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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 Aguarium

On the cover: Lookdowns (Selene vomer)

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Editor: Jon Kinson Designer: Cathy LeBlanc Contributors: Emily Greenhalgh, Vanessa Kahn, Jon Kinson, and Matt Linder

General Information: 617-973-5200 Marine Animal Stranding Hotline: 617-973-5247 Membership: 617-973-6555, members@neaq.org **Navigator and Conservation Societies:** 617-226-2622, giving@neaq.org The Tide: 617-973-5224, thetide@neaq.org





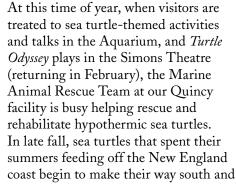
New England Aquarium Proudly Recognizes Our Lead Sponsors













From the President and CEO

often get caught in the hook of Cape Cod. As water and air temperatures drop and winds pick up, the turtles experience hypothermia. Most of the rescued "cold-stunned" sea turtles are endangered or threatened species, such as Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, or loggerhead sea turtles.

We work closely with Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary staff and volunteers, who tirelessly patrol the beaches of Cape Cod from early November to late January, rescuing beached sea turtles and delivering them to Quincy. There, members of our Marine Animal Rescue Team begin their work of warming the turtles and nursing them back to health. Sometimes this work is as simple as providing care and feeding, other times it's more complicated and involves treating infections or even reconstructing severely damaged shells. The goal? To release as many sea turtles as possible back into the ocean.

Our Quincy facility is also a research and development unit of sorts for our sustainability efforts—from testing water pumps that use less energy and create less noise, to growing our own food for the Aquarium's animals, to cultivating schools of fishes for the Giant Ocean Tank (GOT). You can read more about these efforts on page 4.

As all members know, a stroll up the GOT spiral is an Aquarium visit must. The 200,000-gallon Caribbean coral reef exhibit is home to our best-known green sea turtle, Myrtle, as well as rescued loggerheads Retread and Carolina. Our Aquarium Dive Team cares for the GOT. Learn more about them on page 2.

Beyond our physical facilities, our work to protect the blue planet also manifests in helping preserve the ocean, both for the animals who live in it and the humans who depend on it. That's why we advocate for the creation of marine protected areas, or MPAs. These designated areas are established for the conservation of their natural or cultural resources. They protect the rich biodiversity of the ocean, especially for migratory marine species such as sea turtles, who travel long distances between nesting and feeding grounds. Read more about our work with MPAs on page 8.

As always, thank you for helping us protect the blue planet; we look forward to seeing you on Central Wharf!

Shelu Womill

President and CEO, New England Aquarium

At the Aquarium

Projecting an Efficient Image

Simons Theatre renovation includes new film technology. upgraded seating, and improved energy efficiency

A state-of-the-art film projection system. Plush, high-backed seats. An expanded

These are the most visible improvements that you will see after the Simons Theatre renovation project.

However, what you won't see will be just as impressive.

The theater will be closed from January 1 through February 14, 2020, for the replacement of the nearly 20-yearold projection system with an advanced laser cinema projector that will produce razor-sharp and high-contrast images while reducing electricity usage by almost 40%. The new system will provide you with a wider selection of films, including 3-D films, in a more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly way.

More comfortable seating and a new 1,800-square-foot stage will be constructed under a giant 80-foot-wide, 43-foot-high projection screen. The new stage area can host presentations, large receptions, corporate events, and other mission-based functions. Even the carpeting we are using supports our sustainable initiatives; its yarns are completely recycled from discarded fishing nets!

These improvements will allow us to expand and enhance our legacy of educating the public about environmental and conservation issues. Since 1972, the Aguarium has been providing free lectures and films by scientists, environmental writers, photographers, and others through the generosity of the Lowell Institute. The theater also hosts daily films with stunning images that take you places you have only dreamed

The new film technology uses lasers that do not heat up. Gone will be the air compressors and water pumps-and their

