Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS)
Overview
Center for Marine Education and Research (CMER)
GOMA and GCOOS-Funded CELC-PIT Kiosk

Presented to the
GCOOS-EOC Workshop
Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA
June 15-16, 2011

By Sharon H. Walker, Ph.D.
Director of Education and Outreach
Hours of operation for groups (Admission: $8/Adult and $6/Child under 12) with reservations: Thursday-Saturday a.m. and p.m. The IMMS-CMER is located at 10801 Dolphin Way (off Lorraine Rd.) in Gulfport, MS.
The 2,000 sq. ft. IMMS Museum is the primary facility for educational programs.

The IMMS staff members implement interactive activities for guests of all ages.
Discovery Room

Participants get “up close and personal” with sea creatures! Students of all ages enjoy the Discovery Room.
Educational documentaries are viewed in the 180-seat Auditorium.
IMMS: Academic Year began in 2009-2010

“Turning Kids on to Science!”

Marine Experiences for Children...
Golfo de México
Gulf of Mexico
Four Phases of Exhibit Design

- Conceptual Planning
- Design
- Fabrication
- Installation
Six Components that Drive Exhibit Design Models Are:

- Curiosity
- Confidence
- Challenge

- Control
- Play
- Communication

**Exhibit Characteristics Staff Believe Are Important; They Must**

- Be Interactive
- Have an Exciting Appearance
- Be Based on Sound Science
- Have Measurable Metrics/Evaluations
- Adhere to Education Standards
- Be Geared to 6th Grade Level of Understanding
New Classrooms at the IMMS-CMER

Classroom Addition to the IMMS Museum Building.
IMMS: Membership Program began in 2009 (dues: “free” up to $1,000 depending on level of membership)

Fun for the entire family!
IMMS Sea Explorers’ Program began in 2009, offered from April-October

A “passport” is provided to participants for their involvement in each adventure.

- Learning to Fish ($15/person)
- Kayaking ($30/person)
IMMS Sea Explorer Program (continued)

- Secrets of Snorkeling ($35/person)
- Arts and Science Encounters ($12/person)
IMMS Scenic Bayou Tours

- Scenic Bayou Tours
  ($24/30/person)
Public Tours, Offered Tuesdays through Saturdays

An experience that lasts a lifetime!
Ocean Expo-Summer Camp

began in July 2010 focusing on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Priority Issue Themes (PITs)

• Water Quality,
• Nutrient Reduction,
• Habitat Identification and Characterization,
• Ecosystem Integration and Assessment,
• Environmental Education, and
• Coastal Hazard Resiliency.
Ocean Expo-Summer Camp  
(continued)

Environmental Education

Students receive an enhanced understanding of the environment.
Water Quality

Activities include salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and temperature.
Habitat Identification and Characterization

Students better understand habitats and inhabitants within the water and sediments through seining, dip netting, and sieving activities.
Ocean Expo Summer Camp—
IMMS bound after a successful field trip to Ship Island...

Ecosystem Integration and Assessment
Ocean Expo-Summer Camp
(continued)

Coastal Hazard Resiliency
Storm Surge + Normal Tide = Storm Tide
Nutrient Reduction

Photo: Nancy Rabalais, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

Diagram:
- Algae bloom
- Nutrient-rich fresh water layers over salt water
- Algal cells die and decompose
- Decomposition results in low dissolved oxygen
- Fish, shellfish and other organisms stressed
MGCCC Internship Program, began in September 2010

Research and education projects...
Birthday Parties

• Movie or Aquatic Themed Activity;

• Explore Interactive Museum;

• Experience sea creatures “up close and personal” in the Discovery Room;

• Discover shark teeth or sea shells in the Fossil Dig; and

• T-shirt for birthday child.

Sea Turtle Package: $255.00
  - Party
  - Pre-decorated Room
  - Cake Plates
  - Napkins
  - Utensils

Dolphin Package: $280.00
  - Sea Turtle Package Plus
  - Cups
  - (5) 2-Liters of Soda
  - Invitations

Sea Lion Package: $305.00
  - Dolphin Package Plus
  - 6 Large Pizzas
  - Pizza Plates

A $50.00 deposit is required and refundable after cleanup

Goodie bags are also available for an additional fee

To reserve your party or for information about our other programs please call (228) 896-9182 ext. 1768
Ocean Expo-Students’ Mini Camps began in the spring of 2011

Experiential Learning...
Ocean Expo-Pre-School Program began in the spring of 2011.

Teaching tomorrow’s future today!

Exploring the underwater world!
Ocean Expo – Professional Development Programs—Teachers’ Institutes and/or Workshops will begin in the summer 2011

Guest Scientist Interactions

Teachers-to-Sea Experiences
Extramural Funding Partnerships

- U.S. Navy
- Office of Naval Research
- Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, Naval Oceanographic Office, and Naval Research Laboratory
- National Science Foundation
- NOAA-National Sea Grant College Program
- NOAA-Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
- NOAA-Northern Gulf Institute
- NOAA-Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System
- NOAA-Office of Education
- Coastal America-Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center
- Environmental Protection Agency-Gulf of Mexico Program
- Department of the Interior-Coastal Impact Assistance Program
- MS-Department of Marine Resources
- Private Business and Industry
Contact Information:

Questions?

Dr. Sharon H. Walker

Director of Education and Outreach, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies-Center for Marine Education and Research

228-701-1769

sharon@imms.org