Ocean Explorations

Sea Perch Construction and Use as
After School/Summer Enrichment for
Middle School Students

Presentation By Anne T. Ogilvie
Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center
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Burnham Brothers Marine Railway
GMHC Marine Resource Center
Sea Pocket Lab
MIT Sea Grant Finfish Hatchery and Education Center
Northern Gateway to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Commercial Diving History Exhibit

Live the Past, Learn for the Future
Our Mission

• Teach environmental stewardship, marine science and technology, and maritime skills through hands-on education.

• Preserve Gloucester’s rich fishing industry history as a platform for learning.
Our Programs

- Ocean Connections After School Program
- Ocean Explorations After School program
- Marine Science Internships
- Teen Boatbuilding
- Teen Rowing
- Field Trips
- Classroom Outreach Events
Ocean Explorations (OE)

- 45 hour after school/summer enrichment course for students in grades 6, 7, 8
- Each student builds a Sea Perch ROV
OE (Continued)

- Use Sea Perch Manuals
- Lessons on buoyancy, motors, and overview of research methods
- Students work together in small groups
• Conduct a mini research study in Gloucester Harbor using underwater video cameras, plankton nets, hydrophones, and temperature and light sensors

• ROVs are taken home at the end of the course
OE Students

- 30 students total in 3 sessions this year
- 100% enrollment and waiting lists
- 75% boys and 25% girls
- 50% of students receive scholarships
- Increasing to 15 students/course as of August 2005
OE Recruitment

- Recruitment through newspaper announcements, local school teachers and guidance staff, and non-profit groups
- Ocean Connections is a feeder program
- OE is appealing to students who are more interested in technology, design, and construction
OE Support

• Supported through grants and tuition
• Grant funds also support need-based scholarships
• Expect program to become self-supporting over the next year
Future Goals

• Further develop mentoring program for course alumni
• Develop next level of programming for course alumni looking for new challenges
• Develop ROV mini-study component for field trips
Thank You

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