## Exciting Marine Biology Education Programs

Various human activities can damage undersea life forms, despite the fact that every organism depends on marine life to survive. Incorporating marine biology projects and experiments into the classroom can help students learn more about marine biology, helping them develop a love for the ocean. Students can also participate in special marine biology programs that allow them to earn college credits.

Students can feel like they're making a difference by participating in real projects carried out by marine biology advocates. For example, marine biology information is scattered throughout the Internet and MarineBio, an advocacy group based in Encinitas, California, is in the process of finding and collecting a database of marine biology information so those interested can track down up-to-date information more easily. This can allow a collective Internet mind to develop, which will have more knowledge of marine biology than even the most knowledgeable marine biologists.

Organizations, such as the NOAA's National Undersea Research Laboratory, are working to connect students with research projects that they can participate in, helping them get more hands-on experience in current marine biology research. These students not only learn about the curriculum, but also obtain experience with laboratory procedures.

For this experience to positively impact student learning, the students must be involved in all aspects of the research process. Getting students directly involved in the research can help spark interest in marine biology as a possible subject of study, excellent for students who don’t know what they want to do in life. Students may participate in dives, collect data, engage in data analysis, participate in scientific report writing and present information.

During the summer, programs such as the Baja Mexico Sea Quest! allow high school students to explore the Gulf of California, one of the most biologically diverse marine systems in the world. This area has over 800 species of fish and one third of the world’s cetaceans. Students learn about avian ecology, field surveys, wild sea lion population study and investigations into animal and plant adaptations. Participating high school students can often get a college course credit at a particular university, giving them a head start in their higher education.

Websites such as ActionQuest Adventure, try to set up students with similar opportunities. Many internships allow students to gain valuable work experience that can help them find work in the future. Regardless of what they want to do with their lives, a marine biology internship will look good on any resume.