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@neag.org

Dive into a sea of resources online at neaq.org. Our website is full of conservation information, animal facts, and details that will help you plan your next trip to the Aquarium.

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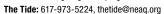
Photo: Keith Ellenbogen

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New England Aquarium Proudly Recognizes Our Lead Sponsors











From the President and CEO

Anniversaries are on my mind as I sit down to draft this letter. I am quickly approaching my one-year anniversary at the helm of the New England Aquarium, which is soon to celebrate its 50th. I was attracted here because we have long been one of the most prominent aquariums in the world. We have been very effective in engaging, educating, and inspiring the public to care deeply about protecting the blue planet. But with the dire effects of climate change happening before our very eyes, the stakes are now much greater.

I am proud of how we are lifting up and leaning in to our conservation mission in new and important ways. Not only do we engage 1.4 million visitors each year with beautiful and informative exhibits, we inspire action and influence social change for a healthier ocean.

Visiting the Aquarium is just the first step in a conservation journey that begins with education and inspiration, and hopefully ends with greater understanding and a desire to take action to protect our ocean and planet. Leaning in means recognizing the power of our voice and platform and using it more intentionally and strategically to advocate for the ocean.

But we don't do any of this alone, and we couldn't do it without you. This year, we're embarking on an inspiring new campaign:

YOUR MEMBERSHIP PROTECTS THE BLUE PLANET.

It highlights the fact that when you support the Aquarium, you support the ocean.

Each year when you renew your membership, you allow us to renew our commitment to protecting the blue planet. It's a collective commitment because we're in this together.

Simply put, you support all the great work we do in conservation and education.

Whether that's working at the grassroots level in East Boston on climate resilience, supporting a cohort of scientists all over the globe through our Marine Conservation Action Fund program, tagging sharks, rehabilitating sea turtles, training staff at other cultural institutions about how to better communicate about the impacts of climate change, or opening the spectacular new 9,000-gallon Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit, which features the colors of the sea and is sure to bring the ocean alive for you.

Closer to home, that research by Aquarium scientists helped secure the designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument in 2016. Located about 150 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, it's home to deep-sea corals and provides food and shelter to a plethora of marine animals. In fact, new research revealed in April found two new species of cold-water corals in the Canyons and Seamounts. Imagine what else we will discover with your support.

Fifty years engaging our visitors, educating the public, and protecting the blue planet is a magnificent achievement. But we're only just beginning. Stay tuned to learn more about what we will do—together—to protect the ocean for the next 50 years!

Wikki N. Spruill

P.S. Thank you for being a member. Be sure to stop by Central Wharf on June 20 to help us celebrate 50 years of protecting the blue planet!

At the Aquarium

Your membership protects ...

sea turtles, sharks. North Atlantic right whales, marine monuments

the blue planet

As a global conservation organization, the New England Aquarium's overarching mission is to protect the blue planet. We do this through exhibits that engage as they educate, by research and advocacy that is fact-based and grounded in science—and with the support of people like you.

But it's not simply about what we do, it's what you do to enable our work. Your membership helps us support marine conservation leaders around the globe who take on some of the most important challenges facing the ocean, such as the conservation of sawfish in Mexico. or, closer to home, the rehabilitation and release of thousands of endangered sea turtles through the Aquarium's sea turtle hospital. It supports and sustains the Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit, which vividly highlights how diverse communities make for healthy communities, right here on Central Wharf.

The Aquarium has a platform, a duty, to advocate for a healthy ocean, and we know it matters to our members. You embraced our Skip the Straw campaign to refuse the straw you don't need. We know how you've followed our decades of research, conservation, and advocacyall rooted in our science—to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale. We know you will embrace our latest campaign to learn more about what we all can do to protect the blue planet.

As always, thank you for being a member-now more than ever.





Anne T. "Susie" Buttrick

Aquarium Volunteer



has been volunteering at the New England Aquarium since before there was an Aquarium. When we opened our doors in June 1969, Susie was

of small, but dedicated volunteers already preparing the Aguarium for visitors. In the 50 years since, she's worn a lot of hats. From visiting local schools for classroom presentations to engaging young ocean protectors in the Edge of the Sea Touch Tank, there's hardly a part of the Aquarium that Susie hasn't touched.

"I am going to be 86 this summer, and some days, at this age, you sort of forget what it is you're supposed to be doing. But on Wednesdays, I always know what I'm supposed to be doing!" said Susie. Because on Wednesdays, she drives to Boston from her Concord home to volunteer at the Aquarium.

