



On July 24, 2010, The New England Aquarium Dive Club and The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) will host the 9th annual Northeast Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) event.

The celebration will be centered at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, Massachusetts. GAFC dives are planned at seven (7) shore locations around Cape Ann, along with dives at Nubble Light, York, ME. There will be a picnic, free raffles and door prizes. Every diver who submits data upon returning to the picnic area will receive one entry into the grand prize raffle drawing. We are expecting more than 150 divers to participate in the day's celebration.

Members of both the print and broadcast media will be invited to join in the survey dives.

Begun in 1975, the New England Aquarium Dive Club, Inc. is one of the world's oldest, largest and most active aquarium affiliated dive clubs. We share the fun of diving, a love of the sea, a concern for diving safety, and a desire to learn more about the aquatic realm and to share that knowledge with others. The REEF Fish Survey Project allows volunteer SCUBA divers and snorkelers to collect and report information on marine fish populations. The data are collected using a fun and easy standardized method, and are housed in a publicly-accessible database on REEF's Website. These data are used by a variety of resource agencies and researchers. In 2001, the acclaimed REEF Fish Survey Project and the Great Annual Fish Count was introduced to New England's SCUBA-diving community.

During our 8th Annual GAFC event held on July 25, 2009, 119 divers conducted 146 fish and invertebrate surveys at 7 locations around Cape Ann and southern Maine, making this the largest single day GAFC event held in the United States for an unprecedented eighth year in a row, and the largest in our events history! Join us as our celebration continues with the New England Aquarium Dive Club, REEF and the Great Annual Fish Count by making a donation to our Fish Counters Raffle. Prizes in the raffle will reward those divers who have undergone Northeast Fish and Invertebrate ID training and have volunteered their time by conducting survey dives.

REEF is asking for your support by donating dive equipment and supplies for this event. REEF is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. Any equipment or cash contributions donated to REEF are fully tax deductible for the donor to the amount allowed by law.

For more information, please contact: Bob Michelson, dive site coordinator at (781) 848-8870, or by e-mail, pbm.inc@verizon.net or Al Bozza, NEADC Program Director at (774) 571-5170 or by e-mail, programs@neadc.org