

## **SAMPLE LEARNING GOALS: SCIENCE**

### **Mystic Aquarium Fish & Invertebrate Husbandry (Cold Water Aquarist Intern)**

#### **Professional Objectives**

**Objective:** To facilitate research on the development of a new exhibit with co-existing species at Mystic Aquarium

#### **Activities and Resources:**

- To research local species of the Long Island Sound including their ideal water quality, potential predators or prey, possible toxicity and physical traits.
- Research local sponge species as the base of the exhibit, including scientific and husbandry aspects.
- Develop (and present) a proposal, including photos, cited resources, and an explanation of the species of the exhibit and how it depicts the boulder reef of Long Island Sound.
- Replace existing tank and stock with Long Island Sound species

#### **Evidence:**

- Include a list of citations from scientific journal articles that describe each species habitat, physical properties, and chemical properties.
- Include original photos and descriptive captions depicting each selected species.
- Write up a report including information on each individual species, explaining how they co-exist in the Long Island Sound exhibit and in their natural ecosystem
- Include formal presentation and report of original project as presented to the Department of Fish and Invertebrates at Mystic Aquarium.

**Objective:** To learn proper maintenance of the discovery lab touch tank.

#### **Activities and Resources:**

- Maintain the filtration devices used to keep the exhibit clean.
- Inspection of the exhibit, by checking the water temperature, chiller temperature, UV light, and protein skimmer to be properly functioning.
- Routinely cleaning the algae along the glass as well as fingerprints, debris and other material that hinders the aesthetic appeal of the tank

#### **Evidence:**

- Include a step by step manual, for future interns, on how to properly maintain this tank.

#### **Duties include:**

- Scuba diving in off-site locations to collect species and record population data
- Clean and maintain Discovery Touch Tank
- Attend weekly intern educational meetings
- Participate in weekly staff meetings
- Educate the public visiting the Aquarium
- Research new possibilities for species introduction, new exhibits

#### **Internship Evaluation Methods (how your supervisor will evaluate your performance)**

- Constant contact with my supervisor throughout the day
- Communication via e-mail and telephone calls
- Completion of university provided evaluation forms

#### **Internship work days/hours**

- Start date: Tuesday, September 8th
- Tues, Wed, Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Days and times are subject to change weekly, but hours will total 200 total.