



Contact: Shelley Dawicki
508-495-2378
shelley.dawicki@noaa.gov

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Woods Hole Science Stroll August 6 Offers Free Family Science Activities

Interested in touring a research vessel, seeing instruments that explore the deep sea or learning about whales and sea turtles, squid, plastics in the ocean, coastal erosion, climate change and more?

These activities are just a few of the many exhibits, demonstrations and hand-on activities to be featured by a dozen Woods Hole science organizations during the 2016 Woods Hole Science Stroll. The free public event, offering something for the entire family, will be held Saturday, August 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Water Street in Woods Hole.

The 209-foot NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* will be open for tours at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) dock, alongside displays of oceanographic instruments and research vehicles used by WHOI researchers. Visitors can sign up for free ship tour reservations starting July 20 on the Woods Hole Science Stroll web site or via eventbrite.com.

Science demonstrations and kids activities will be available throughout the village. The WHOI Ocean Science Exhibit Center, featuring interactive ocean exhibits, videos and tools used in ocean research, will be open nearby at 15 School Street. The Woods Hole Film Festival will show a kid-friendly film for free at 2 p.m. in WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street.

Visitors can experience local marine animals from Buzzards Bay in a touch tank at the Buzzards Bay Coalition's Discovery Center at 21 Luscombe Avenue and sign up for the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride in a display on Waterfront Park. Tours will be offered at the MBL's Marine Resources Center, where live animals are raised in touch tanks. Visitors can learn about biological, biomedical and environmental science research at the MBL's Pierce Visitors Center at 100 Water Street.

Zephyr Education Foundation at 97 Water Street will have two interactive augmented reality sandboxes available to show the effects of sea level rise, storm surge waves and tsunamis. WCAI, the Cape, Coast and Islands NPR station, will have a Guess That Sound children's activity on Waterfront Park, where the Woods Hole Historical Museum will feature reprints of historical photographs and publications about the long history of science in Woods Hole. Kids will enjoy a number of games, including a "fishing game" with cod of various sizes in a bucket.

Waterfront Park will be the site of numerous interactive displays and hands-on activities. The Sea Education Association (SEA) will explore how plastic interacts with the marine environment. The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), named the #1 climate change think tank, will highlight climate research conducted around the world. The U.S. Geological Survey will feature research projects on shoreline change, 3-D seafloor mapping, gas hydrates and the use of oceanographic modeling to predict hurricanes. Meet the authors of a new book on the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Research on sharks, whales and sea turtles, fish, water chemistry and plankton, ocean surface drifters to track surface currents, and cooperative research programs with the fishing industry will be among many exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities offered at the NOAA Fisheries Lab at the end of Water Street.

The U.S. Geological Survey will have their SEABed Observation and Sampling System (SEABOSS), designed for rapid and effective collection of seabed images and sediment samples in coastal region, on display at the NOAA Fisheries Laboratory at 166 Water Street, where the U.S. Coast Guard will also have demonstrations and displays. Station Woods Hole will have a 45-foot response boat available for tours; the Coast Guard Auxiliary will have a boating safety display and a Damage Control “wet trainer” available for the public to learn about controlling shipboard flooding; a possible Search and Rescue demonstration with a helicopter and rescue swimmer will be conducted by Air Station Cape Cod.

NOAA’s Woods Hole Science Aquarium, featuring 95 species of marine animals, a touch tank, and harbor seals in an outdoor pool, will be open for this event.

Participating organizations in the Woods Hole Science Stroll are the Marine Biological Laboratory; NOAA Fisheries; NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations; Sea Education Association; Woods Hole Research Center; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Buzzards Bay Coalition; Woods Hole Historical Museum; U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England, Air Station Cape Cod and Station Woods Hole; Zephyr Education Foundation; Woods Hole Film Festival; and WCAI, the Cape, Coast and Islands NPR Station.

Parking in Woods Hole is limited. Some metered on-street parking is available. Limited free parking for this event will be available in designated lots. Visitors are encouraged to take the WHOOSH Trolley from Falmouth to Woods Hole Village or use the Shining Sea bike path.

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Related links:

Woods Hole Science Stroll website: <http://woodsholesciencestroll.org>