Susie, who majored in zoology when she was in school, started volunteering at the Aquarium when her youngest child entered pre-kindergarten and she's been volunteering her time ever since. Nowadays, she is focused on visitor experience—whether that's answering guests' questions, providing ocean trivia, or helping visitors handle tidepool animals in the Edge of the Sea Touch Tank.

"Over the years, the things that I have learned and taken to heart are just innumerable. There're so many bits and pieces that I've learned over the

50 years," said Susie. "Even just the fact that I can go 50 years later is amazing to me! It's very rewarding and it's something I'm very proud of."

In her more than 12,000 volunteer hours, Susie has seen a lot of change. She loves that the Aquarium's vision has grown over the years to a global conservation focus.

"It's become much more professional, both in the volunteers and the staff and what the values and the goals are," said Susie. "What we're doing now is so much more than just a fish tank."

When Susie reached 30 years of volunteering, she received an award of \$1,000. She decided to donate it back to the Aquarium, sending the money to the Education Department, where she had volunteered for so long. In 2006, she decided to continue that generous philanthropy by creating an endowment fund: the Buttrick Fund for Volunteer Programs. Each year, the Susie Buttrick Award endows \$1,000 to an Aquarium department that utilizes the volunteer program.

"One of the things that's changed over the years is the quality of the volunteers," said Susie. "People aren't just dropping by with nothing better to do anymore. They're getting educated. They're getting to be part of something very worthwhile."

She says her favorite part of volunteering has changed over the years, but now it's that she always feels happier after she's been at the Aquarium.

"It's fun, and I've gotten to meet a whole lot of different kinds of people," said Susie. "People who are interested in the ocean and not so interested. As a volunteer, you stand up for the Aquarium and make your mark known. I've enjoyed every minute of it!"

Her favorite exhibits? A tie between the giant Pacific octopus in our Olympic Coast exhibit and the Edge of the Sea Touch Tank, where she gets to interact with some of the Aquarium's smallest fans.

In her words, "It's been a ride. The Aquarium is a wonderful, wonderful place to be."

"I do think Wednesday is the day I enjoy most of my week," said Susie. "When the time comes and I have to step down, I'll have to say I enjoyed every moment of it."

Interested in volunteering, visit neaq.org/volunteer.





Susie, please know we've enjoyed and deeply appreciate —every moment too. You're one of our most valued ocean protectors!

— Vikki Spruill

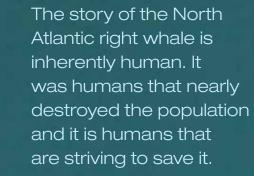


-Emily Greenhalgh

SAVING

Decades of protecting right whales

ASPECIES



In 1980, New England Aguarium scientists discovered a pod of 25 North Atlantic right whales in Canada's Bay of Fundy. At the time, they were thought to be nearly extinct. In the researchers have been fighting to save this iconic endangered species.

changes in food distribution due to climate change, busy shipping lanes, and ocean noise are just some of their challenges.

"Because they're a long-lived species, the right whales can weather short-term events," said Philip Hamilton, Research Scientist at the Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life. "We have to give them the opportunity."

Or as Anderson Cabot Center Vice President and Chief Marine Mammal Scientist Dr. Scott Kraus put it, "The species is resilient. We know they can rebound if we just stop killing them."

For nearly 40 years, the members of the Aguarium's Right Whale Research Team have been dedicated to making sure these whales have that opportunity. Fieldwork, including more than 35 years of uninterrupted surveys in the Bay of Fundy, has provided invaluable knowledge about right whale behavior, habitat use, and human impacts on the population. The members of the and Ocean Health Team have initiated groundbreaking research on whale blood, and fecal samples, providing an entirely new method to analyze health in large whales.



New England Aquarium Vice President Dr. Scott Kraus testifies before the House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

The Anderson Cabot Center's Right Whale Program also oversees the North Atlantic Right Whale Identification Catalog, a tremendous collaborative effort of more than 300 individuals and organizations. The Right Whale ID Catalog, which is linked with human impact studies, visual health assessments, and genetic and hormone analysis, is the cornerstone of right whale research.

"When it comes to right whales, nobody can really match what the Aguarium has said Anderson Cabot Center Senior

In collaboration with partners across industry, scientific institutions, and the U.S. and Canadian governments, the right whale team is working tirelessly to reduce human impacts on right whales. From supporting the implementation of ropeless fishing technology to speaking against offshore oil and gas development on our coasts, the right whale team is fighting hard to ensure these iconic whales survive.

