



Marisa
conducting a
fish survey

TYPE OF WORK

I lead the WDFW Coast Fish Ecology and Life Cycle Monitoring Unit. We are fish scientists studying the ecology of Pacific salmon, steelhead, and other native and non-native fish.

Marisa Litz
Research Scientist
*Washington Department
of Fish & Wildlife*



Research Scientist



TYPICAL DAY:

I oversee collection of fish and environmental data in the rivers and oceans for the Pacific Northwest to help preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish populations in Washington. I make sure our staff have all the resources they need to work safely in the field. I analyze data collected from these studies and present them in written and oral reports.

CAREER PATHWAY:

I was always interested in natural resources and enjoyed being outdoors conducting fieldwork. I studied Marine Biology as an undergraduate and then I participated in a student exchange program and after interned at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory. Those experiences provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities and exposure to new ecosystems. I continued schooling and completed MS and PhD degrees in Fisheries Science working with federal researchers from NOAA Fisheries. My work contributed to better understanding of factors that affect salmon survival that is important in the work I do today with WDFW forecasting salmon returns to Washington.



Juvenile anchovy are important prey for salmon

IMPORTANT SKILLS

I have a PhD in Fish Science and have been conducting field and laboratory research studies on fish for 15 years.

EDUCATION

PhD
CPR/First Aid

SALARY RANGE

\$75,000-\$99,999

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- Smolt traps to capture juvenile salmon
- Temperature loggers
- Computer
- Catarcraft

"I love sharing and educating audiences on fish and ecosystem science, from highly technical scientific groups to passionate anglers." - Marissa Litz



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