

# Environmental Literacy Grants Program

## Ocean Education Partnership Grants FY12

### Overview of Funding Announcement

In March 2012, NOAA's Office of Education (OEd) issued a request for applications to support a collaborative team of aquariums and other institutions to expand or develop professional development and other capacity-building activities for volunteers. The successful project utilized the resources of multiple institutions to enhance the capacity of informal science educators and volunteers to engage visitors and promote public understanding and stewardship of coastal, marine, and/or freshwater environments. Eligible applicants were collaborative teams that include at least three non-profit U.S. aquariums, of which at least one must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

### Awards

Three institutions received awards under this funding opportunity totaling nearly \$900K. The awards supported a single collaborative project, which is summarized below. For more information regarding specific awards, please contact the program office at [oed.grants@noaa.gov](mailto:oed.grants@noaa.gov).

Project Title	PI/Institution	Total Project Funding
Building Ocean Awareness Together (BOAT): Interpreting Challenging Ocean Issues	Debbi Stone, Florida Aquarium	\$232,790
Building Ocean Awareness Together (BOAT): Interpreting Challenging Ocean Issues	Cynthia Vernon, Monterey Bay Aquarium	\$390,249
Building Ocean Awareness Together (BOAT): Interpreting Challenging Ocean Issues	Laurie Morrow, Alaska SeaLife Center	\$275,451

### Summary

**Title:** *Building Ocean Awareness Together (BOAT): Interpreting Challenging Ocean Issues (Collaborative Project)*

**Institutions:** Florida Aquarium, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Alaska SeaLife Center

**PIs:** Debbi Stone, Florida Aquarium; Cynthia Vernon, Monterey Bay Aquarium; Laurie Morrow, Alaska SeaLife Center

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**Summary:** The project will increase the effectiveness of informal science educators to promote public understanding of five complex topics that impact the ocean (oil spills, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, sea level rise, energy literacy) and encourage stewardship of ocean and coastal resources. This project will have a direct impact on 252 interpreters in and around Seward, Alaska; Monterey, California; and Tampa, Florida through 12 week-long trainings. Groups of interpreters will develop, assemble and produce online training toolkits and host a webinar on each topic, all of which will be widely disseminated to the ISE community. Each toolkit will utilize NOAA multimedia content, data visualization products, literature, expertise and other relevant resources. Project participants--who interact with a diverse mix of local, regional, national and international visitors (including underserved local populations)--will provide enhanced training content for their colleagues through guide/interpreter training, a workshop, presentations at conferences, and online networks.

**Partners:** National Association for Interpretation; **NESDIS Environmental Visualization Program; Climate Program Office; Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL); National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region; Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (NMS); Monterey Bay NMS; Gulf of the Farallones NMS; Cordell Banks NMS; Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR); and Elkhorn Slough NERR.**