

SC Aquarium Public Program Worksheet

(Adapted from NAI, *Certified Interpretive Guide Training workbook*)

Program Title: Q & A 2.0

Theme: Using mentimeter technology to encourage adults to ask questions to the diver.

Audience: General public: adults, families, school groups, locals, and tourists

Goals:

- Visitors will ask their own questions about the Great Ocean Tank
- Audience will participate in a fun and interactive way

Objectives:

- Guests will be able to name two ways the volunteer divers help take care of the exhibit and the animals in it.
- Guests will learn at least one thing they can do to help wildlife in our oceans.

How will you measure your objectives?

- By the audience reaction. Do they smile, laugh, leave the show, etc.?
- 60% of audience stays for entire show.

Materials Needed:

- Mentimeter directions
- Props from dive show bin (educators choice)
- Computer materials for set up (keyboard, media door key, etc)
- Microphone

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Introduction:

Welcome guests to the SCA, introduce yourself, explain directions for logging on, get to know your diver.

Mentimeter questions will ask guests where they are visiting from and if they have visited the South Carolina Aquarium before.

An open ended question will allow guests to type what they would like to know to the diver. Be ready to ask the diver basic questions if you do not receive a lot of submissions

(tank dimensions, diver responsibilities, personal questions- favorite fish, part of the day, etc).

This informal, casual format caters to adult audiences.

Background information for most commonly asked questions:

- **How many animals live in the tank:** We have around 550 animals that live in the GOT. These animals represent around 40 different species that we would find off the coast of South Carolina.
- **Size of the tank:** Have the diver mention briefly the dimensions of the exhibit (depth: 42 feet, width from window to back: 40 feet, width from side to side: 50 feet) and how much water it holds (385,000 gallons). Have the diver discuss the three different marine habitats represented in the tank: Shallow reef habitat, deep reef habitat, and the deep, open ocean.
- **Number of Sharks:** There are a total of 8 sharks inside the GOT representing 4 different species. The sharks in our tank are Blacknose, Nurse, Sandbar and Sand Tiger.
- **Window thickness:** Thickness of the window (18 inches). Explain how acrylic holds water back, but doesn't magnify and distort like glass, so the diver looks relatively normal to the audience and the audience looks relatively normal to the diver. All of the animals in the tank are true to size because of this.
- **Cleaning:** Mention one of the reasons we can see the diver is because the water is so clean. Ask the diver where the water comes from (Answer: The Cooper River. It is collected and filtered in the basement before entering the GOT. Once in the GOT, it is continuously being filtered. Divers feed roughly 60 lbs. of food a day.
- **Diver fears:** One question the audience may ask is which animal in the tank would the diver be the most afraid of. They'll probably think it would be the sharks. Ask the diver if this is the case and have them talk about other animals in the tank that are more territorial or naturally curious, such as the Bermuda Chub, Sergeant Majors, and Caretta, our Loggerhead Sea Turtle.
- **Feeding:** Depending on the questions that are submitted you can discuss only one feeding method or all of them. Have the diver talk a little bit about preparing food and how we have 6 different feeding methods for the all of the animals –

- broadcast and target feeding for the large, predatory fish near the surface
- Sea turtle pulled off exhibit (put in a large crate) and fed with tongs
- PVC pipes to feed our nocturnal moray eel
- Use long blue tongs to feed salmon and mackerel to our 11 sharks
- Use yellow chum buckets to release food in our rocky reef and deeper parts of the tank. Chum includes shrimp, krill, smelt, squid, and mackerel.

Conclusion:

Include a conservation message that fits the conversations you've had/ questions asked. (Good Catch, litterfree app, etc). Thank the audience and diver. Announce the next show.

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South Carolina Aquarium

Where are you visiting from today?

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Go to www.menti.com and use the code 6125 81

South Carolina Aquarium

Have you visited the SC Aquarium before?

0 Yes 0 No

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 6125 81

South Carolina Aquarium

Ask our diver a question about the Great Ocean Tank!

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South Carolina Aquarium

What did you learn today?

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South Carolina Aquarium

Join us for a 4pm Animal Show in the Great Hall!

#protectwhatyoulove