

**04 October 2011**

## **October half term at the National Marine Aquarium**

Visitors to the National Marine Aquarium this half term will be able to get up close and personal with some of the Aquarium's biggest residents, as it welcomes guests for the Sleeping with Sharks event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Intrepid explorers will be treated to a twilight tour of the Aquarium, allowing them to see exactly what its inhabitants get up to at night, before bedding down to sleep alongside the fascinating ocean giants.

Day time visitors during half term can also let their artistic sides out all week with the annual Big Draw event running from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October. This year's theme is 'The Sea and Me', with visitors encouraged to explore their relationship with the sea through a variety of drawing and craft activities.

Aspiring artists can take inspiration from their favourite sea creatures and memories of trips to the seaside, as well as trying their hand at making masks and silhouettes. National Marine Aquarium divers will also be getting creative, with underwater drawing sessions in the Aquarium's display tanks throughout the week.

Dr David Gibson, Managing Director of the National Marine Aquarium, commented: "It's great to see two of our most popular events returning this October. Both Sleeping with Sharks and The Big Draw are set to provide our half term visitors with some fantastic entertainment during the school holidays, giving them a chance to really interact with the fascinating creatures at the Aquarium. We're looking forward to a great week."

Everyone taking part in the Big Draw will receive a free sketch pad to record their artistic endeavours.

For further information and to receive a 10% discount when you book online visit [www.national-aquarium.co.uk](http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk)

**- ENDS -**

**Issued on behalf of:**

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**Notes to editors:**

The National Marine Aquarium is a registered charity committed to promoting a sympathetic understanding of the sea through programmes of education, conservation and research. With a mission to *drive marine*

*conservation through engagement*, the National Marine Aquarium operates the largest public aquarium in the UK and is the lead partner in Just Add H<sub>2</sub>O, a programme for schools that aims to *bring the marine curriculum alive*.

Opened in 1998, the National Marine Aquarium is based in Plymouth, marine centre of the UK, and has since become one of the most popular attractions in the region - attracting more than 260,000 visitors every year.

With over 4,000 marine animals and Britain's deepest tank – measuring 10.5m deep – the National Marine Aquarium includes new exhibits for 2011 including the Eddystone tank and a state-of-the-art new learning centre, as part of Just Add H<sub>2</sub>O programme.

More information about National Marine Aquarium is available at [www.national-aquarium.co.uk](http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk)

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**PR Week's Ones to Watch**

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