

Statement of Work (SOW) for Full-time Aquarium Husbandry Support

Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit

November 2023
Smithsonian Marine Station
Marine Ecosystems Exhibit

Background

The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit (SMEE) at the St. Lucie County Aquarium in Fort Pierce, FL is located less than one mile from the Atlantic Ocean on the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), one of the most biodiverse estuaries in the U.S. This unique educational facility serves as the outreach branch of the nearby Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS) and offers visitors an up-close look at the underwater world of the IRL and east coast of Florida.

With a focus on displaying marine ecosystems as complex communities of organisms interacting in their environments, visitors can explore dynamic aquarium displays of six marine habitats, including an Atlantic coral reef, red mangrove forest and a seagrass bed. The Aquarium also features a local species touch tank, constantly changing interactives, microscope themed exhibits and small aquarium displays. Aquarium staff are committed to enlightening and inspiring visitors on the diversity and importance of marine ecosystems using the Exhibit's dynamic, live aquarium displays and engaging educational content to provide the public with a better understanding of these fragile systems and the impact humans are having on them.

Scope of Work

The Contractor will provide full-time support for the Smithsonian's Marine Ecosystems Exhibit's living collection Sunday through Thursday. The contractor will be responsible for following established written protocols to ensure the proper health and well-being of the Exhibit's aquarium specimens.

Qualifications

- General knowledge of marine biology.
- Working knowledge of aquarium life support systems.
- Extensive knowledge of aquarium husbandry including, performing basic water chemistry, animal nutrition and disease recognition.
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team.
- Ability to follow established protocols, including the maintenance of the Aquarium's algal turf scrubber filters.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Excellent record keeping skills.

- Excellent time management skills.
- Excellent problem-solving skills.
- Ability to stand for extended periods of time and lift up to 50 pounds.
- Good communication skills, including giving tours and engaging Aquarium visitors.
- Ability to work on Fridays and Saturdays.

Tasks

- Perform the routine monitoring and maintenance of the Exhibit's model ecosystem exhibits and support aquaria.
- Carry out all designated feedings of Exhibit specimens according to the established protocols.
- Ensures all water chemistry parameters are maintained according to established guidelines for all Exhibit aquaria.
- Supervise aquarium husbandry volunteers and interns to ensure proper care of Aquarium inhabitants.
- Assist with local specimen collection, as needed.
- Maintain the aesthetic upkeep of the Exhibit and workplace safety of staff and volunteers.

Deliverables

- Ensure the proper health and well-being of the Exhibit specimens following established protocols.
- Maintain detailed records of aquarium maintenance, specimens, and water chemistry results.
- Trains and supervises aquarium volunteers, as required, to ensure the proper care of Aquarium inhabitants.
- Keeps the Exhibit manager informed regarding any aquarium-related problems.
- Maintain the aesthetic upkeep of the Exhibit.
- Maintain a safe, harassment-free work environment for all volunteers, staff, and visitors.

Place of Performance

Work will be carried out at the St. Lucie County Aquarium, 420 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL or at the Exhibit's quarantine facility located at 701 Seaway Drive.

Period of Performance

Contractor will provide full coverage Sundays through Thursdays. This contract is for a period of 26 weeks and may be extended if services are required beyond the end date. The estimated start date for this contract is early January 2023.