

For Grades 4 & up

Study Cruises

Enjoy memorable hands-on lessons on the Aquarium's U.S. Coast Guard inspected and licensed research vessel. Each cruise lasts approximately 2 1/2 hours. Cruise programs may be adapted to meet specific objectives and start times. Additional paid Aquarium admission is optional.



Marine Life Study Cruise

September - October & April - June
at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Study marine biodiversity from the water's surface down to the bottom for a first-hand understanding of Long Island Sound's interdependent marine life. Students utilize such sampling techniques as a plankton tow, biodredge, mud grab and otter trawl that may bring up fish, crabs, lobsters, sea stars and more. A video microscope and touch tank right on the boat enhance observations.

Capacity: 31. Cost: \$550.

Ask about the pre-cruise activity guide when you make your reservation.

Winter Creature Cruise

Late November - April.

Dates and departure times vary by tide.

Study winter biodiversity, including waterfowl and plankton, as you seek out some of the growing number of seals that winter in Long Island Sound. Learn about the seals and get a broad picture of how the Sound's animal population changes in the winter, which animals swim south, which burrow into the mud and which have adapted to the cold. Dress very warmly! Capacity: 30. Cost: \$350.



PLEASE NOTE: Cruises can occur in rain, cold and wind and are canceled only if conditions are dangerous. Please dress accordingly! All passengers must be at least 42" tall.

Observations made during cruises become part of an ongoing student-based research project, the Long Island Sound Biodiversity Project. (See page 36 or [click here](#) for details.)

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Field Ecology

These programs get students out in nature, where they'll practice developing their science-inquiry, literacy and numeracy skills.

Students will be involved in field sampling techniques using charts and the tools of marine science to measure and record accurate data and learn about Long Island Sound ecosystems, adaptations, biodiversity and environmental issues. They'll have the opportunity to pose questions and provide explanations.

Please note special prices and times. For a Field Ecology program conducted at your site, **adjacent free parking is required.** **Travel fees may apply.** **School must pay parking fees.**

Also:

- Aquarium admission is optional.
- If you have more than 28 students, you must book multiple programs.
- The 7:1 student: chaperone ratio applies.
- Field Ecology programs are conducted only around low tide. Students will get their feet wet! Wear boots or shoes that can get soggy, and dress for the weather!



PLEASE NOTE: Field programs can occur in rain, cold and wind and are canceled only if conditions are dangerous. Please dress accordingly!

Grades K – 2

Visit to the Seashore

Students get out to the water's edge for the excitement of being "in the field." They'll use all their senses – plus some scientific sampling techniques – during a discovery tour looking for – and learning about – living and non-living things at the sandy shore, rocky shore and tidal marsh habitats. Explore a Long Island Sound shoreline near The Maritime Aquarium or at your local beach. (School must supply beach entry pass, if necessary.) **2 hours. Cost: \$250 for first program (additional travel & parking fees may apply) and \$240 for each additional program on the same day at the same location.**

Grades 3 – 6

Shoreline Exploration

Explore a Long Island Sound shoreline near The Maritime Aquarium or at your local beach. (School must supply beach entry pass, if necessary.) Learn about the geological processes that helped create our tidal marshes, rocky shores and sandy beaches. Students use scientific equipment to collect animals and test water composition, then consider the changing habitats, varying needs and adaptations of animals living in these marine environments. Other topics include tides, invasive species and habitat conservation. **2 hours. \$250 for first program (additional travel & parking fees may apply), \$240 for each additional.**

Ask about the pre-visit activity guide when you make your reservation.

Observations made during Field Ecology programs become part of an ongoing student-based research project, the Long Island Sound Biodiversity Project. (See page 36 or [click here](#) for details, including possible free pre- and post-program sessions.)

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Sign up for a Study Cruise (page 34)
 or Field Ecology program (page 35)
 and you'll also be involving your students in the ...

Long Island Sound Biodiversity Project

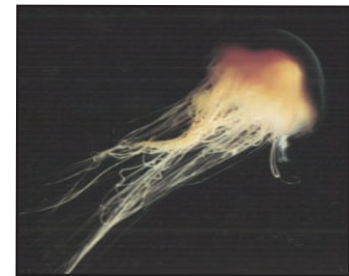
The Long Island Sound Biodiversity Project is sponsored by The Maritime Aquarium and its partners to engage students and teachers in collecting data on physical and biological parameters of the Sound during Aquarium cruises and field programs.

The goals are to engage students in real field science that affects their own backyard – Long Island Sound – while also creating and building on a database that will soon be accessible to teachers online. The database will be useful for tracking changes in the Sound over time.

All of the Biodiversity Project census activities follow strict scientific guidelines. Students assist Aquarium staff in collecting and recording data, including weather conditions, water temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen.

Animal biodiversity data includes:

- species and specimen counts
- measurements
- sex
- breeding and developmental stages.



Your class may be eligible for two free educational sessions*...

... one before and one after your study cruise or field ecology program. The pre-session, "Introduction to Field Research," will help your students prepare for data collection during their field experience. The post-session, "Data Analysis and Presentation," shows them how to analyze, interpret and present data and maybe even participate in a long-term research project. Call (203) 852-0700, ext. 2206, for details.

**Based on available funding.*

Support for the Biodiversity Project has come from:

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Long Island Sound License Plate Program
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 The Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Foundation
 The Hastings Foundation, Inc.
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 The Keefe Family Foundation
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 Marion Moore Foundation
 Maurice Goodman Foundation, Inc.
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 NewAlliance Foundation
 Sayles & Maddocks
 Sun Hill Foundation
 The Norman & Rosita Winston Foundation, Inc.

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