

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

Your names: Jon Ivey and Drew Heyward

Program Title: The Pisces Right

Theme: The GOT has many interesting animals with amazing adaptations to help them survive.

Audience: Families of all ages

Goals: Teach the Aquarium's guests about the Great Ocean Tank and some of its inhabitants in a fun and interactive way by getting them involved in a game show style program.

Objectives: (Remember to include a conservation objective):

- Audience will remember at least 3 fun facts about the Got and its animals.
- Audience will remember one of the Aquarium's conservation messages within the show (SSI, Sea Turtles, Leave No Trace,...).

How will you measure the objectives?

- Post show survey
- When SSI conservation message is used, at least 10 visitors will take an SSI brochure.

Materials Needed:

The Pisces Right sign
Bob Sharker nametag
It's in the Gag (Grouper) sign
3 Grouper bins (sea turtle, eel, reef fish)
2 sets of tongs
2 eel tubes
2 chum buckets
1 set of shark tongs
O-fish-al GOT #'s Board
3 values tags (# of sea turtles, feet deep, # of animals)
Fish and chips board
Fish and chips questions
Chips
Props (educators choice)

Program Outline:

Introduction:

Enter the lower ocean gallery in style, and make your way to the front of the great ocean tank. Begin the show by introducing yourself as Bob/Barb Sharker. Get an idea of where everyone is from, and thank the crowd for traveling as far as they have to see “The Pisces Right.”

Introduce “The Pisces Right” model diver and have the diver talk a little bit about what they do in addition to just plain looking good.

Again, explain to the audience that we will need a few contestants to play our three games (It’s in the Gag, O-fish-al GOT #s and Fish-N-Chips)

Get to know the contestant by asking what their name is and where they are from. Explain to them how the game is played.

O-fish-al GOT #s

The contestant is shown a board with a string of 6 numbers which represent 3 values associated with the Great Ocean Tank (421750). The contestant is then given three labeled cards (“Feet deep” which will cover two digits (42), “# sea turtles” in the GOT which will only cover one digit (1), and # of animals in the GOT which will cover 3 digits (750). They need to put these in the correct order. They can look to the crowd for help if they need it. Once they feel comfortable that their cards are lined up correctly we will confirm their answers with the model diver and have them talk a little bit about the numbers.

Diver talking points-

- There is only one sea turtle in the GOT
 - They are solitary animals and therefore we should probably only have one turtle in the GOT at a time.
- There are 750 animals in the GOT
 - We have roughly 50 different species in the great ocean tank that are all native to South Carolina waters.
- The tank is 42 feet deep
 - That makes it the deepest tank in NA although it is not the biggest. It holds 385,000 gallons of water.

It's in the Gag (Grouper)

The contestant is shown four feeding tools (shark tongs, turtle tongs, chum bucket, and eel tube) and three gag groupers. Each grouper has an animal written on it which is fed using one of the four feeding tools. The contestant must match three of the tools with the corresponding animal. They can look to the crowd for help. Once they feel comfortable that each tool is set by the appropriate grouper (or animal) you can confirm their answers with the model dive and have them BRIEFLY talk about the feeding methods (we could probably talk forever about this topic alone).

Talking points:

- Divers prepare and feed the fish in the GOT
- Feeding methods
 - Sea turtle
 - Eel
 - Reef fish
 - Sharks

Fish-N-Chips

The contestant will place 3 chips on the board and let them go one at a time. When they land in a particular category ask them a question from the card that pertains to that category. When the contestant answers the question, have the model diver confirm the answer. The five categories are as follows:

1. **Eew Gross** – gross facts about the GOT and its animals
2. **That's Cool** – cool facts about the GOT and its animals
3. **Relationships** – the animals of the GOT interact in some very strange ways
4. **GOT Myths** – the things that most people think are true
5. **Leave No Trace** – Ask what “leave no trace” means and let them know that this is probably the most important category

Eew Gross:

True or False - Eels have more than one set of jaws to help them catch their prey.

True – Moray eels have two sets of jaws. One is in their mouths, but the second set is farther down their throats. When they catch a fish or another prey item, the second set of jaws comes up into their mouths to help them hold on to the prey (check out the x-ray) and their teeth also face backwards in their mouth to avoid escaping prey.

