

**SC Aquarium Public Program Worksheet**  
(Adapted from NAI, Certified Interpretive Guide Training workbook)

*Red- diver script*

**Your names:** Kendyll Collins & Education Team

**Program Title:** The Fittest Cruiser



**Theme:** A team of specialists provide thorough care for all animals in the Great Ocean Tank

**Program Outline:**

**Introduction:** This program can be led by one individual, but having help for the pre- show announcements would be best.

(Sound effect- Theatrical voice on mic) DUN DUN “Today on The Fittest Cruiser, you’ll learn how South Carolina Aquarium staff and volunteers care for very different animals living in the same tank.

(3 provocative questions)

Do fish catch colds?

How long can sea turtles hold their breath?

And does a jellyfish a day really keep the doctors away?

Find out today on The Fittest Cruiser!”

(Helper runs out with applause sign followed by doctor)

**Introduction by Host:** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you so much for supporting the South Carolina Aquarium this morning, a non-profit organization that in turn supports over 6,000 animals. You've probably heard of me before, but my name is Gill-ian Michaels (or Bob Carper), the ocean's toughest trainer, and host of the hit TV show, the Fittest Cruiser. This morning we'll learn about how the South Carolina Aquarium cares for 750 of those animals residing in this Great Ocean Tank behind me. In order to do this, I'm going to need a few expert assistants. I'd like you to join me in welcoming scuba diving extraordinaire, \_\_\_\_\_. (Cheer with crowd).

Ask the diver how they're doing and how many species they are swimming around with. (*50 native species, share why they love to dive*).

Body (sub-themes)

- **Fish Have Immune Systems to Keep Them Healthy**

We mentioned that over 700 animals reside in this tank. Just how large is this tank to safely support so many? (*Mention the dimensions of the tank 42 feet, 40 feet wide to back, 50 feet side to side and holds 385,000 gallons, 18 inch acrylic*).

I need a volunteer to come up and help me out. Ask your volunteer's name and if they frequent the gym a lot – you can tell they do! What are some precautions that you take when you head to a germ gym? (hand sanitizer, wiping equipment down). How do you think that the fish in the Great Ocean Tank avoid becoming sick? That's right! Fish are covered in a slimy mucoid coating that reduces parasites from attaching. A team of divers make sure that our fish's waste is removed from the tank. I would like you to guess how many milk jugs of waste- that's right- poop- is produced every day. (Volunteer will reach into the bin and pull murky gallon jugs out of a toilet bowl model. They will place them on the ledge for the best visual. (*Discuss the process of scrubbing, filtration system, and vacuuming the tank*). You must get paid a whole bunch for all of this work! (*Talk about being a volunteer and why you don't mind doing this dirty work to keep these animals healthy*). Give your guest volunteer a round of applause and a prize.

- **Sea Turtles Have Efficient Cardiovascular Systems**

We have an animal in this exhibit that boasts a very efficient cardiovascular system. Does anyone know which animal we're talking about? Allow audience member that guesses Caretta to come up as your volunteer. Complete the lung capacity experiment with your volunteer. Compare their lung capacity to Caretta's. Ask the diver just how long she can stay under water (*At 27 years old, she's able to stay under water for up to 4 hours. If she's not exerting a lot of energy, this is possible*). Ask the diver about the special care given to Caretta (*Talk about feeding at the same time as the sharks, removing from the tank during feeding, and not feeding*

*by hand*). If time allows, talk about the sea turtle hospital. Give your volunteer a round of applause and a prize.

- **Our Animals Are Well-fed, Not Overfed**

Have the diver pick a third volunteer. Ask them a little bit about themselves and see if they've ever considered becoming a shark biologist or an animal nutritionist (on the GOT ledge there will be three silver platters with dome shaped lids). Let them know that you're going to show them three meal options, and ask them to pick what they think the best option would be for the (14) sharks in the tank. Invite the audience to vote with the volunteer by voting (make a fin shape with their hands above their heads).

The first platter will have various types of plastic piled up from monofilament to plastic rings. The table number will have a caloric value of 0. What better way to help the sharks watch their waist line than to provide a very filling meal with no calories!

The second platter will contain an actual meal (plastic piece of mackerel, salmon, etc). The table number will have a caloric value. I don't see any salmon or mackerel swimming around this tank, do you think this is something they would like to eat? Let's check out the last option and then we can come back to this one.

The third platter will contain a modeled plastic meal or a picture laminated of a delicious restaurant meal. (Each week, a meal from a Good Catch partner that you can actually purchase will be showcased. Middleton has offered to be the first you will describe the platter like it reads on a menu – swordfish lightly brushed with lemon blah blah..).

Have your volunteer pick the platter that best suits the shark's needs. Help them to arrive at the second platter if necessary. Ask the diver how often the sharks are fed this tasty dish and how this is completed (*three times a week, only eat a few times a month in the wild, fed with long tongs after tapping the side of the tank*). You may also ask the diver if he's nervous swimming with sharks. Give a round of applause for your volunteer and give him a prize.

**Conclusion:** Direct the audience back to the last platter. Was anyone's mouth watering when we discussed that meal option? That's perfectly fine! Even though we work at an aquarium, a lot of us enjoy eating fish too! We just make sure that we do so in a well-informed manner. With so many excellent eating options in the town of Charleston, we'd like to make this decision a little easier for you. This meal is an actual meal on the menu this week at Middleton Plantation. Middleton is just one of our (120) Good Catch partners. Our Good Catch program makes sure that seafood is obtained in a sustainable way- this means providing local options and options that will not disrupt the food chain balance or destroy a population. If you're interested in learning about other Good Catch partners, or if you have any additional questions

about how we keep animals in the Great Ocean Tank healthy, I'll be hanging out up here for a few minutes and I'd love to chat with you. I'm all about healthy animals, healthy people, and healthy oceans. Thanks so much for using what you've learned today to keep our oceans healthy. Let's give a big round of applause for all of the great work that our volunteer diver, \_\_\_\_\_ does! Thank you again for supporting the South Carolina Aquarium and have a wonderful day!