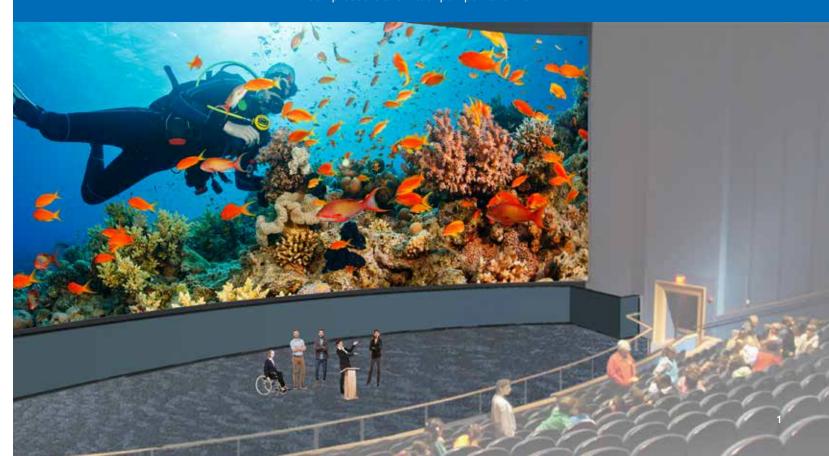
labyrinth of hoses and ducts—that are needed to cool the old system's xenon lights, which produced a great deal of heat while creating a bright enough light for film projection.

Going digital will also mean no more film, which will eliminate waste and reduce the resources used in production and shipping

A new screen and state-of-the-art sound system will be added, as well as new 3D glasses and a glasses cleaning system. Like the projection system, the cleaning system will use less water, less electricity, and is smaller.

Get an exclusive look at the improvements at a Members' Movie Night at Simons Theatre on Saturday, March 7. See you there!

-Jon Kinson



-Vanessa Kahn

Diving into Their Work

Dive Team keeps Giant Ocean Tank clean, animals fed

Pack up the khakis and polos—business casual is not suitable for this job.
Wetsuits, regulators, masks, and fins are all part of the daily uniform worn by members of the Aquarium's Dive Team.
Their office is a four-story, 200,000-gallon saltwater tank, and their colleagues include giant sea turtles, eels, and hundreds of Caribbean reef fishes.

When you visit the Aquarium and our Giant Ocean Tank (GOT), it's likely you will run into members of our Dive Team on the job; they may even wave to you from behind the glass!

The Dive Team does a majority of the animals' feeding underwater—four times a day. At 30 minutes per dive, they spend about one to two hours per day underwater. They maintain the tank by scrubbing algae off the reef, vacuuming the gravel, and cleaning the acrylic windows so you can clearly see the beautiful animals.

GOT Senior Aquarist Chris Bauernfeind, a member of the Dive Team for 14 years, closely monitors the GOT's animals to ensure they are healthy.

"We might see odd swimming behavior, bruises, cuts, abrasions, even a noticeable loss of appetite. All of those could potentially mean a trip out of the tank to see our veterinarians." Chris said

"Speaking of, if you see us swimming with nets underwater, we are trying to catch a sick fish. I say 'trying,' because we aren't always successful," he added. What happens when they are unsuccessful catching a sick fish? In the words of Chris, "We try again. We'll either add more divers or change the technique."

Our divers are in the tank 365 days a year, as our marine animals require daily care even when the Aquarium is closed.

"I once snowshoed to the Aquarium because the T had shut down," Chris recounted.

When they aren't 23 feet underwater, our divers have regular offices and workstations. Communication among the team is key to managing the GOT's 1,000-plus animals, so sending emails and attending team meetings are important job functions.

Team members can also be found assisting the animal husbandry staff with exams, keeping the freezers stocked with tasty fish food, filling scuba tanks with doing laundry. All of this takes a cohesive group of staff, volunteers, and interns who make up the Dive Team.

Not many people get to scuba dive for a living and even fewer get to dive in the GOT, so many of our divers feel very lucky to be doing what they love every day. Most members of the Dive Team are biologists with scuba certifications.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, Chris said, "The diving, the animals, and the people I work with." But his favorite part? "Simple. Being underwater! It's a nice quiet break from the hectic world we live in."

Next time you're strolling along the Giant Ocean Tank spiral, be sure to look for our divers and give them a friendly wave!

