

SC Aquarium Public Program Worksheet

(Adapted from NAI, *Certified Interpretive Guide Training workbook*)

Your Name: Jon Ivey

Program Title: Dive Into The Great Ocean (Basic Dive Show)

Theme: Divers play an important role in the upkeep of the great ocean tank and the care of its 550 inhabitants.

Sub-Themes:

- 1) Size of the tank, 2) window thickness, 3) Cleaning, 4) diver fears, 5) feeding, 6) conservation message

Audience: General public: adults, families, school groups, locals, and tourists

Goals:

- To inform the audience of the importance of our volunteer divers
- To share with them how our critters get fed
- To tell them a little bit about some of the individual animals in the GOT

Objectives:

- Guests will be able to name two features of the Great Ocean Tank.
- Guests will be able to name two ways the volunteer divers help take care of the exhibit and the animals in it.
- Guests will be able to recall 2 of the feeding methods the volunteer divers use to feed the animals.
- Guests will learn at least one thing they can do to help wildlife in our oceans.

How will you measure your objectives?

- By the audience reaction. Do they smile, laugh, leave the show, etc.?
- 60% of audience stays for entire show.
- See if audience takes SSI rack cards after the show if mentioned.
- See if anyone inquires about a sea turtle hospital tour or asks for more information about helping sea turtles if category was used.
- 2 or 3 questions will be asked by the audience.

Materials Needed:

- Yellow food bucket
- Stuffed animals (shark, eel, Sea Turtle)
- White milk crate
- Eel pictures and x-rays
- Scrub brushes
- PVC pipe
- Shark tongs
- Milk jug (optional)
- Reusable bag (optional)
- Plastic bag in water (optional)
- GOOD CATCH rack cards (optional)

PROGRAM OUTLINE**Introduction:**

Welcome guests to the SCA, introduce yourself and ask the audience where they're from. Let them know the GOT is the largest exhibit in the Aquarium with roughly 550 animals and about 40 different species (numbers change over time, make sure to look at the board!), all native to SC's ocean and coastal waters. Tell them all the species in the exhibit are fish except for two, and ask them to guess what those two are. The answer is the loggerhead sea turtle and the diver. Use this as the way to introduce your diver.

Body (sub-themes)

- **Size of the tank:** Have the diver mention briefly the dimensions of the exhibit (Official depth: 42 feet, Official width from window to back: 40 feet, Official width from side to side: 50 feet) and how much water it holds (Officially: 385,000 gallons). [Milk jug option to give sense of how much water is in the exhibit: Show milk jug. Explain it takes you a week to drink a gallon of milk. Explain if GOT was filled with milk and you drank a gallon a week, it would take 7,403 years to drink the whole thing.]
- **Window thickness:** Ask the audience how thick they think the window is to hold all of that water back? Bring a volunteer from the audience to do the hand thing with the diver. Have diver give thickness (18 inches). Explain how acrylic holds water back, but doesn't magnify and distort like glass, so the diver looks relatively normal to audience and the audience looks relatively normal to the diver.

- **Cleaning:** Mention one of the reasons we can see the diver is because the water is so clean. Ask diver where the water comes from (Answer: The Cooper River. It is collected and filtered in the basement before entering the GOT. Once in the GOT, it is continuously being filtered.) Ask the diver what else they do to clean the exhibit and how often they do it. Have them talk about cleaning while you show the scrub brushes to the audience.
- **Diver fears:** Since the divers are in this exhibit so much taking care of things, ask the audience which animal in the exhibit they think the diver would be most afraid of? They'll probably say "shark". Ask the diver if this is the case and have them talk a little a bit about the main aggressors, porkfish and sheepshead.
- **Feeding:** Have diver talk a little bit about preparing food and how we have different feeding methods for the different animals – broadcast and target feeding for the different fish; the sea turtle tongs and white bin; the PVC pipes for the eels and the long tongs for the sharks. Discuss what the animals eat and how often some of them are fed. Then have them say they will show how we target feed our fish. Have the other diver come up to start the target feeding.
- **Conservation message:** our Great Ocean Tank is very clean thanks to the work of our volunteer divers but that is not the case in the natural ocean. Unfortunately, trash (marine debris) is often found in the ocean and can harm animals. Hold up the bag and ask the audience what animal it could look like (jellyfish). Ask the diver what animal in the GOT might eat it (sea turtle) and what could happen if they do (tangled up, choke, starve, etc.). Encourage the audience to always throw their trash away properly and recycle whenever possible. Or you can discuss the Good Catch program and discuss the importance of the choices we make when purchasing seafood. Good Catch brochures should be offered for restaurant suggestions and to support the program. Bring a small stack to hand out to the audience

Conclusion:

Restate theme and sub-theme. Encourage the audience again to practice conservation efforts that will help protect animals like they met during the program. Thank the audience for coming to the aquarium and for hanging out with us. Let them know the time of the next show and that you will be sticking around for questions after the show.