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Robert “Drew” McCabe (Falmouth, MA)

A junior at Cape Cod Academy in Osterville, Drew McCabe is perhaps more familiar with marine science than most of his fellow high school interns at the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, the nation's oldest public research display aquarium and part of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass. He grew up in Falmouth and took summer classes in marine science at the local Children's School of Science.

“My family and I live aboard our sailboat for most of the summer, so I spend a lot of time fishing and snorkeling, and I recently received certification in SCUBA diving,” McCabe said of his background as one of nine high school interns from Montana to Massachusetts. “My goal is to pursue a career in the marine sciences, either in research or as a school teacher.”

McCabe participated in the Aquarium's Careers in Marine Science Seminar July 27 to August 7. The career seminar students get training in marine animal husbandry and basic aquarist chores, hear presentations from scientists working in a variety of marine fields, go on collecting trips, visit other Woods Hole science institutions, and go on field trips to the New Bedford waterfront, Whaling Museum and Buttonwood Park Zoo and Nantucket's Maria Mitchell Association Aquarium. The seminar is designed to give students an idea of what people working in Woods Hole do, and how different areas of science contribute to the larger effort to understand the marine world and to manage marine resources wisely.

Along with the other summer interns, McCabe performed the daily chores of running an aquarium, like cleaning tanks and feeding the fish. While most of the interns would say it wasn't one of their favorite activities, Drew understands that it is all part of the operation since he has a salt water fish tank at home to care for and loves collecting fish and other marine life for his tank.

When not active in something in or around the ocean, McCabe plays tennis and soccer for Cape Cod Academy and helps teach tennis to elementary

school kids at the Falmouth Sports Center. To earn money during the summer he mows lawns in his neighborhood.

“I learned a lot this summer about the behavioral instincts of fish and other marine life, and how different environments affect aquatic life. My experience as an intern will absolutely help fulfill my dream of a career in marine science.

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Related links:

Woods Hole Science Aquarium: <http://aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov/>
Aquarium Blog: <http://whaquarium.wordpress.com/>