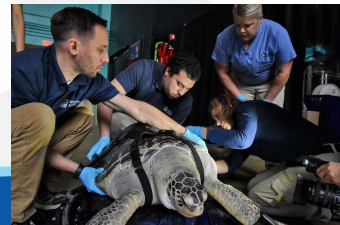
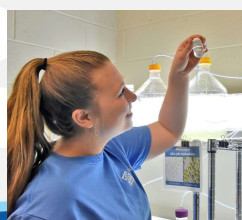
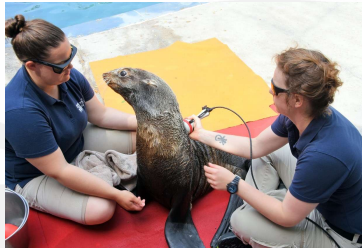


Career Exploration

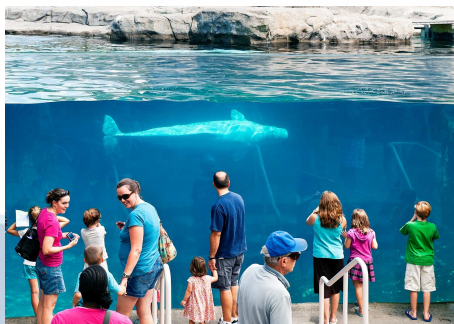


**MYSTIC
AQUARIUM**

**PROTECT OUR
OCEANS**

What careers support the aquarium and its visitors?

- 700,000+ visitors per year
- 2+ million gallons of water in habitats
- 300+ species
- Thousands of individual animals
- Open 363 days/year
- 24/7/365 animal care staff onsite



Veterinarians & Veterinary Technicians



Veterinary Career Path

Veterinarian

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in biology, zoology, etc. (4 yrs)
- Veterinary school (DVM or VMD degree) (4 yrs)
- Pass licensing exam
- Internship or externship

Career Path

- Junior Aquarium Veterinarian
- Senior Aquarium Veterinarian
- Chief or Head Aquarium Veterinarian
- Potential to become a specialist

Veterinary Technician

Education:

- Associates Degree/Certification program (2 yrs)
- Pass licensing exam

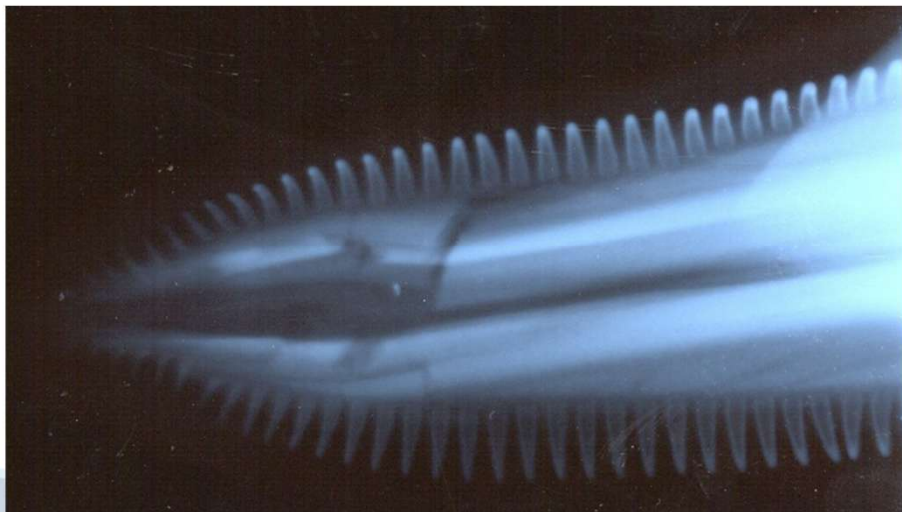
Career Path

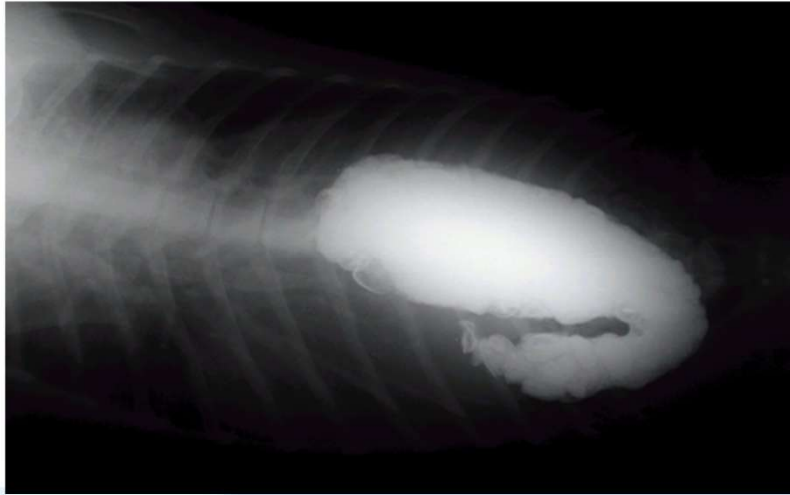
- Entry-level position
- Specialization with additional on-the-job training

Stranding Coordinator

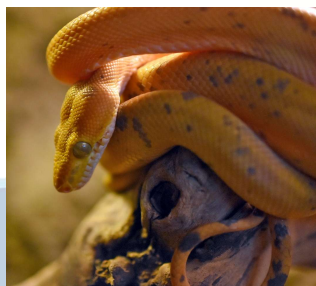
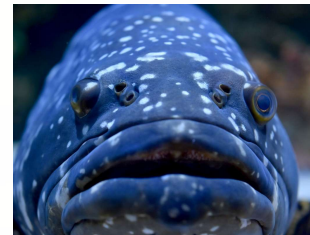


Radiograph Id Activity



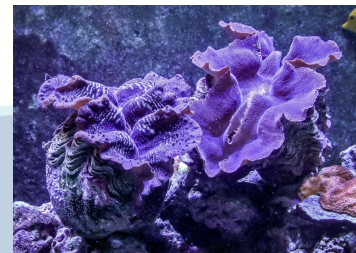
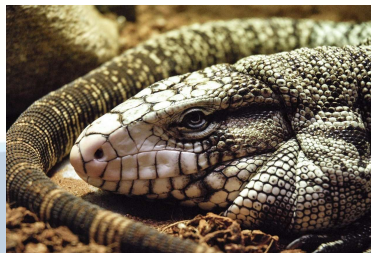
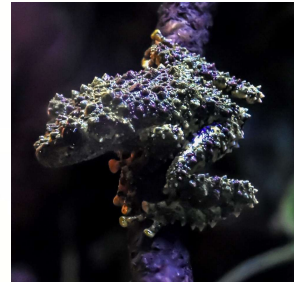


Animal Husbandry



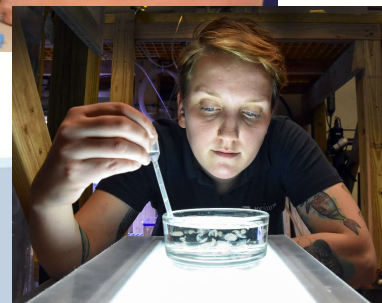
Fish, Invertebrates, Amphibians & Reptiles

- Curator
- Supervisor
- Senior Aquarist
- Aquarist
- Assistant Aquarist



Daily duties of an Aquarist

- Prep & distribution of food
- Monitor animal health
- Animal training
- Tank maintenance & cleaning
- Maintain accurate records on nutrition, behavior & water quality
- Set up new exhibits
- Collection of animals
- Assist medical procedures



How do I become an Aquarist?

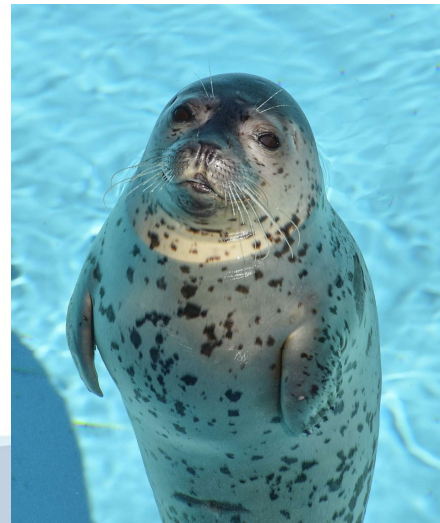


Training & Education:

- Years of experience with aquatic species- pet store or hobbyist
- Plumbing skills
- Basic chemistry concepts
- AA or BS degree - Biology, Zoology, etc.
- Scuba certification

Marine Mammals & Birds

- Curator
- Supervisor
- Trainers
- Assistant Trainer



MMB Trainers

Daily Duties

- Daily health checks and feeding
- Cleaning enclosures
- Maintain records (diet & behavior)
- Observations of animals
- Animal training
- Assist in medical exams

Training & Education:

- Animal handling experience at zoos, aquariums, vet hospitals, pet stores
- BS in biology or psychology
- SCUBA certification



Research Biologist



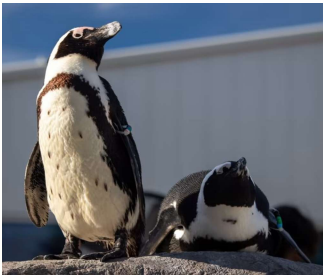
- Plans, conducts & reports results of studies on animals in institution's collection
- Information gathered is helpful to husbandry department
- Contributes to the understanding of how species in the wild live & how human activity affects them

What does it take to be a researcher at an aquarium?

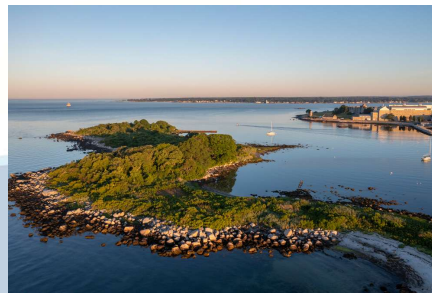
- Bachelor degree (4 years)
- PhD (4-6 years)
- Postdocs (2+ years)
- Many years work experience
- Must be able to juggle many projects at once
- Responsible for financing & completion of research project

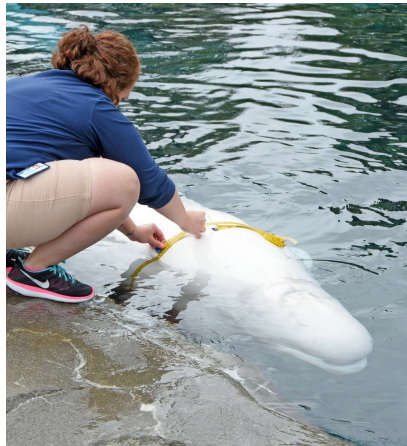


Research support of conservation efforts



- Study aquarium animals to record behaviors too difficult to study in natural habitats
- Develop and manage Species Survival Plans (SSPs) to maintain the genetic diversity of endangered species in human care
- Setting criteria for preserving habitats and ecosystems





Sample Collection

But how are the animals trained for these behaviors?

Clinical & Water Quality Laboratories

- Check tissue, blood, urine, and stool samples
- Perform chemical tests on water samples from exhibits, monitoring quality and clarity
- Strong scientific background, usually a 4-year degree in biology or chemistry



Life Support Services

- Install and maintain water filtration and temperature equipment
- Must be able to troubleshoot and respond to emergencies threatening the lives of animals at the aquarium
- Strong mechanical background; usually hold HVAC, electrical, or plumbing license



- Does the school have the program I need to prepare for my career?
- How many people graduating from the program find positions in that field?
- Other related career options?
- Can I volunteer or work nearby while attending school?
- Am I willing to relocate to a good school?
- Internships?



Starting your aquarium career...

- Start volunteering or working in a related position - shows your commitment to animals!
- Gain a strong science background > chemistry, zoology, biology, botany, psychology
- Search for internships while you are in college that will develop these skills
- Take a chance on new opportunities when they arise!

Local Volunteer Opportunities

- Mystic Aquarium! – visit our volunteer page to learn more!
<https://www.mysticaquarium.org/footer/volunteer/>
- Local nature centers: Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
- Local animal shelters: Connecticut Humane Society
- United Way of CT, RI & MA list organizations with volunteer opportunities: www.211ct.org, volunteer.uwri.org, unitedwaymassbay.org
- Take a chance on new opportunities when they arise!



Be flexible. It's fine to opt for a marine science career at an early age, but it's a mistake to decide your exact specialty before you've had a chance to explore your options.

Where do you see yourself?

