

Project O Commitment to Safety and Equitable Learning: 2020-2021

Project Oceanology understands that schools are facing a lot of uncertainty for the 2020-2021 school year - that's why our programs are flexible. Learn how we can support your science curriculum – whether you end up delivering it in person or remotely! We have designed a range of options and policies to accommodate the range of conditions schools and teachers may experience in 2020-2021. This document describes types of programming; see separate curriculum documents for specific lessons. See last page for pricing information.



All In-Person Programs Include Access to an Asynchronous, Remote Learning Version

Project Oceanology has designed remote learning versions for most of its programs so that children learning at home have the same opportunities as children attending school in person. Teachers/science coordinators will be provided with a link to the remote learning program (in many cases, a virtual field trip) and an educator guide for teachers and parents. Please see the section below on virtual field trips for more information. Project Oceanology is committed to providing equal access to learning to all students.

Safety Procedures at the Project Oceanology Facility

Our building is open and ready to support field trips, but we have instituted a number of important safety precautions this year. Our procedures have been tried and tested during our safe and successful summer camp season. These include:

- **Cohort tracking:** Project Oceanology can accommodate up to three completely separate groups of students at one time. Each group would have separate entry points to the building, separate bathrooms, and separate indoor areas to assemble.
- **Cleaning and sterilization:** All common touch areas, including bathrooms and laboratories, will be sterilized between groups and at the end of each day using CDC-approved sanitizing spray.
- **Social distancing:** Groups will be assigned to indoor spaces large enough to allow for social distancing during indoor activities. We will also make use of outdoor spaces when possible.
- **Masks:** All staff and students will wear masks at all times while inside Project Oceanology facilities and while aboard Project Oceanology research vessels.

Safety Procedures aboard Project Oceanology Research Vessels

At Project Oceanology, we are used to prioritizing student safety! In addition to our normal vessel safety procedures, we have instituted the following additional safety methods related to COVID-19:

- **Cohort tracking:** typically, only one cohort of students will be allowed aboard our research vessel at a time. That cohort will frequently be divided into two groups to allow the students to spread out across the research vessel. If your cohorts are small, it may be possible to accommodate two completely separate cohorts aboard the vessel (one in the bow cabin, one in the stern). Please reach out to Project Oceanology to discuss details.
- **Cleaning and Sterilization:** All research vessel surfaces will be sterilized between groups and at the end of each day using CDC-approved sanitizing spray. If two separate cohorts are aboard, surfaces will be sterilized in between groups.
- **Social distancing:** social distancing is not always possible aboard the research vessels, although students will spend most of their time in outdoor spaces.

- **Masks:** All staff and students will wear masks at all times while inside Project Oceanology facilities and while aboard Project Oceanology research vessels.

Safety Procedures for In-School Programming

Project Oceanology instructors wear masks and follow strict sanitization procedures. We will also abide by all school-specific rules related to social distancing, PPE, and sanitization.

Live Online Programming for the Classroom:

If you can't visit Long Island Sound, we'll bring Long Island Sound to your classroom! If school is in session but outside visitors are not allowed, we can drop off scientific gear, samples, and more at your school. Gear will be thoroughly sanitized ahead of time, and drop-off can be arranged in advance. During your classes, the Project O instructor will lead the activity live on screen via the virtual platform of your choice, with in-person assistance from the teacher. Some programs may require the teacher to complete a brief virtual training session ahead of time; others do not.

Live Online Programming for Remote Learning

If you can't visit Long Island Sound or your classroom, we'll bring Long Island Sound to your homes! We'll go live from our research vessel, from the shore, or from our labs with you and your students. Students will meet marine animals and help collect scientific data as we use oceanographic gear to sample physical and biological parts of Long Island Sound. The program will be custom-designed to meet your needs.



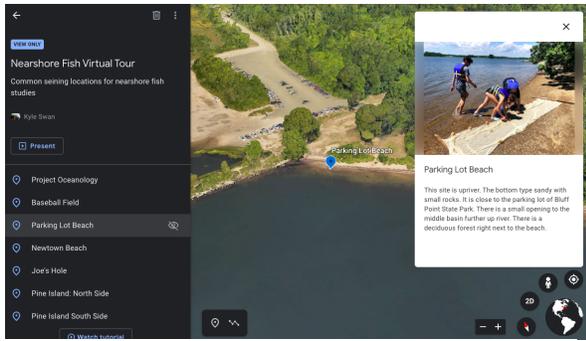
Photo courtesy of Watkinson School

"Marissa and the rest of the staff worked closely with us to create a program that was personalized to our needs... The educators during the trip kept my students engaged by sending a data sheet in advance so that my students could record as if they were on the boat, asking them questions, and of course by teaching them about each of the organisms we caught in the lobster trap and plankton net. The virtual boat program was the 'next best thing' to actually being on the Envirolab II and in the end, my students learned the same information as if they were actually there! We love Project O and quarantine wasn't stopping us from attending!"

- Kim Picard, 7th grade, Watkinson School

Virtual Field Trips

In these activities designed for remote learning, students are immersed in a marine habitat through google earth tours, videos, and interactive photos and descriptions. They are then presented with a series of research questions – teachers can assign specific questions, or leave students to choose. Research questions range from basic (designed for early middle school) to advanced (upper high school). For the chosen research question, students will be provided with a range of background information, and a dataset collected by previous student participants at Project O. Students will analyze their data, use their results to make a claim backed up by evidence that answers their research question, and then share with their teacher and classmates.



Here a Fish, There a Fish - Atlantic Silverside

Research Question: How and why do Atlantic Silverside populations change along the Poquonock River?

Part A: Read the background information



#page source: <http://www.magnifish.com/content/silverside-Atlantic-coastal-fish.html>

Atlantic silversides have long slender bodies with two dorsal fins, a round white belly and large scales. The head is short with large eyes; the jaw extends well behind the eyes. A distinct silvery horizontal band is present along the side of the body from the pectoral fin to the caudal fin. The color of this fish is translucent gray-green above. They can grow up to 15 cm (6") long.

The Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*) is a very common schooling fish that is found year round in coastal shoreline waters. Most fish schools consist of similar sized individuals. Silversides commonly swim among the submerged grasses in shallow brackish water. During the winter they move into deeper water to avoid the cold temperatures of the shallow water. Silversides spawn in grassy shallows during the late spring and early summer. The eggs stick to the marsh grass

Screenshots from virtual field trip