The Aquaculture and Fisheries Scholars Program is an innovative program for attracting top students with interest in aquaculture and fisheries health into the veterinary profession. The first program of its kind, the Aquaculture and Fisheries Scholars Program offers early acceptance to veterinary college to top NC State University undergraduate fisheries majors interested in fish health careers.

The students in the program benefit from special mentoring and summer experiences. They will be selected for early acceptance based on their academic performance and their demonstrated focus on fisheries science issues. Fisheries Scholars are guaranteed acceptance into veterinary school upon successful completion of the Pre-Vet prerequisites and by maintaining their grades through their undergraduate fisheries careers.

Once in the College of Veterinary Medicine program, they will continue to be mentored by both College of Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology mentors and will have opportunities to pursue fisheries-related experiences in their summers. The program is supported by the American Fisheries Society through their Fish Health Section.

Interested students should contact the program early in their education (preferably as freshman or sophomores) to facilitate preparation for the application process by contacting Cindy Burke (Cindy_burke@ncsu.edu) in the FWS Program offices. For additional information, contact Dr. Derek Aday (Derek_aday@ncsu.edu) or Dr. Stacy Nelson (Stacy_nelson@ncsu.edu).