

# September Newsletter

Hey Team,

I have a preliminary Schedule for October attached.

Here is your September Newsletter:

## Dive News:

- Blake Fowler will be joining one of our Saturday Dive Teams. Please give him a warm welcome if you see him.
- In addition we have two new staff members:  
Sarah Dingley, will be heading the Salt Marsh & Touch Tank exhibits. She may be training with you all on some afternoons to get up to speed with Surface Supply. Sarah was previously our Freshwater Intern.



Stephen Beaman will also be joining us as our new Freshwater Aquarist Trainee, taking David Wilkin's place. David has stepped up to be our new Curator. Stephen comes to us from DNR.



- We are finalizing procedures for our new Vacuum Cart and will have an official write up and practical training session soon.

## GOT News:

- For those who couldn't make our Team Update and those I haven't talked to yet, we will be shutting down our Filtration room for renovation on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. During that time, we will have a minimized filtration and our water quality will be more delicate.

We will need to make a few small changes in how we feed and clean, once this occurs. ***Let's start now to get into a habit.***

While we have tried to avoid adding additional labor into our procedures, there will inevitably be a small tack-on with attention to detail.

- o **Food Juices and Inedibles**

After feeding please dump any remaining food juices from the trays into the floor drain and **NOT** into the GOT.

Lightly spraying the drain immediately afterwards and then allowing the Gear Rinse buckets to flood the rest should largely prevent any smell.

Any large Inedibles such as fish tails should also go in the trash during food prep, and not out for feeding. Inedibles is a judgment call, fish won't eat a piece that's largely fin and little meat. You may have to sometimes be a bit more strategic when cutting Mackerel into thirds.

When in doubt about a small piece, slice the Caudal fin off entirely; feed out the meat, trash the fin.



## Trash; more Fin than Meat

**Alternatively: Slice the Fin off and put the meat in Broadcast.**

### ○ Drop Buckets

Once again another intuitive judgment call. When dropping buckets, take a moment to pause and look at how the fish are reacting.

On slow feed days you may have to pause for a few minutes before dropping the next bucket.

Knowing what's in your bucket can also be handy; strictly for the front window where food can pile up if deployed in a way that's less than ideal.

Most of our target fish won't eat food piled up on the bottom and it either gets vacuumed the next day or is consumed by the Nurse Sharks & Caretta.

- Heavy food items should be released higher on the window, since they sink faster. These are Mackerel, Squid, Smelt, & Capelin.
- Lighter food items should be released lower, then quickly raised and shaken at varying heights to disperse to a wider area.  
These include Krill, Greens, & Small pieces of Smelt.  
Try to keep tiny food suspended for as long as possible in the lower half of the Main Window. Tiny mouths will eat tiny food, but they eat much slower and they won't eat food off the ground.
- Communication by radio between the Observer and Feeders is a big help

### - GOT Topside Cleanliness

- When staging our Drop buckets, please keep them on a tray lid or in a tray until you're ready to deploy them. This keeps blood off the floor

After feeding is done for the day, please spray down all areas where feeding took place.

Every now and then I notice food splatter that isn't hosed off after the shift. It leaves the exhibit looking unprofessional and smelly the next day.

Helping to keep the area clean also minimizes disease from developing.

Your help is greatly appreciated in this effort.



**Trays**

**Stage Buckets on Lids or**

## Gear News

- Team Leaders I will need your help to spread the word to your team. I will try to gather the whole team in the morning to brief you all on this addition to the Guardian. It is a Quick-Disconnect Check Valve that helps us meet Commercial Guidelines for FFM use. I realize we haven't officially overviewed this with everyone.



## Fun Facts:

- Did you know that Sandbar Sharks have on average 8 pups and gestate for 1 year? Young are gestated Ovoviviparous, meaning they develop inside the mother and receive nutrition from a yolk sac (essentially an egg without it's shell).

If you have any questions that were interesting or stumped you please let me know and I'll include it in our Newsletters.

Lastly here is the lineup of Food Trucks for the beginning of Sept:

Tues 09.09 Korki's Kafe  
Thurs 09.11 Boogies BBQ  
Fri 09.12 Korki's Kafe

That's all for now, thanks for all the help this summer!

Cheers,  
- RY

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