



Contact: Shelley Dawicki
shelley.dawicki@noaa.gov
508-495-2378
October 19, 2016

More than 600 Visit Milford Lab During Annual Open House

Hundreds of students and local citizens visited the Milford Laboratory on Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, during the Lab's annual Open House. Their tour included 10 stations set up to help visitors learn about microalgal culture, probiotics and immunology to boost shellfish health, plankton and shellfish in the environment, shellfish aquaculture and breeding, and ocean acidification.

"We still hear comments from visitors like 'I've lived here my whole life and never knew what you did' and thanking us for the opportunity to visit our lab," said Mark Dixon, the event coordinator. "The public support and staff dedication to outreach make this annual event a worthwhile venture."

A touch tank and hatchery provided hands-on experience with some animals from Long Island Sound, and a habitat exhibit showed how plants and animals in the sound interact with their environment. Researchers at each station presented their work and answered questions.

Friday was set aside for students at regional middle and high schools and the University of New Haven. More than 300 students attended. Researchers at each station presented their work and engaged with students in question and answer sessions. A number of schools visit each year, but Dixon noted that there were several new schools in attendance this year.

On Saturday the lab opened its doors to the general public from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and hosted more than 300 more visitors. The layout of stations was the same as for the school groups, but visitors were free to tour the lab at their own pace. Popular stations, especially with young visitors, included the touch tank and fish printing. Other stations highlighted all aspects of shellfish aquaculture, habitat research, and ocean acidification projects.

Two new stations were added this year and were very well received. One brought attention to the issue of marine debris in coastal and ocean systems. The second was a display and presentation about the Fisheries Observer Program. These new stations illustrate the Milford Lab's participation in the broader mission of NOAA Fisheries.

Related links:

Milford Laboratory

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), Facebook

