

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

2023 Annual Report



The mission of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is to engage, inspire and support diversity in the next generation of fisheries and aquatic specialists.



American Fisheries Society

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What is the Hutton Program?

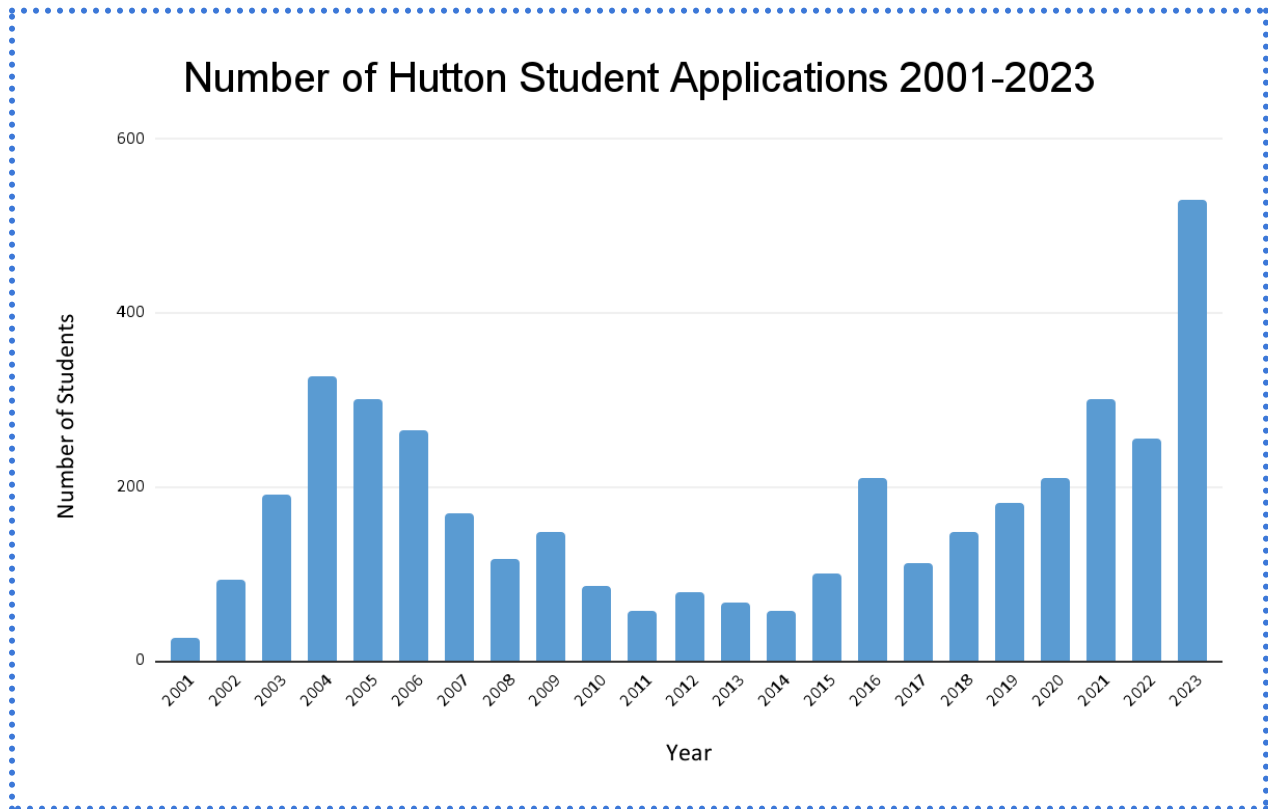
The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program (Hutton Program) is an educational program sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS) for high school students. The principal goal of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is to recruit high school students from traditionally underrepresented communities in the fisheries profession and introduce them to the field of fisheries and aquatic science.

The Hutton Program is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for rising eleventh graders through graduating seniors interested in pursuing science disciplines associated with natural resource and environment management. Under the Hutton Program, selected students benefit from an eight week hands-on fisheries science summer experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting.

