



New England
Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

Member Update

SPRING 2019

50 Years of Wonder

Celebrate the Aquarium's 50th anniversary with
a visit to the new Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit

When you visit the New England Aquarium this spring, be sure to stop by our latest exhibit, the Indo-Pacific Coral Reef. Adjacent to the Giant Ocean Tank—home to our Caribbean Coral Reef community—our new exhibit features a 9,000-gallon habitat of diverse tropical reef fishes.

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 couldn't reproduce without these unique habitats. Earth's coral reefs support about 33 percent of all marine fishes at some point in their lives, and include about 800 varieties of hard corals and hundreds of other types of marine life.

The coral reefs found in the Indo-Pacific are more diverse and complex than any others in the world.

While essential to ocean health, these unique environments also provide critical economic and environmental opportunities to millions of people around the world. Coral reefs generate nearly \$30 billion annually and sustain almost 1 billion people through coastal protection—they form natural barriers during storms—food security, and income. Impressive for an environment that covers less than 1 percent of the Earth's surface!

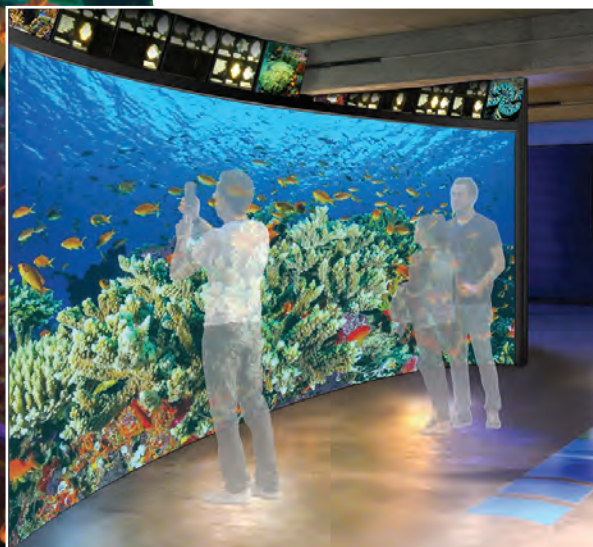
Unfortunately, healthy coral reefs are rapidly disappearing worldwide, primarily due to climate change and other human impacts. The loss of coral reefs has dire consequences for marine animals and humans alike. Coral reefs have the best chance to adapt if humans slow climate change and reduce other human-caused stresses.

Your Membership Protects

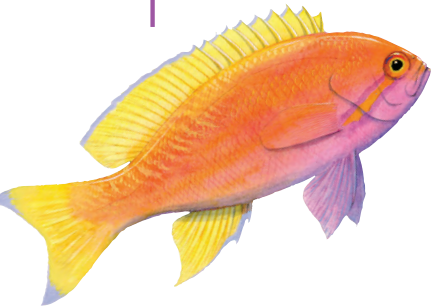
When you support the Aquarium, you help us continue our global ocean conservation programs, including advocating for marine protected areas and researching reef-dependent species like sharks and sea turtles.

As always, thank you for your support!

*Join us Sunday, April 14,
for a special viewing.*



April May June



4/11 Making Waves with The Tide

6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Join members of The Tide for an engaging night at the Aquarium with cocktails and light bites. Socialize with like-minded 21+ ocean supporters while exploring the worlds of amazing marine animals. Plus, come check out our behind-the-scenes spaces and be one of the first to see our new Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit. neaq.org/thetide

4/14 Member Preview Night

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Get a preview of the new 9,000-gallon habitat featuring an Indo-Pacific coral reef during your night at the Aquarium. Learn how climate change affects coral reefs around the globe. Stroll through your favorite exhibits at a leisurely pace. This event is free, and no advance registration is required. Attendance is limited to the number of admissions permitted with your membership level. neaq.org/memberevents



4/28 Premium Member Morning

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Premium members are invited to visit the Aquarium while staff members prepare the exhibits for the day. Enjoy a quiet morning exploring our new 9,000-gallon exhibit of an Indo-Pacific coral reef on Level 1 as well as all your other favorite exhibits. Admission is limited to the number permitted with your Premium-level membership. neaq.org/memberevents

5/9 Lecture — Good Seatizenship: Policies, Plastics, and Programs to Conserve the Philippine Seas

7 p.m.

