

Anglesey Sea Zoo & Marine Resource Centre
Summary of Education Packages
Last Revision - March 2011



Below is what the Anglesey Sea Zoo is able to offer school groups or any visiting groups as a standard educational pack above and beyond a normal unaccompanied visit to the aquarium. We are very flexible regarding the visit of any group and with enough notice and consultation if needed, we're confident that we can offer something both fun and educational to meet the needs of any visiting group. All the items detailed below can be tailored to any age and level, from the earliest key stage to A-level and also to adults and special needs groups.

Approximate timescales for each item are given below. A guideline for the cost of all items is also given, although this may vary according to individual requirements, this is something that we can discuss and agree at the time of booking.

All the services below can be provided through the medium of Welsh and English, and occasionally other European languages.

1. Guided Tours

A guided tour of the whole aquarium concentrating on either a general introduction to the undersea world and the animals on display, or on particular themes, for example, sharks, invertebrates, animal energetic, marine biodiversity, conservation and the environment, and numerous other topics which can be discussed and reinforced with clear examples both in and outside of the Anglesey Sea Zoo.

These are an excellent and engaging way of informally introducing both simple and relatively complex ideas about the environment, conservation and general biology in a way that is very visual, interesting, and most importantly, fun! Tours can be conducted for any age from 4 years old upwards, including mixed groups.

The usual recommended time for a tour of the whole aquarium is at least one hour, but this can easily be reduced to 30 minutes for younger children or groups with a limited time to visit. The cost is £30 per tour with a maximum recommended group size of 15.

2. Beach Safaris

Beach safaris are particularly recommended for groups of children, ages 4 upwards. Groups are taken from the Anglesey Sea Zoo to the adjacent shoreline, a distance of approximately 200m, to see the unique coastal habitats of North Wales and to search for marine creatures in the rock pools and along the shoreline. We provide everyone with a pair of wellies, a fluorescent safety vest, an identification chart and an expert marine biologist as a guide. All you need is enthusiasm!

Our Rock Pool Rummage allows an exploration of rock pool and seashore life. We will search for marine life and identify, handle and discuss the beasties we find, before returning them safely to their original habitat. These have proved to be hugely popular with the groups who have been taken out to date, including special needs groups.

On the way to and from the rock pools we will conduct a strandline search, looking for any other critters which have been deposited by the high tide and discussing the special adaptations of the marine life found there. We also discuss the lunar and solar control of

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tides, as well as the major characteristics of the unique environment provided by the Menai Strait.

This activity is TIDALLY DEPENDENT so must be booked in advance. Given this, there may be a few days therefore there are a few days during Spring tides when they may not be available or when booking times are limited. Cost is £30 per safari, with a maximum recommended group size of 15.

3. Tank Talks With a Diver

During these events a diver will actually be in one of our larger aquariums demonstrating first hand and in real time the ideas being conveyed by the speaker. During all of these talks there is direct and continued communication with the diver in the water, so if any one has any questions, he or she can ask them from beyond the glass! Either we can give a fun but educational overview of the adaptations of diving and being in the water, or for a more specific experience for older students we offer three major subjects which we can cover in detail, however, we are, as always flexible in our approach to this.

Aquarium Operation

This includes the facts of aquarium construction. How the water is kept clean? Why do we need pumps and air bubbles? Can you have too many fish in an aquarium? Where does the water come from? Where does it go?

Diving Physics, Equipment, and History

An introduction to the concepts of pressure and equalization, diving equipment, and how advances in diving technology and the development of more reliable equipment has led to a greater understanding of life in the oceans.

Diving Biology

An understanding of the physiology of being submersed in water, the differences between humans diving and the way in which fish and other marine animals have developed to life under pressure. How do fish stay at the same depth in the water? Why don't they all sink to the bottom if they stop swimming? Why does a diver need a mask when a fish can see clearly underwater?

The usual time for a tank talk is 20-30 minutes and the cost is £30 with a recommended maximum group size of 30.

4. The Lobster Hatchery of Wales

A detailed introduction to the conservation work of the Lobster Hatchery of Wales which includes visiting the laboratories where all the Lobsters are born and raised. Here, groups can come face to face with these amazing creatures and learn how the Anglesey Sea Zoo is working in collaboration with local fishermen to ensure that these creatures remain plentiful in our coastal seas. The usual time for the hatchery tour is 30-40 minutes and is recommended for people aged ten and above with a maximum group size of 15, the cost is £30.

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5. Biological Subject Lectures

A brief outline is given here of just some of the subject lectures that we offer. Members of staff at the Anglesey Sea Zoo have taught environmental awareness from infant and primary to tertiary level, taking in the whole age range from around 4 years and above, and so are confident in their ability to work with any visiting group to design a talk around a subject to meet your needs and that compliments (or even sometimes does not!) any science curriculum. Below are just some examples.

Skeleton, Shell, or Neither?

The differences, advantages, and disadvantages, of internal skeletons, possessed by all mammals and most fish, in comparison to shells, which are nothing more than external skeletons. Why have some animals gone one way, some the other, and some evolved to have neither in order to remain ultimately flexible?

Tropical or Local?

The challenge is to guess where the animals come from by seeing them. Are they from the tropical clear blue oceans and coral reefs of far away islands, or the shores of our own murky seas? How and why have marine animals and plants from so far away developed the same systems and mechanisms to cope with life in the sea as our local species? Do all these animals face the same pressures?

Breeding and Conservation

An introduction to the breeding and conservation programs run by the Anglesey Sea Zoo which ensure a sustainable future for marine animals both locally and further afield. These include Seahorses, Lobsters, and Cuttlefish. Groups will learn some of the more startling facts about the problems faced by the worlds oceans and their inhabitants today, how the situation has changed, and what is being done to help some of the worlds most amazing creatures.

The usual time for a subject lecture is 30-40 minutes, and the cost is £30 with a maximum number of around 30 students per talk, all topics can be geared for all ages from four or above.