



Meet the Scientist!



An ichthyologist studies fishes. The word ichthyologist comes from the Greek words "ikhthus" which means fish and "logos" which means study.

Dr. Becky Flitcroft Ichthyologist

Ph.D., Oregon State University
USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

I'm very curious. I like to observe what happens in nature. It is important to be organized, take good notes, and think logically. I am good at writing and math, which have been important skills. I have also learned to be a storyteller. This helps people understand my research.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: Why do juvenile salmon live where they do?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Rivers are my laboratory. To watch fish in the wild, we get into the river. We use snorkels, drysuits, waders, nets, buckets, and electroshockers. We use scales to weigh fishes, measuring tape for fish length, computers to analyze fish data, thermometers to measure the temperature of the water, and GPS and maps to know our location.

Most Exciting Discovery

Salmon use different habitats at different parts of their life. Young salmon can't swim well, so they need sheltered pools. Adult salmon swim well, and lay their eggs where water moves quickly. We find more young salmon where pools and fast water habitat are close together. We find fewer young salmon where pools and fast water are farther apart.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew I wanted to be a scientist after I finished my undergraduate degree in college. I found that I loved working outdoors, and I became fascinated by salmon and how they used their habitats. I had a lot of questions about how fish chose to live in the habitats where we found them.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/lwm/aem/people/flitcroft.html>