



Don't forget to keep up to date with all our news and upcoming events on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

The aquarium is about to get a Fin-tastic upgrade as part of the Levelling up project!

Following Aberdeenshire Council's successful bid for the UK Government's Levelling Up fund (for development of cultural and heritage opportunities in Macduff and Peterhead) the "Cultural Tides: North Sea Connections in Aberdeenshire" project will focus on the renovation and extension of Macduff Marine Aquarium and the development of a cultural quarter in Peterhead, centred around the vacant Arbuthnot House. The project for Macduff Marine Aquarium – operated by Live Life Aberdeenshire – is underway and we are very excited for this much needed investment and improvement to the building and area.

The plans include the addition of a second storey for a café/restaurant, an external viewing deck for wildlife spotting, a lobster hatchery and a new multipurpose community learning space!

Inside, the central tank, general layout and displays will remain, but the exhibits will be upgraded and include new features and interpretation. The visitor experience will feel fresh and innovative, whilst maintaining the aquarium's essential elements that have been so popular with our customers.



The aquarium will be closed to the public while the building works are taking place. The closure will be from September 2nd and will last for around a year. These timescales may change as the project develops. The team are really looking forward to the new possibilities afforded when the building is complete and can't wait to share these with you in due course.

During the closure we are planning pop-up aquarium events, outreach to schools, and of course we will still be looking after the fish on site! Our Virtual School Visits will still be available to book, so make sure you keep in touch. Got a fishy question? Just drop us a line: [macduff.aquarium@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:macduff.aquarium@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

## BRING THE AQUARIUM INTO YOUR CLASSROOM



During the closure of the aquarium we are very excited to offer a new outreach programme to local schools (those within an approximate 50 miles radius of Macduff). These new sessions are available for booking now!

The costs start at just £60 per session and the sessions are typically between 45 and 90 minutes long depending on the chosen programming.

All sessions are curriculum linked and interactive, sessions can be combined and tailored to some extent so just get in touch to discuss the options.

See the full list of available programming below...

## AQUARIUM IN YOUR CLASSROOM OUTREACH PROGRAMME:

### Seashells from the Sea Shore

**Level:** Early **Duration:** 45-60 mins

**Description:** An interactive show and tell session featuring the amazing diversity of shells. Our Marine Master will help pupils explore the shells found on our local beaches and show some impressive examples of shells from around the world. Pupils will also explore other common things found on our shores.



### Shark School

**Level:** First/Second **Duration:** 60-90 mins

**Description:** An interactive workshop investigating native shark species through artefacts. Explore citizen science with shark eggcase id. Pupils will become shark detectives, as they learn how they can help our native endangered shark species.

### Marine Life of the Moray Firth

**Level:** All **Duration:** 45-60 mins

**Description:** Explore the diversity of species on our doorstep through an interactive show and tell presentation session. Participants will get to handle and examine marine artefacts from the aquarium's own collection.

**Costs:** Dry sessions: 45-60 min session –£60 plus mileage. 60-90 min session – £70 plus mileage.

Wet Session (with live animals): 90 min session- £140 plus mileage

**To Book:** Email enquiries to: [macduff.aquarium@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:macduff.aquarium@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Marine Life of the Moray Firth with Live Touchpool Animals

**Level:** All **Duration:** 90 mins

**Description:** As above followed by a touch pool session where participants can get up close and touch hardy seashore creatures such as crabs, starfish and anemones.

### Marine Plastics (max 25 pupils)

**Level:** Second **Duration:** 60-90 mins

**Description:** Discuss what happens to plastic in the marine environment followed by some hands-on experiments to extract and identify microplastics from beach sand via simple filtration and the use of handheld microscopes.

### Climate Change and our Ocean - Powered by Stromar Offshore Floating Wind Farm

**Level:** Second **Duration:** 45-60 mins

**Description:** Through live interactive science demos the Marine Master will explain how climate change is affecting our oceans and its inhabitants. The session will be concluded with a chat about all things we can do to help fight climate change.

### Careers Chat

**Level:** Second **Duration:** 45-60 mins

**Description:** Give your pupils the opportunity to discuss what it's like to work in a busy aquarium! Hear about the day to day of caring for the animals, and working in a visitor attraction. Chat about the subjects that are important for a related career.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Oceans, Energy and Climate Change Online STEM event in partnership with Stromar Offshore Floating Wind Farm

We are excited to be working with new partner Stromar Offshore Floating Wind Farm to host a virtual STEM event on Tuesday October 8th.

This online event will dive into the topics of climate change, sustainable energy, and biodiversity in our ocean. The event will be designed for P 5 - 7 pupils and will be delivered as half-day workshops via Teams.

This virtual workshop will be FREE to book, thanks to the kind support of our new sponsors. Please get in touch to note your interest in registering for this event.



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