True or False - Sand tiger sharks give birth to 10 babies in one litter.

False – Sand tiger sharks usually only have 2 pups per litter. After one pup hatches from a egg at 4 inches long, it will eat the other 7-23 eggs that haven't hatched yet. Ew! This is called intrauterine cannibalism; survival of the fittest. The pups are born at 3 feet!

True or False - Coral from the ocean is sometimes used to help human bones heal.

True – Scientists have found ways to use the hard calcium carbonate coral skeleton to help bones heal. The coral is cut into the desired shape and implanted in the human body. Over time, bone tissue will attach to the coral and take it over.

That's Cool!

True or False - The GOT is the deepest tank in North America.

True – We don't have the largest tank, but we do have the deepest tank in North America at 42 feet deep. Due to the depth, we are able to show three different habitats and viewing windows, including shallow water, reef and open ocean.

True or False - The divers are not paid to be here while they care for all the animals in the GOT!

True – All of our 85 divers are volunteers and spend at least 8 hours each time they work. Have diver describe what it would be like to spend a day in his/her flippers.

True or False - The water in the GOT stays the same temperature year-round.

False – We change the temperature of the water just a few degrees from summer to winter to give the animals the sense of having seasons (generally 76° in the winter and 79° in the summer).

Relationships

True or False - If Caretta could steal all of the sharks' food, she would.

True – Anytime food is thrown into the tank, Caretta is not far behind. She will eat anything she can get her beak on. We used to feed her at the same time as we fed the sharks, but she would actually steal the sharks' food. Now we separate them to make sure everyone gets the appropriate amount of food.

True or False - The Porkfish cleans the other fish and the turtle.

True – The porkfish is known as a cleaner fish. It eats dead skin and parasites from other fish and turtles and that helps those animals stay clean and healthy. Point out a porkfish in the tank. Is it following another fish or even Caretta?

True or False - We have so many baby fish born in the GOT every year that we have to constantly take them out.

False – Most the fish of the GOT are external fertilizers, but even the ones that lay eggs, like the sergeant major, won't see their eggs hatch. Other animals will eat the eggs or they will be cleaned up by the filter or vacuum that the divers use. The GOT has a wonderful filtration system that filters the whole tank every 70 minutes. This is a great way for us to be able to control the population in the tank.

GOT Myths

True or False - The animals constantly eat their “tankmates”.

False – If we did not offer enough food for the animals in the tank, many of them would try to eat their tank-mates. In our attempts at giving guests an idea of what the reefs look like just off the coast, we have to have larger predatory fish in with smaller prey fish. By offering more food than is necessary, we can make sure that they do not eat their “tankmates”.

True or False - Sharks attack the divers.

False – Divers don’t have to worry about shark attacks because sharks are not nearly as dangerous as you may think. In addition, our sharks are well fed so they tend to leave their tank-mates alone as well.

True or False - All sharks must constantly swim so that they can breathe.

False – Although this is true of many shark species, it is not true of ALL species. A good example of a shark that will rest at the bottom of the ocean is a nurse shark. Nurse sharks are easily distinguished between the other sharks in our tank because they have barbels on their chin.

Leave No Trace

True or False - Over 100 million sharks are killed by people every year.

True – Scientists estimate that over 100 million sharks are killed by people every year. Only around 10 people in the world per year are killed by sharks and this is usually due to mistaken identity; they do not view people as food. Sharks play an important role in keeping the animals in the ocean in balance as apex consumers.

True or False - There are certain fish in the ocean that we should not eat.

True – The SC Aquarium has a really important program called the Sustainable Seafood Initiative. We want to make sure there are enough fish for the future. There are over 60 restaurants in Charleston and over 90 total in South Carolina that have all promised to serve only local or sustainable seafood. (Have SSI brochures available for guests after the show.)

True or False: Taking home live animals such as crabs, sand dollars, or turtles is okay as long as you take good care of them.

Make sure we never take animals out of the wild. Most of the animals in the Aquarium, other than the fish, have reasons and stories as to why they are here. Caretta was taken off the beach when she was a hatchling and someone tried to raise her at home. She can never be released into the wild because she has been fed by people her whole life and is now completely imprinted on humans.