CEHR-E Engineer Pamphlet 690-1-11(11)	Department of the Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington, DC 20314-1000	EP 690-1-11(11) 1 January 1996
	Command-wide Recruitment and Outreach Materials CAREER PROFILE SUPPLEMENT - BIOLOGIST	
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Create a World of Difference...

with a career as a Biologist

The Corps offers many opportunities as a biologist, some more specialized than others. Mary Todd Uhlir spends most of her workday providing meticulous directions for thousands. Thousands of fish, that is. As a Corps fish biologist at the Bonneville Lock & Dam in Oregon, her primary responsibility is to inspect the dam's fish passage facilities. Calibration of water level measurement sensors, monitoring of debris accumulation, and inspection of equipment is all part of a day's inspection. Secondarily, she helps in the recovery and release of fish to the river during the draining and maintenance of the turbines or passage facilities. The design of system improvements is also a large part of her job.



"For college graduates, the Corps of Engineers is a very good starting place. You are encouraged not only to get all the training you want, but also to move around and sharpen your skills in a variety of tasks related to your field."

Mary Todd Uhlir
Fish Biologist



With an undergraduate degree in biological sciences, Mary Todd also obtained three years of specialized experience as a volunteer freshwater fish culture agent with the U.S. Peace Corps in Burundi, Central Africa. She joined the Corps in February of 1993 because she thought it would be "interesting to work for a federal agency to see what its mechanisms looked like from the inside." So far, what has impressed her most is how much the Corps encourages "a professional attitude. That's valuable experience for someone coming right out of college."

Her fish ladder duties notwithstanding, Mary Todd's favorite Corps experience so far was hosting a fishing education day at a local lake for inner-city children. "The goal was to teach them what they can do to fight pollution," recalls Mary Todd. During one demonstration, Mary Todd explained why they should put the plastic bag that holds their sandwich in a pants pocket rather than on the ground. "Plastic floating in the water looks an awful lot like a jelly fish. If a sea turtle ate it, thinking that it was food, it would hurt the sea turtle," says Mary Todd. "It was meaningful to me to see the kids nodding their heads, like they were learning things that they would remember."

US Army Corps of Engineers

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1 Jan 96