The Louisiana Sea Grant College Program invites you and your students to attend OCEAN COMMOTION 2015, a special educational event that celebrates stewardship of our aquatic, coastal and marine resources. OCEAN COMMOTION is designed for K-8 students and their teachers. Exhibitors will present interactive and/or hands-on exhibits that give students opportunities to learn about and touch plants, animals and products of our wetlands, coasts and oceans upon which every one of us is so dependent. Special emphasis will be placed on Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. Students will take home unique experiences and an expanded appreciation of Louisiana’s coastal environments and the need to conserve our state’s resources.

OCEAN COMMOTION 2015 will take place at the LSU Pete Maravich Assembly Center on Tuesday OCTOBER 27, 2015, from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Exhibit viewing will be divided into two time slots, each two hours in length, with the first reserved for 5-8th grade students and the second reserved for K-4th students. We ask that you incorporate the event into the academic work of your students. There is no cost for admission however you MUST be registered to attend. Reservations are required and space is limited. Registration begins on August 18. Registrations received before August 18 will NOT be accepted. Registration for each viewing session is limited to avoid over-crowding of exhibits. Schools planning on visiting OCEAN COMMOTION must ensure that there is at least one adult chaperone for every 10 students and no more than one adult per 5 students. Students must stay with their chaperones during their walk through the exhibits. Lunch is not provided and food will not be sold.

Invited exhibitors include a variety of state and federal agencies, educational groups and private organizations whose activities cover a wide range of ocean-, freshwater- wetland-, and coastal-related topics. Last year we had 63 exhibits. Included were NOAA Fisheries Service, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, several LSU departments and student organizations, Louisiana Departments of Environmental Quality, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Natural Resources, LUMCON, and the Audubon Aquarium. A list of participating exhibitors will be posted on our website along with photos and a short video of the event at www.laseagrant.org/education/projects/ocean-commotion/.

Registration may be completed by mail, fax or online after August 18, 2015 at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OCteacher2015. Teachers will receive a notification that their registration has been received and is complete or incomplete the day it arrives. If incomplete, you may resubmit your completed registration. This notice does NOT confirm your spot. Within two weeks you will receive confirmation for your spot at Ocean Commotion. A packet of teaching materials will be mailed 2-3 weeks before the event. This packet will contain links to aquatic and/or coast-related activities that teachers can use in class to prepare their students for the event. Many exhibitors will also have materials for teachers, such as posters and teaching materials, which can be picked up at each individual booth.

We encourage teachers to help their students make the most of this educational experience! This event provides an opportunity for students to participate in a wide range of hands-on activities that are intended to be learning experiences. We strongly encourage teachers to approach this event as an extension of their classroom and to help students to make the most of the learning experience. Attached is a registration form for schools that would like to bring students to OCEAN COMMOTION 2015.

Sincerely,
Dianne Lindstedt
Ocean Commotion Coordinator
Louisiana Sea Grant College Program