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UNH Discovery Cruises Explore Coastal Beauty And Marine Science

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EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS:

Members of the media are invited to join any cruise (see schedule below). Contact Barbara Pinto-Maurer at 603-749-1565 or barbara.pinto@unh.edu for more information.

DURHAM, N.H. -- Join the University of New Hampshire Marine Docents this summer for a Discovery Cruise through the Great Bay Estuary, or to the Isles of Shoals aboard the university's research vessel, the R/V Gulf Challenger.

The Marine Docents will answer questions about the area's history and coastal environments while guiding you through activities such as catching plankton and testing water clarity. Hold a crab in your hand and see creatures like anemones and sea stars up close. Find out what UNH researchers are learning about marine and estuarine environments.

The cruises are informal, allowing time for both education and relaxation. You'll be able to take photographs of the sights, chat with a docent, or visit the captain in the pilothouse.

Great Bay Discovery Cruises travel up the Piscataqua River into Little Bay/Great Bay Estuary, with a stop at Adams Point for a tour of the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. The Isles of Shoals Discovery Cruises stop at Appledore Island, with a tour of the Shoals Marine Lab. Both cruises leave from the Portsmouth Fish Pier.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call NH Sea Grant at 603-749-1565, or e-mail barbara.pinto@unh.edu. Reservations will be taken on a first come-first served basis and should be made at least five days prior to cruise date. Children 10 and older are welcome with an adult.

Discovery Cruises are sponsored by NH Sea Grant, the UNH/NOAA Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET), and UNH Cooperative Extension.

Great Bay Discovery Cruise dates for 2004:

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Admission: \$18

Tuesday, June 29
Thursday, July 1

Wednesday, July 14
Sunday, July 18
Friday, August 6
Wednesday, August 11
Sunday, September 26

Isles of Shoals Discovery Cruise dates for 2004:

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission: \$20

Friday, July 16
Saturday, July 17
Saturday, July 31
Sunday, August 8
Friday, August 13
Sunday, August 15
Saturday, August 21
Sunday, August 22
Saturday, August 28
Sunday, August 29