Senior Aquarist and Giant Ocean
Tank diver Chris Bauernfeind.
Bottom: Chris uses the scatter-feed
method to feed animals in the
Giant Ocean Tank.
Left: A diver gives Myrtle a friendly
pat on the head.





The late Maureen Angelini's childhood playground was her beachfront home in Massachusetts. She spent her summers playing in the sand and digging for clams, developing a deep-rooted fascination with the ocean that stayed with her throughout her life.

It wasn't until the 1990s, when her children were grown, that she began her dive career. She filled her days with scuba lessons, dive expeditions, and regular trips to local dive shops.

Her diving took her across the Pacific and the Caribbean, where she grew fond of marine life and sea creatures. Later, this affection led her to become a volunteer at the Aquarium, caring for our animals and diving in our Giant Ocean Tank.

For six years Maureen volunteered every Friday, leaving the house at 6:30 a.m. and staying at the Aquarium until 5 p.m. Even as Maureen's health declined and her mobility became limited, she never missed a day on the job.

Maureen built a wonderful community of friends on Central Wharf. There wasn't a person or animal she couldn't get along with! Maureen passed away in 2018, but her spirit lives on at the New England Aquarium in the memories of the Dive Team.

-Matt Linder



central wharf explorer

-Vanessa Kahn

Striving for Sustainability

Quincy Animal Care Center seeks better ecological balance by breeding fish and food sources, utilizing more-efficient pumps

From tiny brine shrimp to massive water pumps, the Aquarium's Animal Care Center in Quincy is reducing its carbon footprint through innovative practices.

Monika Schmück, the Aquarium's Supervisor of Sustainability, is working with other aquariums on methods and techniques that promote sustainable larval fish practices and reduce the impact on wild populations. The Aquarium and Roger Williams University have partnered to successfully raise several fish species from eggs. For fish like copper sweepers and blue chromis, this is the first time these species have been successfully hand-reared.

"I'm hoping that as we raise these species for the first time ever, we learn more about the animals and what they require in their environments," Monika said. "That might help change our environmental concerns because we'll understand the conditions the animal requires to reach adulthood."

Aquarium staff provided the optimal conditions for breeding, including lighting, temperature, and high-quality foods. The copper sweepers spawned naturally, and the eggs were captured and fostered by our aquarists. Other species cultivated in-house include brown chromis, lookdowns, and smallmouth grunts.

Breeding our fish locally means using less energy for travel and transportation, and fewer shipping materials. The research that goes into rearing fish is also valuable for potentially recovering populations of endangered species in the future.

Quincy is also home to the Aquarium's live foods program, in which aquarists rear brine shrimp from egg to adult to use as food for other animals.

"We're fully sustaining the Quincy facility and the Aquarium with our own brine shrimp," Monika said.

This allows the Aquarium to further reduce its carbon footprint.

"You are what you eat, and we're able to control that here," said Barbara Bailey, Curator of Husbandry and Sustainability in Quincy.

Cultivating our own food gives us the added benefit of knowing we are nourishing our animals with food from reliable sources. Barbara said.

Our aquarists are also working on techniques for sustainable water practices that could increase the efficiency of our facilities. New DC (direct current) pumps that are being tested throughout the Quincy facility save energy and produce less heat. This reduces the energy needed for cooling systems.

"We've already started implementing DC pumps in the Aquarium," said Barbara, who is spearheading the project.

The pumps are also quieter, an important factor for the staff working all day in enclosed spaces. The pumps are better for the animals, too. Unlike traditional pumps, these energy-efficient pumps don't send vibrations through the water column that can stress animals.

As an aquarium whose mission is conservation, we constantly think about how to reduce our carbon footprint. Even the smallest changes in our practices can have a positive impact on the environment. That is why we are proud to participate in groundbreaking work that could shape eco-friendly practices for generations of aquariums to come



Barbara Bailey and Monika Schmück observe our cultured adult brine shrimp, which they culture in Quincy and provide to the main building as part of the sustained live foods initiative. This food is important for our smaller fishes and picky eaters.



Monika Schmück looks at newly hatched brown chromis larvae in a hatching tank located in our Quincy Culture Room.

