - ❖ Enjoy research;
  - ❖ A sense of responsibility and strong leadership qualities;
  - ❖ Comfortable working with marine mammals;
  - ❖ Physical stamina to do field research;
  - ❖ Possess excellent problem-solving and decision-making skills; and
  - ❖ Able to communicate and cooperate with others, as marine biologists usually work in teams.
- ❖ Study the behaviour, evolution, distribution, and relationships among organisms in a marine environment;
  - ❖ Use electronics and other instruments to measure the physical and chemical properties of water;
  - ❖ Study the structure of marine communities and assist in the rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems; and
  - ❖ Take samples of marine organisms and conduct laboratory tests using equipment such as electron microscopes.

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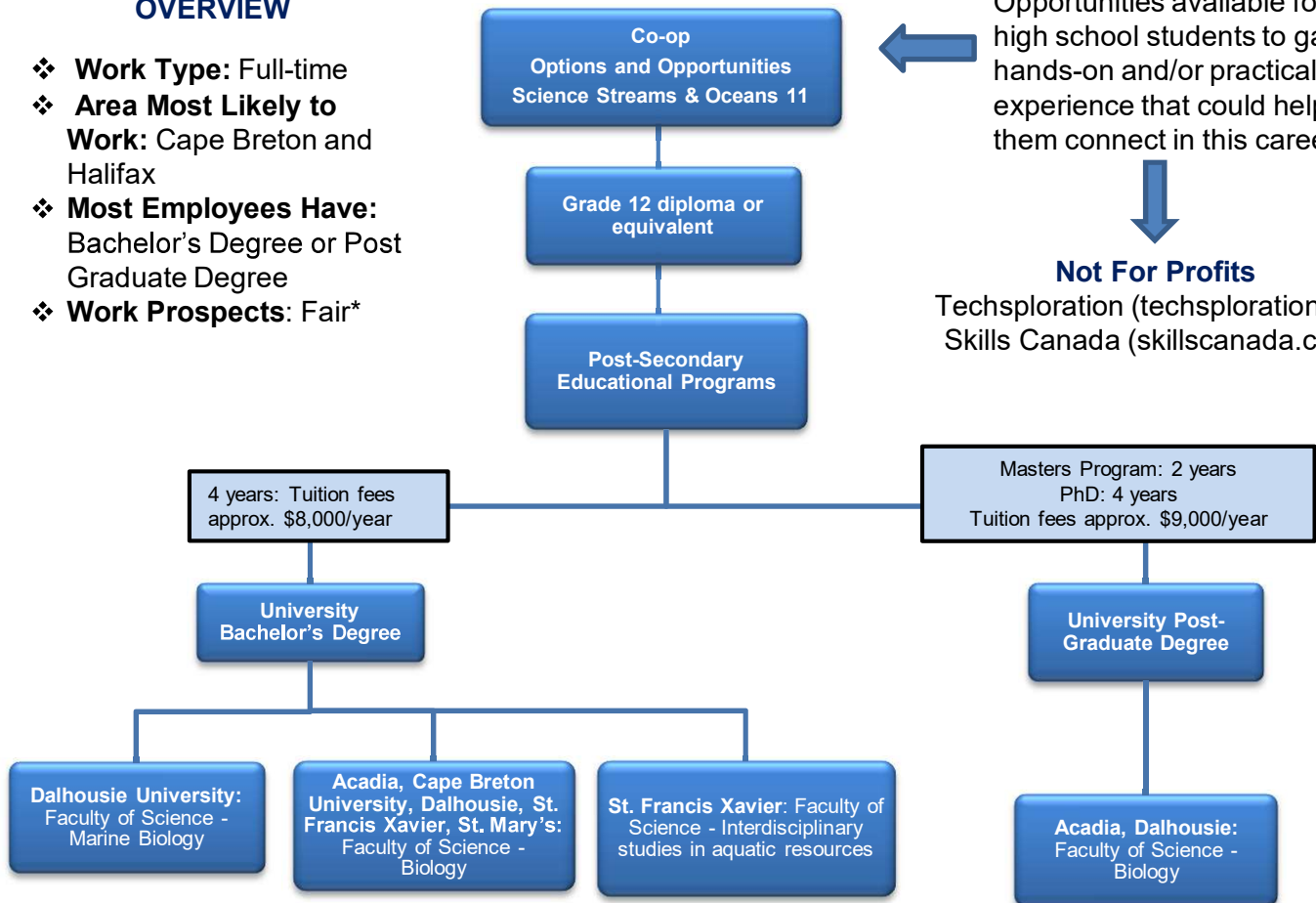
## CAREER PATHWAY

### OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Work Type:** Full-time
- ❖ **Area Most Likely to Work:** Cape Breton and Halifax
- ❖ **Most Employees Have:** Bachelor's Degree or Post Graduate Degree
- ❖ **Work Prospects:** Fair\*

Opportunities available for high school students to gain hands-on and/or practical experience that could help them connect in this career.

**Not For Profits**  
Techsploration (techsploration.ca/  
Skills Canada (skillscanada.com)



### Examples of Nova Scotia companies and organizations that offer this career

- Bedford Institute of Oceanography
- Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Research Institutes: Ocean Tracking Network

**NSCC: Oceans Technology Program**  
Advanced one year diploma for students with a Bachelor of Science or Engineering or an Engineering Diploma to further enhance skills in the oceans technology sector.

### References and Resource Links

- \* The employment outlook over the next few years for this occupational group is "fair", which indicates the chances of a qualified individual finding work is around average
- Careers Nova Scotia (<http://careers.novascotia.ca/>)
- Create your career plan (careeringear.nsc.ca)
- 2121 national occupation classification (<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/QuickSearch.aspx?val65=2121>)