Simons IMAX® Theatre

The Aquarium's Spring 2019 Marine Conservation

Action Fund Fellow, Anna Oposa, will discuss her work to protect, conserve, and restore the Philippine seas. Anna—the co-founder, Executive Director, and “Chief Mermaid” of the organization Save Philippine Seas—has pioneered a wide range of campaigns and projects in shark conservation, environmental education, youth empowerment, and waste management. neaq.org/aquariumlectures

6/9 Premium Member Morning

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Before we open to the public, Premium members get a jumpstart to their Aquarium visit. Experience your favorite exhibits while staff members prepare for the day. Following this morning event, we invite you to attend our annual World Oceans Day Festival. Admission for this morning event is limited to the number permitted with your Premium-level membership. neaq.org/memberevents

6/9 World Oceans Day Festival

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Harbor View Terrace Tent

This fun, family-friendly festival features hands-on activities for children and opportunities to learn about efforts by the Aquarium and other nonprofit organizations to protect the



blue planet. See what is being done in the region—and around the world—to address plastic pollution, the theme of this year's event.

neaq.org/oceansday

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

This public event will celebrate the Aquarium's half a century of engaging and educating

the public about marine animals and marine habitats, being a global leader in ocean exploration and marine conservation, and providing public education resources for the region. neaq.org/memberevents



Visit neaq.org for even more events and details.

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

A Vision for a Better Future

Fifty years ago, the New England Aquarium opened its doors on Central Wharf to more than 12,000 visitors eager to become engaged, educated, and involved in marine conservation. It's an easy story to tell today, but it took principal founder David B. Stone a decade of Herculean dedication and collaboration to make the Aquarium a reality.

Stone wanted to connect the people of Boston to the waterfront, while inspiring them to care more deeply about our blue planet. In the 1960s, Central Wharf, a warren of dilapidated structures left to fishmongers and little else, was cut off from the rest of the city.

He collaborated with the city of Boston, his colleagues at Harvard College, and philanthropists to realize a vision of a better future for Boston and create a legacy of environmental stewardship. On June 20, 1969, their combined efforts launched a mission that has evolved in word and deed to protect the future of the blue planet.

At a time of crisis in our oceans—one in scale, scope, and impact we have only begun to understand—this legacy is more important than ever. The Aquarium has both an extraordinary opportunity and a responsibility to drive forward our global conservation programs and research. By sharing our passion for the ocean with you, our members, through our exhibits and education programs, we hope to inspire you to join us in advocating for the blue planet.

As we approach the kick-off of our 50th anniversary, we're not only celebrating the Aquarium, we're celebrating your involvement! Send us your memories of the Aquarium and we'll use them as part of our year-long celebration. Equally important, tell us how we can do more to include you in our important conservation work—something that we are incorporating into every aspect of our exhibits, programs, and outreach activities.

As always, thank you for being a member. Together, we're continuing the Aquarium's pursuit of a better future.


Vikki N. Spruill



Share Your Stories

Beginning in June, we mark
the New England Aquarium's
50th anniversary!

As we mark five decades of protecting the blue planet and look forward to many more, we invite you to share your most memorable Aquarium moments to help us celebrate. Are you one of the lucky ones photobombed by Myrtle, the green sea turtle and queen of the Giant Ocean Tank? Do you have video of you and your family proving you can walk like a penguin? Did you come here as a child and then carry on the tradition by bringing your own? Let us know!

Share your favorite stories, photos, and/or videos with us by going to neaq.org/memberstories, emailing them to membership@neaq.org, or by mailing them to:

New England Aquarium
Attn: Hailey Conneely, Director of Membership
Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399

By sending your information, you consent to the possible reproduction of your name, story, and/or images by the New England Aquarium in connection with future promotions, fundraising, and/or marketing efforts, and you expressly waive any claims you may have in connection therewith.

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New England Aquarium
Attn: Hailey Conneely
Director of Membership
Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399



Protecting the blue planet

What Are Your Most Memorable Moments at the Aquarium?

Share your favorite stories, photos, and/or videos with us by going to neaq.org/memberstories or mailing them to:

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New England Aquarium

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I remember...

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20M/RD



Join us

for a member-exclusive evening at the Aquarium,
featuring our new Indo-Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit

Member Preview Night

Sunday, April 14, 2019

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bring your friends and family to discover the Aquarium after the crowds have left for the day.

This is a free event for members; reservations are not required.