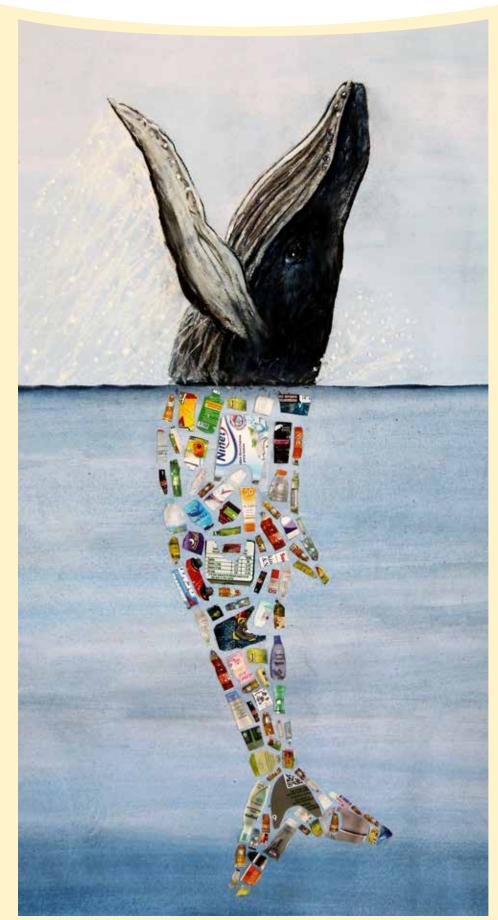
The goal for North Atlantic right whales? The team wants the whales not just to survive, but to thrive.

"We want the right whales to die of old age," said Dr. Kraus.

Learn More

In the months ahead, Anderson Cabot





"Plastic Whale" a painting by teen artist Dafne Murillo of Lima, Peru

Festival Focus:

Eliminate Single-Use Plastics

The images shock.

A viral video shows a biologist, armed with a pair of pliers, removing a straw from a sea turtle's nose. Nearly 90 pounds of plastic are pictured after being found in the stomach of a young whale that starved to death. While grim, these images are also energizing the call for the reduction of single-use plastics.

At this year's World Oceans Day on June 9, the New England Aquarium showcased its efforts and those of other local nonprofit organizations, such as Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs and the Surfrider Foundation, in eliminating single-use plastics and protecting the blue planet.

Bow Seat

The Boston-based nonprofit Bow Seat (bowseat.org) seeks to inspire the next generation of ocean caregivers through education and engagement with the arts, science, and advocacy. The group's participants are artists, writers, poets, filmmakers, and musicians, ranging in age from 11 to 18.

Bow Seat sponsors an annual Ocean Awareness Contest, a challenge for teens worldwide to use their creative voices to explore, express, and advocate for issues related to climate change and our oceans. The 2018 contest attracted almost 3,000 teens from 58 countries and 48 U.S. states. Student artwork from the contest was featured at World Oceans Day as was a mural of the painting "Plastic Whale" by teen artist Dafne Murillo, the first art scholarship winner of the group's Ocean Awareness Contest in 2014. Visitors contributed to the mural by coloring in pieces of plastic they encounter on a daily basis. By participating in this activity, Bow Seat hoped to remind visitors of our close relationship with the incredible marine life

that shares our blue planet, and inspire an awareness of how our actions on land directly impact life below the surface of the ocean.

Locally, the group partnered with Salem Public Space Project and Salem Sound Coastwatch for the Tidal Shift campaign, a public sculpture installation to raise awareness of plastic pollution and inform community members about Salem's plastic bag ban. During Bow Seat-led workshops, participants created more than 300 plastic bag sea jelly sculptures, which were later displayed at the Salem Arts Festival.

Massachusetts Chapter of Surfrider

The Surfrider Foundation is an all-volunteer environmental group dedicated to protecting our local ocean, waves, and beaches, and increasing public awareness of these important natural resources.

In addition to education and promoting ocean-friendly choices at the individual level, the state chapter actively campaigns in support of state and local legislation that would lead to systemic changes to help protect our waves, beaches, and ocean.

At World Oceans Day, the chapter presented an activity about reducing disposable plastics and promoting reusable items. It also informed the public about the offshore oil and gas leasing proposed program to be released by the federal government.

The group supports a bill pending in the Massachusetts Legislature that would ban single-use plastic checkout bags across the commonwealth. The chapter has also provided expert support to numerous local groups seeking to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic items, such as plastic bags, drinking straws, polystyrene food service ware, and single-serving bottled water.

This past April, the chapter provided written and oral testimony to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, in support of An Act Reducing Plastic Bag Pollution (H.771/S.462).

—Jon Kinson

Choose to Refuse

Say 'No' to Plastics to Keep Our Ocean Healthy

Look around you. From plastic bags to food containers, shipping envelopes to ballpoint pens, plastics are everywhere. Plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats facing our ocean today. It's also something we can help change.

Consider joining the more than 2 million people around the globe who are pledging to go plastic free with Plastic Free July. The Plastic Free Foundation's mission is to build a global movement that dramatically reduces plastic use and improves recycling. The goal: a world without plastic waste.

According to the University of Georgia, 18 billion pounds of plastic waste flows into the ocean every year from coastal regions. And evidence shows that microplastics have been found in even the deepest trenches of our ocean. Recycling is important, but it simply isn't keeping up with rising plastic pollution. We all need to consume less plastic to make a difference.

That is why it's important to remember the order of the four Rs. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

-Emily Greenhalgh



Reusable options for common single-use plastic items

How can you go plastic free?

Choose to Refuse

Say "no" to single-use plastics. In July and beyond #choosetorefuse single-use items including cutlery, straws, and bags.

Refill and Reuse

Search for bulk buying options on food items such as nuts, coffee, and beans Bring your own container to cut down on waste.

Shop Smart

40% of plastic produced is packaging that's used just once and then discarded. Be more conscientious whe you shop, choosing items not wrapped in plastic!

Go Reusable!

Bring reusables with you whenever possible! Switch to reusable shopping bags, coffee cups, produce containers, water bottles, utensils, and straws (just to name a few)!

Learn More: PlasticFreeJuly.org

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-Jon Kinson

Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future



Although the New England Aquarium's official anniversary is June 20, the day we opened our doors to the public back in 1969, the idea of an aquarium in Boston began many years before. There have been achievements along the way and there will be many more to come. As we herald the past in some of these photographs from our history, we are eager to seize the promise of the future, including a reimagined Blueway that would attract more people to the waterfront and educate them about climate change resiliency and ocean conservation.

Clockwise from top: David B. Stone, Aquarium founder

A crowd celebrates the Aquarium's 10th anniversary in 1979.

"Dolphins of the Sea," by noted sculptor Katherine Lane Weems, can be found on the Harborwalk near the Aquarium.

Children explore marine life at the Edge of the Sea Touch Tank.

At left, an artist's conceptual rendition of a reimagined Aquarium and Blueway to Boston Harbor.



New Coral Reef Exhibit Dazzles

Come visit our new Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit that features brilliantly colored tropical fish darting and swimming across the lush seascape in a 9,000-gallon, floor-to-ceiling, concave tank.

The immersive and captivating exhibit on Level 1 accentuates the biological richness of an Indo-Pacific coral reef habitat and offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate the similarities and differences with the Caribbean coral reef featured in our four-story Giant Ocean Tank and a dazzling setting to engage the public about climate change impacts on coral reefs around the globe.

"The exhibit's bright, enhanced backdrop helps visitors learn about 'rainforests of the sea' that are so essential to supporting thousands of species of fish, sea turtles, sharks, and other marine life," according to Aquarium President and CEO

Vikki Spruill. "For years, New **England Aquarium scientists** have traveled the world and studied coral reefs' vital role in the health and well-being of our oceans. This wonderful new exhibit brings the habitat alive for our visitors so they understand how reefs are being threatened by warming ocean temperatures, plastics pollution, commercial fishing impacts, and other hazards. But their beauty is undeniable, so we are hopeful that by educating people about their extraordinary significance in sustaining marine life worldwide, they will be motivated to preserve them."

Appreciated for their beauty and spectacular biodiversity, coral reefs are also critical

components to ocean health. They are nurseries to thousands of fish species, many of which could not survive without these unique habitats. Earth's coral reefs support more than 4,000 species of fishes, 800 types of hard corals, and hundreds of other species of marine life. Those found in the Indo-Pacific are more diverse and complex than anywhere else in the world! Unfortunately, coral reefs

are rapidly disappearing worldwide, primarily due to climate change and other human impacts. The loss of coral reefs to bleaching has dire consequences for marine



Aguarium educator Taylor Engelsman

animals and humans alike.
Coral reefs have the best chance to adapt if humans slow climate change and reduce other human-caused stresses.

Spruill added, "It's admirable what our scientists and advocates are doing to keep coral reefs thriving."



Summer Visiting Tips

Quick Entrance

As a member, you never need to wait to enter the Aquarium. Expedite your admission by having your membership card and a photo ID in hand. Unless you need additional tickets, you can proceed directly to an entry scanner to the left of the Information Desk.

Renew Your Membership Online

Visit neaq.org/membership any time to renew your membership; just bring your confirmation email with you when you visit the Aquarium. Memberships purchased online require a minimum of 48 hours to be processed into our system, which means that access to other member benefits and discounts, such as Simons IMAX® Theatre passes, whale watch tickets (during the season), and educational programs, will not be available until after that time. To take immediate advantage of these benefits, renew in person in our lobby or by calling 617-973-6555 weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Avoid Peak Times

Most visitors arrive at the Aquarium in the middle of the day. Beat the crowds by arriving before 10:30 a.m. or after 3 p.m. As always, be sure to check online at neaq.org for any Aquarium alerts before leaving home.

Reserve Tickets in Advance

Our special venues—like the Simons IMAX® Theatre—can sell out quickly. Ensure you get to do everything you want to do on your visit by ordering your tickets in advance. Don't forget to use your member IMAX e-passes when ordering by phone or in person.

Sharing the Aquarium with Friends

Members may purchase discounted tickets for as many additional guests as are covered by their membership level. For example, a Standard 4 level membership admits four people (one member and three guests) plus discounted admission may be purchased for an additional four guests. Discounted tickets may be purchased in the lobby for same-day use.

live blue™ —Take Public Transportation

The Aquarium is located just off the MBTA's Blue Line, so taking the T is easy—and good for the environment. If you are driving, check neaq.org/parking for area parking options where the Aquarium validates; and remember that only Aquarium members receive a discount at the Harbor Garage, adjacent to the Aquarium.

Making Waves with *The Tide*

The Aquarium's young professionals group, *The Tide*, held its third annual Making Waves with *The Tide* open-house event on April 11. Guests enjoyed a dynamic evening on Central Wharf that included

a look at our new Indo-Pacific
Coral Reef Exhibit, a visit with baby
sharks, and a behind-the-scenes
tour of the Giant Ocean Tank dive
room. Sponsors Boston Harbor
Distillery, Lookout Farm Brewing &
Cider Co., Mighty Squirrel Brewing
Company, Proud Pour, and White
Claw provided complimentary
drink tastings throughout
the building.

To learn more about The Tide, visit neaq.org/thetide.

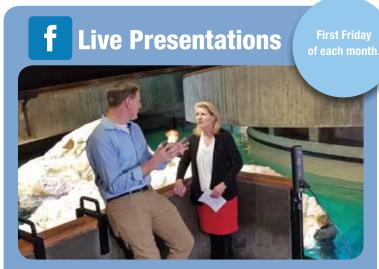




Sign Up for SeaMail

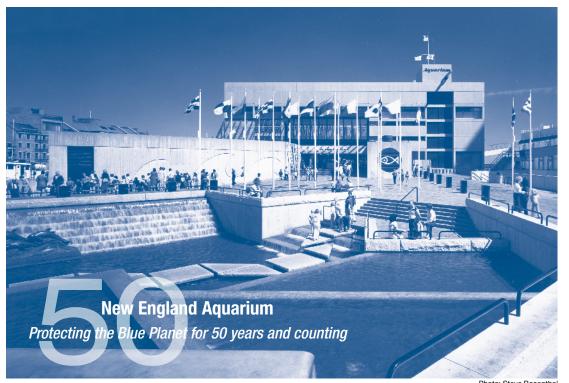
With insider information, member alerts, and behind-the-scenes stories, SeaMail is the best way to stay in the know throughout your membership year.

Sign up at neaq.org/SeaMail and never miss out!



Each month, the New England Aquarium presents Facebook Live events that give the public a better idea of what goes on behind the scenes here on Central Wharf. Once each month, Aquarium President and CEO Vikki Spruill speaks with members of our team, tapping into their areas of expertise to better understand current issues and learn how their work reinforces the Aquarium's efforts to protect the blue planet. On the first Friday of each month, we go live with Aquarium educators to meet a new animal or dive deep into an important issue facing our blue planet. Stay informed!

June August July September



6/20 New England Aquarium's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Join us on the Central Plaza for a public event celebrating the New England Aquarium's 50th anniversary.

neaq.org/memberevents

6/22 Beach Cleanup Event

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Revere Beach, followed by and Post-Cleanup Gathering at Antonia's at the Beach Restaurant & Bar, Revere \$10 admission fee

Join members of Aquarium's live blue™ Service Corps and The Tide, and the Women's Energy Network neaq.org/thetide





8/15 Sunset Harbor Cruise

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. aboard the *Liberty Clipper* ship leaving from Rowes Wharf

Exclusive for members of *The Tide*. Admission is \$25 and includes two drink tickets and light bites. neaq.org/thetide

9/5 Fin & Tonic 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Come enjoy all you love about the Aquarium while enjoying drinks, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and terrific Aquarium programming. You can't beat the late summer on Central Wharf. Mark your calendar as ticketing opens at noon on August 7 for Premium-level members, August 8 for Standard-level members, and August 14 for the public. Attendees must be 21 or older, and registration is required. Cost is \$15 for members or \$40 for nonmembers. neag.org/memberevents

9/15 Premium Sunday Morning

Begins at 8 a.m.

Premium members are invited to visit the Aquarium before we open to the public. This is a great opportunity to get an early start on your Aquarium adventure during off-peak hours. Admission is limited to the number permitted with your Premium-level membership.

Are you a Standard level member interested in attending? Upgrade to Premium by calling 617-973-6555 or visiting neaq.org/membership. neaq.org/memberevents

Spend the Summer on the Water

Members who want to sail the ocean blue can do so with a little more green in their pockets. Your member benefits include two opportunities to save while experiencing the magnificence of our blue planet when you venture out on the water!

New England Aquarium Whale Watch

member card They breathe air, spout for your water, and blow minds! discount! Set sail with Boston Harbor Cruises on a New England Aguarium Whale Watch to experience these majestic creatures for yourself. Your destination, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, is a rich feeding ground, which means you'll have a good chance to view several different species of large whales, including humpbacks, finbacks, minkes, pilot whales, and critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, as well as dolphins, seals, seabirds, and other marine animals. An onboard Aquarium naturalist will fill you in on everything you're seeing and answer your questions.

Purchase discounted Aquarium member tickets online at bostonharborcruises.com or by phone at 617-227-4321 or (toll-free) 877-SEE-WHALE (877-733-9425). Please have your Aquarium membership ID number ready and use promo code AQMEM19.



Liberty Fleet of Tall Ships

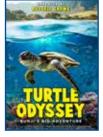
Sail Boston Harbor on a classic schooner in the Liberty Fleet of tall ships. During the 2.5-hour adventure, you're welcome to help hoist the sails, take the helm, enjoy a drink or snack from the ship's bar, or just relax and take in the sights and sounds of Boston Harbor. It's always an adventure as you sail with the best wind of the day, maybe finding yourself visiting Charlestown and the historic North End or heading out to view Fort Independence and the spectacular Boston Harbor Islands.

Purchase discounted Aquarium member tickets for *Liberty Clipper* and *Liberty Star* day and sunset harbor sails online at libertyfleet.com or by calling 617-742-0333 using the discount code NEA019.



Turtle Odyssey 40 minutes

Follow the incredible journey of a spry young green sea turtle as it traverses thousands of miles of open ocean—and then migrates with mysterious precision back to the very beach where it was born.



Russell Crowe narrates as researchers trek through these same aquatic wonderlands, encountering the majestic corals of Australia's Great Barrier Reef and breathtaking breaching whales. *Turtle Odyssey* reminds us just how interconnected we all are with the ocean.

Great White Shark40 minutes

Get ready for a shark'seye view as you plunge straight into the underwater world of nature's most renowned predator in *Great White Shark*. See the science at work behind that fearsome toothy grin and



discover the importance of this spectacular species. It's an exhilarating view of the blue planet fit for the whole family.

Oceans: Our Blue Planet 40 minutes

The glittering oceans contain profound mysteries beneath the waves, and *Oceans: Our Blue Planet* reveals those breathtaking stories from the deep. Watch athletic dolphins at play



and a clever octopus hiding in plain sight. From the ice-crusted Arctic to the crystalline topics, explore the dramatic events and intimate lives of the oceans' most extraordinary creatures.

Standard 4 members and above receive a select number of one-time-use IMAX e-passes, and all Giving Society members receive discounts on ticket prices!

Tickets Purchase member tickets at any Aquarium ticketing location or by phone at 617-973-5200. Films, prices, and showtimes are subject to change.

Rentals Private screening and facility rentals, call 617-720-5104

Parties IMAX birthday parties, call 617-973-6508.

Check neaq.org for a complete list of films and showtimes!





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