

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Nearly 500 fish stocks are federally-managed in the U.S. Different types of assessments—economic, ecosystem, and stock—provide essential information to support the sustainable management of these aquatic species.

NOAA's innovative quantitative ecology and socioeconomics education and training programs

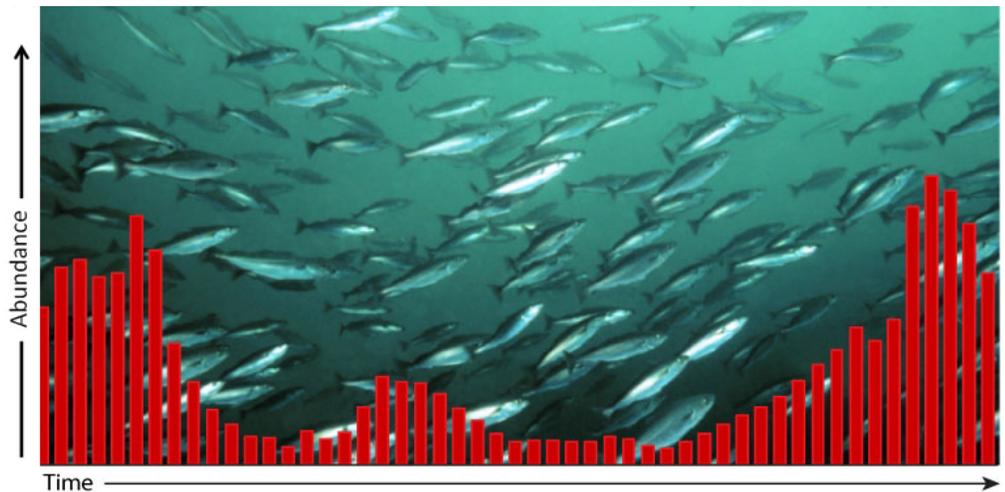
NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant Fellowship Program

<http://seagrant.noaa.gov/FundingFellowships/NMFSSGFellowship.aspx>

NOAA Fisheries Recruiting Training Research Program

<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/fish/rtr/>

QUEST Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training Program



What is QUEST?

QUEST, the Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training Program, was recently initiated by NOAA Fisheries to enhance education and training for the next generation of **stock assessment scientists**, **ecosystem scientists**, and **economists**. All three career fields are mission critical for NOAA Fisheries and effective living marine resource management.

QUEST functions as a virtual institute to help connect faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students with NOAA Fisheries scientists in the fields of quantitative ecology and socioeconomics. It helps facilitate information exchange between the academic research side with the applied fields at NOAA Fisheries.

Why is QUEST needed?

Stock assessment scientists, ecosystem scientists, and economists at NOAA Fisheries provide essential information for the sustainable management of living marine resources. They develop tools to evaluate the status of fish stocks, advise managers on the likely effects of alternate management policies, and are essential to avoid overfishing and develop rebuilding strategies.

These scientists are also essential to the implementation of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other mandates that guide the management and conservation of marine protected species. QUEST provides education and training opportunities to ensure an adequate supply of future NOAA Fisheries scientists in mission-critical, quantitative-based disciplines required for effective living marine resource management.



To be a stock assessment scientist, ecosystem scientist, or marine resource economist...

What skills are needed for success?

A solid understanding of ecology, economics, biology, math, and/or computer science, as well as a master's or Ph.D. degree in one or more of those disciplines.

Where do they work?

NOAA Fisheries, international, federal, state, and tribal fisheries management agencies as well as non-governmental organizations.

QUEST Goals

- Increase the number of NOAA Fisheries stock assessment and ecosystem scientists and economists.
- Increase the number of graduate students with training adequate to conduct or contribute to stock assessments, ecosystem science, or socioeconomics research.
- Increase the number of undergraduates who have adequate training in the quantitative disciplines (math, statistics, modeling, etc.) suitable to continue in graduate studies in quantitative ecology or economics.
- Engage students and faculty in projects in support of NOAA Fisheries stock assessment, ecosystem science, or economics research.

Examples of Current QUEST Activities

- Supporting the NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant Fellowship Program that provides support for selected Ph.D. candidates in marine resource economics and population and ecosystem dynamics.
- NOAA Fisheries Research Training and Recruitment Program that introduces undergraduates to population dynamics research and associated careers.

QUEST Resources and Opportunities

- QUEST hosts 6-12 webinars annually that cover contemporary topics on population and ecosystem dynamics and marine resource economics.
- QUEST maintains a portal of learning opportunities and teaching resources. You may submit information to be included on the website.

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Please visit the **QUEST website** www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/quest for more information.

