

(JOBS)

CHEF TO THE FISHES

Cooking seafood for sea creatures.

He's not a chef to the stars, he doesn't have his own T.V. show and he's never published a cookbook, but to the 50,000 creatures living in Atlantis Resort's aquarium tanks, Michael Donaldson (pictured above) is a celebrity. That's because every morning, Donaldson prepares the 900 pounds of fresh seafood they scarf down daily.

The resort, located on Paradise Island off Nassau, Bahamas, spends nearly a half million dollars each year on food for the creatures in the 11 tanks and exhibits of its aquarium. It takes Donaldson several hours to cut, mix and prepare the day's menu, including mackerel, shrimp, sardines and minnows. One of Donaldson's specialties is a tasty treat for the baby rays. "We make shrimp soup. They love it."

The dozen or so different species of sharks living in the aquarium are picky eaters. "The sharks won't eat fish heads, so we prepare the food for them without them," Donaldson says. "If we didn't, we'd find fish heads floating in the aquarium."

—SCOTT D. JONES

(AQUARIUM)

Life Inside the Fishbowl

Giant-stride into the New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank.

New England's most unique dive is a strangely lit place, inhabited by sand tiger sharks, tarpon, sea turtles, barracuda, stingrays and moray eels. There's no surge, no surf, and the entry couldn't be easier. Just jump in.

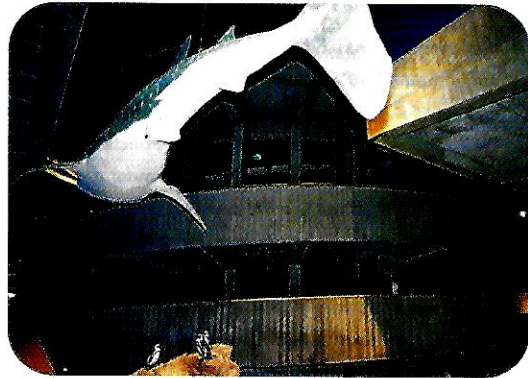
Since the New England Aquarium first opened in Boston in 1969, the Giant Ocean Tank (GOT) has been its main attraction. Twenty-four feet deep and filled with more than 125 different species of sea life, the 200,000-gallon tank spirals down through the center of the building, seemingly anchored by a massive faux coral reef.

You have to jump through a few hoops to dive the GOT. Join the aquarium's dive club and you're eligible to participate in the monthly raffles held to give away GOT dives.

Another option is to bid on one of the GOT dives the aquarium donates to charity auctions. Expect to bid at least \$300 to win.

Or, you can dive it the old-fashioned way, by joining the aquarium's team of volunteer divers, whose main function is the endless cleaning of the tank. "Think of all the things you have to do to keep an aquarium in your house clean," says Holly Martel Bourbon, the aquarium's diving safety officer. "We have to do all the same things, but from the inside." —JERRY SHINE

For more information, check the aquarium's web site at www.neaq.org.



See New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank from the inside out.