

Careers



For thousands of years the ocean has provided humans with food to eat and a place to enjoy, as well as different types of work. These jobs are not strictly limited to the obvious, like commercial fishing or marine biology, but span a wide range of opportunities. For example, careers range from harbor patrol officer to mariculture farmer (ocean farmer) and from oil rig worker to surf board designer. Let's talk about just a few career opportunities.

The harbor patrol's job is to act as the fire department, police force, paramedics, and landlords of a harbor and its surrounding areas. If you think you might want to join the harbor patrol, you could become a "pinhead" (deckhand) on a fishing boat. This gives you experience with boats and working with people that will help you with this career.



There are many people who keep an oil rig running, giving us oil that we use everyday. Some of these people work offshore on the rigs, while many others stay onshore and work in an office. Geologists are vital to offshore drilling operations. And, cooks are also needed to feed the hungry workers out on the oil rig.

Many different types of scientists work to keep the oceans productive and healthy, study ocean currents and weather conditions, and much more. If you like science, there are lots of career opportunities with the ocean!

Here are a few tips on ways to get started in an ocean-related career.

- There are many local organizations, like the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>), that offer activities to help you learn more about the ocean.
- Read! There are many helpful resources available on the Web, like www.marinecareers.net.
- Look into camps and summer programs that are focused on marine science and other ocean-related subjects.
- As you get older, you can also research some colleges that specialize in this field.
- Talk to people about your interests in ocean jobs. If you go to a harbor, don't be afraid to ask a commercial fisherman what the job is like. There are also people at seafood markets, scuba diving shops and recreational fishing boats that you can talk to about their jobs – just don't interrupt them when they are busy.

Whether or not you decide to have a career related to the ocean, you can still play a role in helping keep it a special place so all can enjoy this natural treasure.