



## Education *Bytes*...

### An Educators Guide to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

February 2015  
Volume 3, Issue 1

## Quick Connect Calendar

- [Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#)  
February 11, 2015
- [FareWhale Festival](#)  
March 21, 2015
- [Georgia Sea Grant Marine Education Internship Application Deadline](#)  
April 4, 2015
- [ROV Competition Registration Deadline](#)  
April 6, 2015
- [Southeast Regional MATE ROV Competition](#)  
April 24-25, 2015

# Gray's Reef Southeast Regional MATE ROV Competition

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for the [2015 Gray's Reef Southeast Regional MATE ROV Competition!](#)

The competition will be held at the Chatham County Aquatic Center on April 24-25, and is open to students of all ages and experience levels.



An International ROV team completing their in-pool mission tasks  
Photo credit: ONMS

**The theme for this year's MATE International ROV Competition is, ROVs in Extreme Environments: Science and Industry in the Arctic.**

Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) are underwater robots used for

exploration and observation. National Marine Sanctuaries use ROVs to explore depths that cannot be accessed by scuba diving.

Gray's Reef also uses ROVs as a means to connect people with the resources, developing stewardship for our ocean and aquatic habitats by engaging and inspiring students and educators through remote observing technologies.

[Jody Patterson](#) is the Gray's Reef Southeast Regional Coordinator for the MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) Center's ROV Competition, and offers robotics training to education organizations by request. Contact her for additional information on marine technology education opportunities.

## Sounds Of The Sanctuary

Gray's Reef researchers have been capturing beautiful images of the Sanctuary for years and sharing it with the public through [video and photography](#). Now, to add another dimension, the sounds of the reef are being recorded through the use of a hydrophone to capture the

natural and anthropogenic soundscape of the Atlantic. NOAA and the University of Georgia are working to identify biological activity and potentially detect changes in the reef health. You can listen to a fish grunt or a snapping shrimp on the [Gray's Reef website](#).



Diver deployed hydrophone.  
Photo: Dr. Scott Noakes, UGA

# Celebrate The North Atlantic Right Whale

Come celebrate the annual (Nov 15–April 15) migration of the critically endangered [North Atlantic Right Whales](#) as they leave our coastal waters and make their way north towards Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary with their newborn calves.

Join us on March 21st (12PM-4Pm) to experience the challenges these whales encounter during their migration in our kid-friendly Right Whale obstacle course, learn about marine mammals from experts and educators in the field, enjoy live music and artwork from local artists, take a guided beach walk with *The Coastal Naturalist*, Cathy Sakas, and help keep Tybee Island beautiful by participating in a beach cleanup in the morning (10AM-12PM).

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
**2015 FAREWHALE FESTIVAL**

COME CELEBRATE THE END OF THE CALVING SEASON FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE AS THEY LEAVE OUR COASTAL WATERS AND MAKE THEIR WAY NORTH TO NEW ENGLAND

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WHALES

SATURDAY, MARCH 21  
12-4 PM  
TYBEE ISLAND PIER & PAVILION  
FREE ADMISSION

LIVE MUSIC  
GUIDED BEACH WALK  
EXHIBITS  
KIDS ACTIVITIES  
FAMILY FUN  
LOCAL ART  
BEACH CLEANUP

Artwork by Brad Hook

Website: [www.graysreef.noaa.gov](http://www.graysreef.noaa.gov) Phone: 912.598.2345

## Marine Debris On Georgia's Coast

The [Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) is one example of how detrimental our waste can be on the environment.

A local assessment, conducted by UGA and the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, was published recently in a [Marine Pollution Bulletin](#) article reviewing the amount of plastic debris found on **Georgia's heavily trafficked**

and remote marshes and beaches.

The study noted that remote areas are not immune to plastic **accumulation, and indicated "the importance of plastics carried from coastal and inland waters."**

If you observe debris in your local waterway, remove it and report it on the **FREE** UGA [Marine Debris Tracker app](#).

## Classroom Resources



[Young Minds Awards](#)



[Science Without Borders Challenge](#)



[NOAA's Ocean Explorer](#)



[Student Water Science Competition](#)

[graysreef.noaa.gov](http://graysreef.noaa.gov)



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**National Marine Sanctuaries.....America's underwater treasures!**