

Student Profile —

Name: Scott McAuliffe

Major: Marine Resource Management

Research Interest: Marine Science Outreach

Advisor: Kelly Falkner



MRM student Scott McAuliffe has always been interested in marine science outreach—he just didn't know it by that name. As a boy, McAuliffe had a season pass to the Boston Aquarium and wanted to be a marine biologist. In undergraduate college, his thesis was on benthic ecology, looking at the effects of baitworm digging on the soft-shell clam on the St. George's river in Maine. Three years after he graduated, McAuliffe looked for a marine science program that would allow him to find a role between researcher and the general public. Originally planning on studying fisheries management, he applied to COAS after his undergraduate advisor told him of its strong fisheries program.

During his first year of study, McAuliffe kept hearing the buzzword “outreach” and decided to forego fisheries management and focus on outreach and education in Marine Science. He found an advisor, Kelly Falkner, who had a strong outreach component in her research in chemical oceanography. Much of Falkner's work takes her to the Arctic to study long-term climate change by measuring freshwater fluxes from melting ice and other sources. In 2003 McAuliffe spent one month on a cruise aboard the USCGC Healy to run salinity samples for Falkner. In 2004 he did outreach work in the village of Qaanaaq, Greenland, looking at the relationship researchers have with native Arctic communities in Greenland and Northern Canada.

McAuliffe's interest in outreach and the advent of digital photography have rekindled his interest in photography. During his work in the Arctic, he picked up pointers from a professional photographer on board the USCGC Healy in 2003 and several “intense hobbyists” during 2004. His photographs have been used in cruise reports, posters, slideshows, and other outreach materials; several photos can be viewed at <http://www.pbase.com/smcaulif/arctic>.

For his final MRM project, McAuliffe put together three aspects of his outreach work:

- Chronicle of scientific and oceanographic permitting in Greenland and northern Canada.
- Photos and graphics for a sample chapter of an Oregon Oceans Book now in development.
- Development of a Suitcase lesson for primary schools on icebergs and sea ice.

The interdisciplinary approach of the MRM program appeals to McAuliffe. “In my case, MRM was broad. It allowed me to study a little of every field that I was interested in and approach oceanography that way. The breadth and freedom of the program appeals to a lot of people. The downside is that you can get lost in the MRM program, if you don't focus yourself.” McAuliffe recently returned from the Northwest Aquatic & Marine Educators Conference in Olympia WA. After graduation, he will look for an outreach position in an aquarium or other free-choice educational setting. ♦