Students receive \$3,000 over the course of their eight week internship. The program has offered scholarships to 793 Hutton scholars (57% BIPOC students and 59% female students) mentored by an estimated 820 mentors associated with over 250 institutions. Students are matched with qualified mentors (university scientists, researchers working at private, tribal, federal, or state laboratories and field stations) who provide guidance, instruction, and evaluation on work activities. The Hutton Program provides its students with hands-on activities that increase awareness of conservation issues, the importance of healthy aquatic systems, and career opportunities in fisheries. As the students work with their mentors, they gain an awareness of conservation issues and the importance of healthy aquatic systems. On a daily basis, students are participating in projects relevant to fisheries science, habitat protection and restoration. By the end of the summer, the students have an understanding of what is involved in being a fisheries biologist and the career opportunities available in the field of fisheries science.

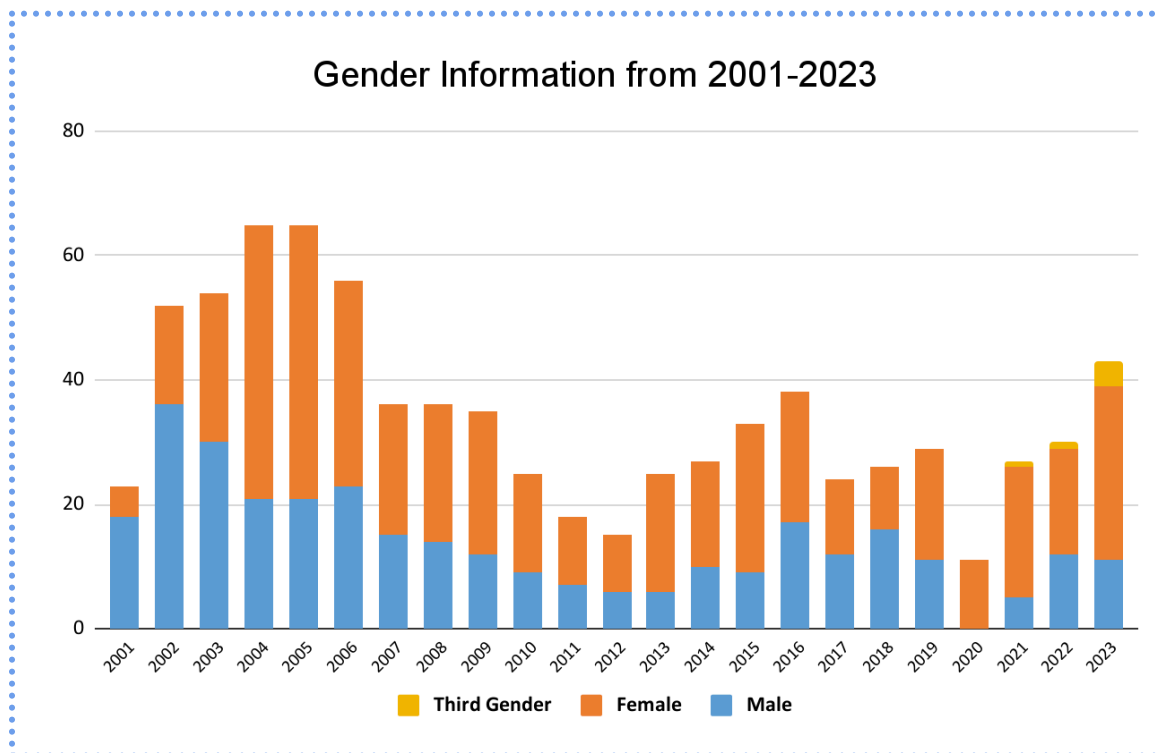
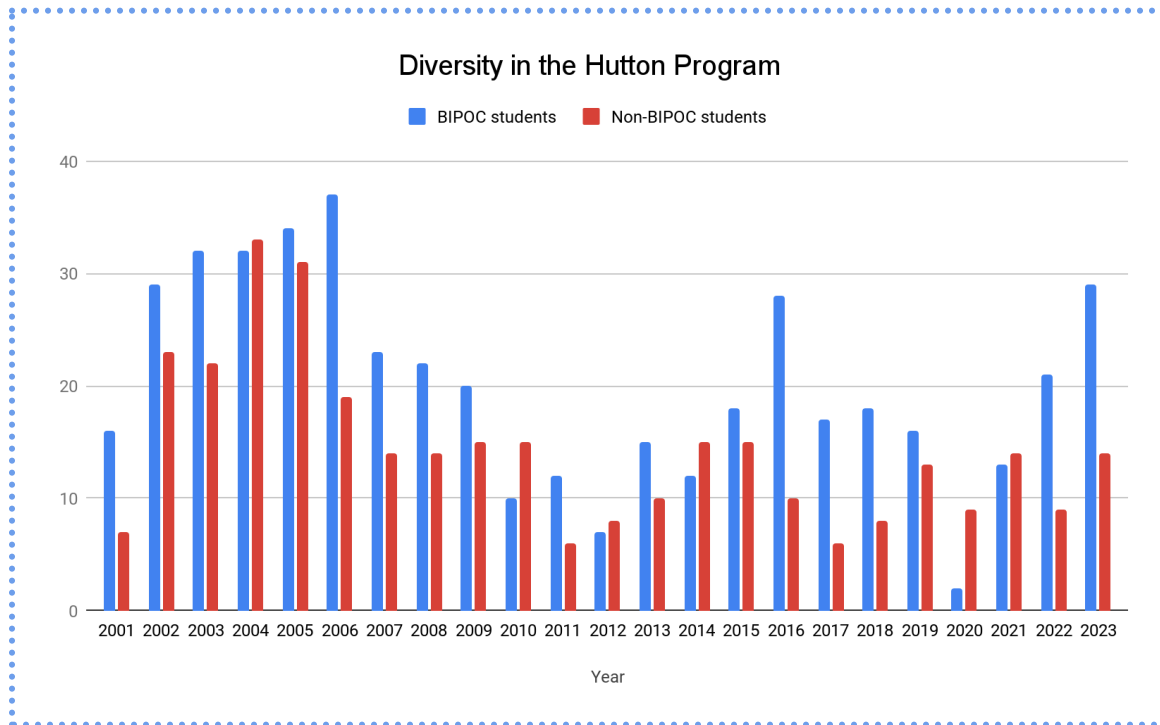
2001-2023 Student Data Trends

