

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2010 EDUCATION CRUISES



We are kicking off our 2010 half-day education cruises aboard the [R/V Joe Ferguson](#)

Nine educators are selected for each cruise on a first-come, first-served basis.

Education Coordinator [Cathy Sakas](#) along with our vessel captains LTJG Chad Meckley and Marine Operations Coordinator Todd Recicar are excited to offer these cruises that introduce educators to a working NOAA research vessel and its capabilities.

We conduct many activities while on the cruise and the four hours go by quickly.

The following are some of the activities undertaken on the cruise:

- Overview of acoustic fish tagging research project in progress at Gray's Reef



- Deployment of trawl net to sample estuarine species



- Deployment of plankton tow to sample estuarine phytoplankton and zooplankton



- Viewing and identification of plankton under field microscopes



- Deployment of Niskin tubes to collect water samples at various depths



- Conducting water quality monitoring test on samples (pH, N, Ph, salinity, conductivity, temperature)



- Overview of vessel navigational system



- Overview of GPS



- Deployment of hydrophones for underwater acoustics



- Deployment of Secchi disk to determine turbidity



- Completion of meta data sheets for all activities

Departure dates for this years' cruises are:

February 20th

March 27th

May 8th