4

-Emily Greenhalgh

Shopping Sustainably When Spending the Green, Shop Blue

There are more choices than ever for consumers. So how do you know if the choices you're making are sustainable? At the New England Aquarium, we're proud to partner with a number of organizations that share our dedication to protecting the blue planet.

For more than a decade, the Sustainable Seafood Team at our Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life has partnered with Gorton's Seafood to improve and promote sustainable seafood practices in the ocean. This partnership has helped fisheries and farms employ sustainable practices to achieve environmental certification, lifting the entire seafood industry to a higher standard.

We also partnered with Boston-based philanthropic beverage company Proud Pour on Cider for Sea Turtles, a hard apple cider that supports sea turtle rehabilitation and release. Proud Pour donates 13% of its top line revenue to its 22 environmental partners—among them, the Aquarium's Quincy Animal Care Center and Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center.

To help celebrate our 50th anniversary, Trillium Brewing made a limited-edition beer called For the Sake of the Sea and donated a portion of the proceeds from every beer sold throughout its summer run.

Bureo, a company that was partially supported by the Aquarium's Marine Conservation Action Fund, turns old, recycled fishing nets into skateboards, sunglasses, clothing, and other consumer goods. Other companies, including Pella Case and Rothy's footwear, are turning to recycled materials, such as recycled water bottles, to make their products.

This Valentine's Day, or any day, treat yourself to a special edition box of decadent confections while helping the Aquarium rehabilitate endangered sea turtles. Phillips Chocolates' best-selling signature turtles are now available in an assortment of 18 pieces. And when you purchase this special eco-friendly box, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Aquarium's sea turtle hospital.











What else can you do as a shopper?

Ask questions!

What is your item made of? Did you know that synthetic clothing such as fleece jackets are the greatest producers of microplastics? Prioritize buying clothing made from sustainable fibers (like cotton, bamboo, and wool) whenever possible.

Investigate.

Buy seafood from vendors with a public commitment to sustainable seafood. When shopping for seafood, look for ecolabels, such as certification by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), and Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) that indicate sources that have met defined environmental targets and traceability requirements.

Ask if you really need it.

Just buying fewer items is the best action you can take to make sure you're a sustainable shopper. When you buy an item, consider if you can buy it secondhand or buy more high-quality items that may last longer.

Fun Fact: Our marine mammal trainers use bamboo toothbrushes instead of plastic to cut down on waste. Chacoda, one of the New England Aquarium's Atlantic harbor seals, opens wide as a trainer brushes his teeth.

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-Emily Greenhalgh

The Importance of Marine Protected Areas

In 2010, the United Nations announced a laudable goal: protect 10% of the global ocean by 2020. That's what is needed, it said, to take the first small steps to creating a healthier ocean and healthier world. However, members of the scientific community thought that didn't go far enough. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the organization that keeps the Red List for endangered species, called for protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Just as parks improve the neighborhoods that surround them, marine protected areas improve the ocean around them. Studies from across Seamounts Marine National Monument. the world show that marine protected areas (MPAs) even enhance nearby fisheries. When fish stocks build up within a protected area, they "spill over" into other areas.

So how much of our ocean is actually protected? The "official" figure is less than 6%, but it drops to 3.5% if you remove

regions protected in name only without any real regulatory changes. That's according to

a 2018 study

published in the

journal Marine Policy.

"Marine protected areas are a very effective tool to bolster the ocean's resilience in the face of climate change and other human impacts," said Vikki Spruill, President and CEO of the New England Aquarium.