Total Hutton Applications Received



During the 23 years the Hutton Program has been operating, it has received an average of 176 student applications every year. In recent years, there has been an increase in the average number of applications per year, with the past five years averaging 297 applications. In 2023, the program received 530 applications. The reason for this significant increase in applications is unknown, but may be a combination of a few factors, including changing the application platform to an easier to use site, an increase in recruitment efforts from program partners, and increased direct recruitment through high school science teachers.

Diversity in the Hutton Program



In line with the program mission, Hutton aims to recruit diverse classes of Hutton Scholars every year. In 2023, 67% of selected students identified as a member of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) community, 65% of students were female, and 9% of students were a third gender option.

2001-2023 Mentor Data Trends

Over the past 23 years, we have placed Hutton Scholars with over 828 mentors from across the US, Mexico, and Canada who specialize in a variety of disciplines within the fisheries profession. Our mentors work with state and federal agencies, non-profits, tribal organizations, and everything in between. In a recent survey conducted in 2020, 72% of Hutton Program alumni from 2010-2019 say that the Hutton Program either influenced or enhanced their decision to study fisheries or a related topic in college. Our mentors play a vital role in inspiring Hutton Scholars to continue on a path into the fisheries and aquatic sciences profession.

2001-2023 Hutton Mentor Place of Work	Percentage of Mentors
State Agency	35%
Federal Agency	30%
College or University	21%
Tribal Fisheries	6%
Private Industry	3%
Non-Profit	3%
City Municipality	1%

⇒Mentor United States Representation: 48 US states and Puerto Rico

⇒ Hutton Scholar United States Representation: 46 US states and Puerto Rico

2001-2023 Hutton Mentor Federal Agency Employees	Number of Mentors	Percentage of Mentors
USDA Forest Service	133	46%
NOAA	51	18%
US Fish and Wildlife Service	37	13%
Bureau of Land Management	30	10%
US Geological Survey	17	6%
Other	12	4%
US National Parks Service	7	2%

⇒ Of the 39 state agencies who have participated in the Hutton Program, top placements have been with:

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Idaho Dept. of Game and Fish

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Missouri Dept. of Conservation

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

The American Fisheries Society partners with various state and federal agencies to fund the placement of Hutton Scholars within their organization. In 2023, these agencies included:

- 1. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
- 2. Bureau of Land Management**
- 3. USDA Forest Service**
- 4. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**
- 5. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Resources**
- 6. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**
- 7. Missouri Department of Conservation**

2023 Hutton Program Overview

The summer of 2023 marked the 23rd year that the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program offered high school students the opportunity to work alongside fisheries

professionals. The 23rd Hutton Program class included 43 Hutton Scholars placed in 22 US States, as well as Puerto Rico. Hutton Scholars worked alongside biologists from nine different state agencies, five federal agencies, five universities, five non-governmental organizations, and one tribal fishery agency. Students participated in unique internship experiences including mussel surveys, native fish surveys, electrofishing, eDNA sampling, and data collection and analysis. All 43 students successfully completed the term of their internship.

Hutton Scholars' Summit

The Hutton Program hosted the third annual Hutton Scholar Summit on July 16th-20th at The University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff in Pine Bluff, AR. Thirty students from 17 states came together for three full days of programming. Programming consisted of a career panel, networking opportunities, student presentations, a fishing derby with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, crayfish field site visit and vegetation planting with AGFC, a lunch and site visit to the AGFC Witt Stephens Nature Center, and a field trip to the USFWS Stuttgart Research Center. During the Summit, Hutton Scholars participated in engaging discussions on topics such as making course selections, pursuing graduate degrees, navigating the work opportunities, and the shared experience of being underrepresented in conservation and environmental science. Each student gave a five-minute presentation on the work they completed over their internship.

Members from AFS student subunits and leadership were on hand to connect with the Hutton Scholars and share ways AFS has shaped both their academic and professional careers. The Hutton Scholar Summit aided in introducing the Hutton Scholars to different aspects of the fisheries profession and creating connections between themselves and AFS's membership.

Hutton Pen Pal Program

The Hutton Scholars were connected with AFS students and early career professionals as part of the Hutton Pen Pal Program. Volunteers are paired with a student to act as "pen pals" over the summer, acting as an additional resource for Scholars during the term of their internship, with many staying connected as they pursue a degree in fisheries. AFS

member volunteers are encouraged to ask the Hutton Scholar questions about their interest in fisheries, what they enjoy about their internship and future plans for college or a career path. It acts as a great way for Hutton Scholars to connect with students and professionals currently working in the field of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

Funding Partners

The 2023 Hutton Program received donations and funding from state and federal agencies, the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AFS units, and individual donors. AFS units and individual donors contributed \$30,937.05 in support of the Hutton Program, which supported six Hutton students and the Hutton Scholar's Summit. Unused funds have been rolled into the 2024 Hutton Program and will be used to support additional students. Program partners included the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission provided additional support for the Hutton Scholar's Summit at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, which allowed AFS to cover the costs of attending the Summit for 30 students from across the country. Through the generous support of the Hutton donors, AFS was able to support 43 students in unique, live-changing internship experiences in fisheries. If your organization is interested in supporting the Hutton Program in any capacity, please contact the Education Program coordinator at hutton@fisheries.org.

