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53 CGA cadets visit ice patrol

New London - Fifty-three cadets from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy visited the International Ice Patrol on April 1 to discuss how to apply physical oceanography in the Coast Guard.

The third-class cadets are pursuing a degree in marine and environmental sciences at the academy. At the IIP, they formed focus groups to evaluate what environmental considerations are important for conducting search and rescue cases, responding to oil spills and tracking icebergs in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Then they were tasked with developing forecast systems for each of these missions of the Coast Guard. Physical oceanographers from CGA, IIP, the Research and Development Center and Coast Guard Headquarters facilitated the sessions and shared highlights of the current systems used by the Coast Guard.

"I was very impressed by the level of engagement and critical thinking by the cadets," said Cmdr. Scott Rogerson, commander of the IIP. "They completely understand the important role that physical oceanography plays in conducting the Coast Guard's missions."

For more information on the marine and environmental sciences programs at the academy, visit www.uscga.edu/display.aspx?id=519 or visit www.uscg-iip.org for more information on the Ice Patrol.