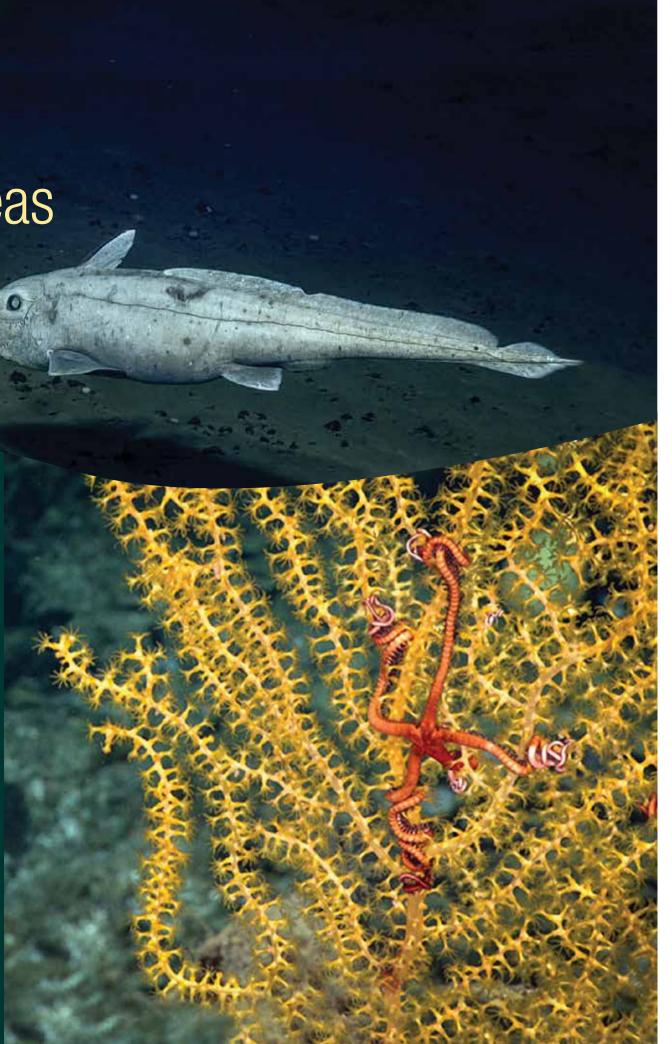
It's one of the reasons we've worked so hard to protect the MPA in our backyard—the Northeast Canyons and The New England Aquarium and our partners at Mystic Aquarium were instrumental in providing the strong scientific evidence that helped designate this blue park a national monument. The monument, which is the first and only national monument in the U.S.

> waters of the Atlantic Ocean. celebrated its third anniversary in 2019. We were there at the beginning and we're still fighting for it now.

> > From opinion articles and awareness campaigns to aerial surveys and scientific research, we're dedicated to protecting this vital environment.

It's going to take a village, and that's why we're building one dedicated to protecting the blue planet. Thank you for being a part of it!

Inset: An octopus (Graneledone verruocsa) Top: A chimera swims near the seafloor. Right: A snake star entwines itself around an octocoral's branches. Images courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, Deep Connections 2019



Counting Whales from Space

The protection of new marine protected areas (MPAs) is the driving force behind the exciting partnership between the New England Aquarium and Draper, a not-for-profit engineering innovation company in Cambridge MA, announced at the Our Ocean conference in Oslo, Norway in October 2019.

We are working with Draper to develop an entirely new way to approach ocean conservationcounting marine life from space. The effort is focused on developing a way to use remote sensing techniques to monitor the numbers and types of whales and other large marine animals at the ocean's surface in difficult-to-access, offshore ocean

environments. Currently, the

most common way to gather such information is via aerial surveys, which are expensive. frequently limited by bad weather, and often beyond the reach of small aircraft. Developing new technology that uses specially designed

algorithms to process data from low orbit satellites could better inventory and monitor marine life populations in remote marine protected areas.

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, located more than 200 miles east of Cape Cod, is a prime candidate to benefit from this technology. Currently, the Aquarium flies highly productive aerial surveys that reveal an amazing abundance and diversity of whale species there, but is significantly limited by distance and cost.

Using the science generated by this technology, documenting the habitats of whales and other large marine animals could help justify the expansion of existing MPAs or the creation of new ones.

Aguarium scientists over the past three decades have helped develop regulatory mechanisms that have significantly reduced human-caused mortalities in all large whale species. This new technology could inform government officials on how to more effectively and efficiently implement these measures for the benefit of all stakeholders, including the fishing, shipping and conservation communities and, ultimately, the whales.



Aquarium President and CEO Vikki Spruill announces a partnership between the Aquarium and Draper at the 2019 Our Ocean Conference in Oslo, Norway.

This is the first-ever commitment for both Draper and the Aquarium at the Our Ocean Conference and is the first step in a developing relationship to identify solutions and commit to action for a clean, healthy, and productive ocean.