Hutton Committee

The Hutton Oversight Committee is a standing AFS membership committee tasked with the role to strengthen and support the Hutton Program through new ideas, goals and support of the Society. Hutton Oversight Committee chair Dr. Kathy Guidon led the 2023 Hutton Committee through the largest increase in applications in the program's history. AFS Past President Dr. April Croxton will be joining the 2024 Hutton committee as a co-chair to Kathy Guidon.

2023 Hutton Program Participants

Name	Menor Name	Host Institution
Abigail Hesterhagen	R. Christopher (Chris) Chambers	NOAA
Alex Roath	Eric Brennan	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Alexandra Smith	Rachael Ryan	University of California, Berkeley
Avery Pex	Stephanie Messerle	Bureau of Land Management
Ayla Kaltenecker	Carli Baum	Idaho Fish and Game
Brennan Landerkin	Clayton Raines	U.S. Geological Services
Brooke Novinger	Darby Niswonger	Missouri Department of Conservation
Caroline Isabel McGuire	Austin Davis	San Antonio River Authority
Christine Boakye	Cynthia Holt	Texas Parks and Wildlife
Delenn Liyi Kier	Janean Van Beckum	Discovery World Science and Technology Museum
Dell Caldwell	Chelsey Gilliland	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Diego Quiros Dones	Jessica Isle	U.S. Forest Service
Eli Main	Heath Hewett, Miranda Gordon	Nez Perce Tribe
Ella Morris	Christina Stuart	Bureau of Land Management
Emily Hunt	Clayton Raines	U.S. Geological Services
Hester Huynh	Juliana Moore and Jennifer Butler	Texas Parks and Wildlife
Ian Barnes	Tyler Fellows	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Isabella Villalobos	Stephen Curtis	Texas Parks and Wildlife
Jaci Mason-Yates	Jason Cangelosi	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kaden Spalding	Dr. Patrick S. Forsythe	University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

Kailea Johnson	John Burden	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Kat Shupe	Greg Wanner and Matt DeAngelo	U.S. Forest Service
Kim Nguyen	Greg Wanner and Matt DeAngelo	U.S. Forest Service
Lauren Hacke	Natalie Flowers	Trout Unlimited, Colorado
Lauren Spickes	Matt Schroder	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Mamie Crookes	Elizabeth Figus	Kake Climate Partnership
Mantrell Goodrum	Kevin E Wehrly	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Nathan Schoenherr	Daragh Deegan	City of Elkhart Public Works
Noila I Maksudiy	Jason Stolarski	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Noor Harwell	Rachael Ryan	University of California, Berkeley
Pohakumakamae Kahuanui	Frederick Reppun	Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Quincy Alberhasky	Tyler Ham	Missouri Department of Conservation
Raisa Khan	Sarah Weisberg	Stony Brook University
Sage Payne	Austin Griffin	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Sam Solliday	Rich Pendleton	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
Samuel Fishback	Kylie DaCunha	Columbia Springs
Samuel Slutz	Casey Ralston	NOAA
Sarah Mead	Daragh Deegan	City of Elkhart Public Works
Shayla Cluff	Keats Conley	U.S. Forest Service
Skyla Henry	Elizabeth Kimble	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Vivian White	Patrick D. Shirey	University of Pittsburgh
William Liu	Casey Ralston	NOAA
Yingqi Zhu	Cynthia Holt	Texas Parks and Wildlife

2023 Hutton Supporters



USDA Forest Service



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Association**



**Bureau of Land
Management**



**Missouri Department of
Conservation**



AFS Education Section



**Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission**



**Oklahoma Department of
Wildlife Resources and the
AFS Oklahoma Chapter**



**Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department**



AFS Fish Culture Section



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service**

Congratulations on another great year, Hutton Scholars!

