

Teacher At Sea



Point Blue
Conservation
Science



Providing at-sea experiences to science-teachers

ACCESS

ACCESS provides education opportunities by hosting a NOAA Teacher-at-Sea each year. For more information about applying for a teacher position, contact Jennifer Stock (jennifer.stock@noaa.gov), Education and Outreach Coordinator at Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

What to Expect

You are part of the science team! When you arrive to the ship, you will help scientists carry, store and secure equipment, supplies and food on board. You will get a tour of the ship, some quick instructions, and be shown where you will be sleeping. Each day you will help collect samples and data along 1 or 2 transect lines that we survey in the marine sanctuary. See ACCESS web site (www.accessoceans.org) for the project description, recent findings and map.

There are a lot of different research tasks going on at the same time during an ACCESS cruise. Teachers are generally assigned to assist on back deck operations including: deploying and retrieving zooplankton and phytoplankton nets, the CTD (conductivity, temperature, and depth) profiler, and collecting surface water samples. On the flying bridge (top deck) of the boat, trained observers are looking for marine bird and mammals, as well as other marine life and human activities.

Depending on the ship, there will be a schedule for provided meals (large NOAA vessels) or you, along with other scientist, will help cook dinner (small NOAA vessels). You will be contacted before the cruise for grocery needs and meal planning. All meals and clean up are the responsibility of the scientists.

Safety

Early on the first day of the cruise, the captain will provide a safety briefing, indicating the location of personal floatation devices (PFD), safety rafts and have you try an Immersion Suit. Please make sure you have a PFD and a helmet when working on the back deck. No PFD is needed on the flying bridge.

The fridges and cabinets have hinges on them to keep them safely closed during travel. Make sure to close them after every use. Don't leave open beverages unattended during travel.

Ship Etiquette

If we are working from a small NOAA vessel and we are docked, it is best to use the bathroom stalls and showers on land than on the boat. Bring quarters for the showers.

Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS)

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What To Bring

Plan to dress in layers to stay warm during the cruise! Northwest winds from the arctic are dominant in spring and summer and it will get very cold. Use soft-sided luggage such as duffle bags or backpacks, avoid hard sided luggage. There is no laundry on the small NOAA vessels, and the laundry can be close due to rough weather on large NOAA vessels. Plan accordingly!

- Sleeping bag
- Fitted or regular sheet
- Pillow
- Bath and hand towels
- Toiletries
- Flip flops for shower
- Quarters for shower
- Long underwear
- Socks
- T-shirts
- Pants
- Sweatshirts
- Down jacket/vest
- Rain coat
- Closed-toe shoes
- Exercise clothing
- Running shoes
- Rubber pants or bibs
- Rubber boots
- Warm beanie hat
- Warm gloves
- Sun shade ball cap
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Watch
- Alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Coffee mug (no spill lid)
- Something to Read
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with SPF
- Seasickness pills
(Meclizine, Bonine, Dramamine)
- Phone and charger
- Still and video camera
- Laptop (Optional)



What Is Provided

- ✓ Float coat
- ✓ Life jacket
- ✓ Helmet
- ✓ Foods and drinks

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