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Great Bay Coast Watch Seeks Volunteers for 2002 Season

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DURHAM, N.H. -- If you enjoy being outdoors and want to make a difference in maintaining the quality of Great Bay and the New Hampshire coastal environment, then Great Bay Coast Watch (GBCW) needs you.

A nationally recognized program, GBCW is New Hampshire's leading citizen volunteer group for monitoring water quality in salt water and estuarine systems. GBCW needs additional volunteers for its upcoming sampling season set to begin in early March.

GBCW volunteer teams sample water quality at 21 different sites on the Seacoast and Great Bay monthly from March through October. Volunteer teams also monitor phytoplankton populations on a weekly basis at five coastal sites and one offshore site.

Other projects involve walking the shorelines seeking causes of erosion, monitoring storm drains, collecting rainfall runoff samples, and assisting the Department of Environmental Services with boat-based sampling and shellfish monitoring. Community outreach is also an important GBCW activity. Volunteers can train to give presentations about GBCW activities to local organizations and town boards. They also conduct demonstrations in schools, on public cruises, and at local festivals.

The Watch is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension, N.H. Sea Grant, N.H. Coastal Program, N.H. Estuaries Project, N.H. Department of Environmental Services and the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation.

To learn more about volunteering and GBCW activities, call N.H. Sea Grant Extension at 603-749-1565, visit

the GBCW website at <http://www.gbcw.unh.edu> or e-mail ann.reid@unh.edu.

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