



Jackson Konetski
Husbandry Assistant with Diving

How long have you worked in this job?

I have worked at the Texas State Aquarium since December of 2015.

What does it take to get a job like yours?

A dive certification is needed. I also have a marine biology degree. The degree is not required, but it is a plus.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Learning the fishes' personalities.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The constant temperature changes, from cold water in the exhibits to the hot showers and back to cold water again is hard on the body. Your skin gets dry and your hands peel often. You cut more easily and the cuts take longer to heal.

Do you have a favorite fish?

Yes, Hunter, the sandtiger shark is my favorite because he seems to enjoy scaring people. He will sneak up on me when I'm in the Islands of Steel exhibit and then when I notice him, he will go away. Once I'm not looking at him anymore, he comes back again.

How often do you dive?

I dive three times a day for about an hour per dive.

Do you have any memorable stories to share?

One time, I had to get Big Momma, the large southern sting ray out of the Blue Hole exhibit. I had to use a HUGE net, and the drag resistance on the net swimming through the water made me really slow. Once I finally grabbed her, I had to somehow jump up 15ft out of the water with her in the net. Nick, my tender at the surface at the time, had to drag me out of the water like a dol. Once out myself, I was then finally able to get the Big Momma out of the water too.