Leave a Legacy

Carol Lamb, New England Aquarium Volunteer and Legacy Donor

Forty years ago, as a new sales representative for a Fortune 500 company, Carol Lamb was assigned the Boston museums as a sales territory. Carol felt lucky to call on the Boston Children's Museum and John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, but fell in love with the New England Aquarium.

At that time, she didn't realize the many ways she could help the Aquarium in its important mission to protect the blue planet.

"With my passion for children and animals, I realized I could combine my lifelong skills of teaching, presenting, and sharing, and work as a volunteer in the Visitor Education department. Volunteers are a critical piece of the Aquarium's day-to-day operation and its continued success."

While volunteering, Carol knew she wanted to do even more. Through

research, she learned she could create a lasting legacy at the Aquarium by including the institution in her estate plan.

"I love being a part of something bigger than myself, and the Aquarium provides that experience. My association makes me feel that I am helping to make the world a better place for tomorrow's generation, including my grandchildren, and many others. When I first became involved, I never imagined I would also become a legacy donor to this magnificent institution, with the intention of making it a recipient of a portion of my estate."

Planned gifts to the Aquarium can take many forms, including bequests, charitable remainder trusts, annual IRA distributions, or life insurance designations. These gifts help donors like Carol reach personal goals—whether they are to honor the memory of a loved



one, receive important tax benefits, or make a substantial gift for the future.

"I feel gratified to know that my time and energy as a volunteer and my pledged gifts are helping me fulfill my personal goals and helping the Aquarium continue to protect the blue planet for generations to come"

Bequests and other revocable planned gifts are a wonderful way to support the New England Aquarium and live your values today. For more information, please contact Anne Norton, Director of Individual Giving, at anorton@neaq.org or 617-226-2230.

Aquarium Recognized as Autism Welcoming Business

The Autism Alliance officially recognized the New England Aquarium as an "Autism Welcoming Business." Executive members of the alliance presented the Aquarium with a number of useful materials, including a tool kit to be used by those with sensory-processing needs. The kit includes sunglasses, noise-canceling headphones, a squeeze toy, chewy tube, water timer, and other items. The Aquarium also received pins for staff to wear that designate the Aguarium as autism friendly. The Aquarium will be added to the Autism Alliance's online resource directory that recognizes institutions that are found helpful by families the alliance supports.



Allison Daigle, Autism Alliance Executive Co-Director, far left, and Pam McKillop, Autism Alliance Executive Co-Director, third from left, are joined by New England Aquarium Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer Eric Krauss and Associate Vice President, Visitor Operations and Engagement Deb Bobek.

Join Our Divers in the Bahamas

When: April 11 - 19, 2020

Where: Bimini Island and surrounding area dive sites

Do you enjoy diving? Plan an inspiring vacation with Aquarium divers on their annual expedition to the warm, crystal-clear waters of the Bahamas. During this week-long adventure, you will explore beautiful underwater sites in the Bimini area in the Bahamas. Using your skills as a diver, and techniques that you will learn from Aquarium staff, you will help gather data on fish populations and their habitats while gaining experience with scientific diving methods. Along with fieldwork, you will have the opportunity to increase your knowledge of reef fish identification and behavior before and during the expedition. This exciting "working" vacation is open to certified divers of all levels, ages 18 and older.



Highlights of the Expedition:

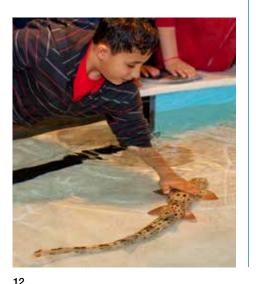
- \$3,795 (not including airfare to and from Miami)
- Accommodations aboard the R/V Coral Reef II, including professionally prepared meals and beverages, as well as beer and wine
- Visits to renowned tropical dive sites on coral reefs teeming with life
- Up to five dives daily (weights and tanks provided), some may be at night
- A rare opportunity to dive in the Giant Ocean Tank

For more information about upcoming expeditions, contact Chris Bauernfeind at cbauernfeind@neaq.org.



2/2 Sensory **Inclusive Morning** Begins at 8 a.m.

The Aquarium opens exclusively for people with sensory processing needs and their families. This event allows for a quieter experience with all your favorite marine animals. Admission tickets are required and will be available to purchase online in advance. neaq.org/visit/accessibility



2/14 That's A-Moray

Join us for a special Valentine's Day event for ocean lovers. This memberexclusive, 21-plus night features a strolling buffet dinner, live music, and a signature cocktail amidst your favorite Aquarium animals. Love—for your family, friends, and the blue planet—is in the air. Ticketing opens January 9, 2020, for Premium-level members and January 10, 2020, for Standard-level members. neag.org/memberevents

2/15 Simons Theatre Reopens

Visit neag.org/films for a list of films.

2/22 Members' Night 6:30-9 p.m.

Enjoy all that your Aquarium offers during this member-exclusive night. Leisurely roam from the top of the Giant Ocean Tank to the Indo-Pacific coral reef on Level 1. Visit your favorite marine animals or learn about some new ones. This popular event is free, and no advance registration is required. Attendance is strictly limited to the number of admissions permitted with your membership level.

Get an exclusive peek at our newly renovated Simons Theatre and view one of our latest movies through our new state-of-the-art 3D laser projection system. This event is free, but registration is required. Attendance is strictly limited to the number of admissions permitted with your membership level. neaq.org/memberevents

3/22 Premium Member Sunday Morning 8-9 a.m.

Premium members are invited to visit the Aquarium while staff and volunteers prepare the exhibits for the coming day. This is a great opportunity to enjoy an early morning Aquarium adventure. Admission is limited to the number of admissions permitted with your Premium-level membership. Interested in joining our Premium level for more access to events like this? Call 617-973-5200 to upgrade your Standard-level membership today!

Sign Up for SeaMail

With insider information, member alerts, and behind-the-scenes stories. SeaMail is the best way to be tuned in to all that is happening at the Aquarium throughout your membership year.

Sign up at neaq.org/SeaMail and stay informed.

neag.org/memberevents



First Friday Facebook Live f

Join our monthly livestream on Facebook. Our educators introduce new animals or dive deep into an important issue facing the blue planet. This event gives you a better idea of what goes on behind the scenes here on Central Wharf.

Stay informed! Don't miss these enlightening broadcasts.



with mysterious precision back to the very beach where it was born.

Australia's

Turtle Odyssey

of a spry young green

sea turtle. Watch as this

Follow the incredible journey

remarkable reptile traverses

thousands of miles of open

ocean—and then migrates

40 minutes

Films

on Wednesday, January 1.

2020, for renovations and

will reopen February 15.

Check neag.org/films for

a list of film offerings.

The Simons Theatre will close

Great Wild North 40 minutes

Journey to a wilderness teeming with ancient life, both ferocious and adorable, in an epic adventure to one of the Earth's most remote wetlands and the oldest rainforest on the planet in Australia's Great Wild North.

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. From the ice-crusted Arctic to the crystalline tropics, explore the dramatic events and intimate lives of the ocean's most extraordinary creatures.



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Standard 4 members and above receive a select number of one-time-use 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 Birthday parties, call 617-973-6508



neaq.org/memberevents

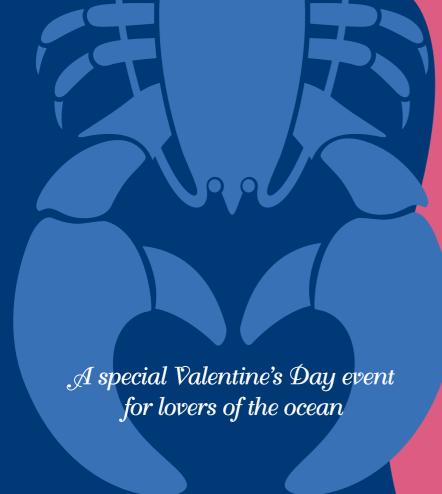
3/7 Members' Movie Night at Simons Theatre 6:30-8 p.m.



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19M/RD



That's A-Moray

Celebrate love this Valentine's Day at the Aquarium

Friday, February 14 7–10 p.m.

New England Aquarium Central Wharf, Boston

A special early check-in for Premium members starts at 6 p.m. and includes a private reception at the Trust Family Foundation Shark and Ray Touch Tank.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW.