Stonington students see Coast Guard demonstration

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New London - The U.S. Coast Guard's International Ice Patrol and Marine Safety Lab, both in New London, hosted a school visit Dec. 10 from Stonington's Pine Point Elementary.

Thirteen students and two chaperones learned about the science of tracking icebergs and fingerprinting oil.

Marine Science Technicians Cliffton Hendry and Megan Sanks told the students about the Ice Patrol mission, inception, history and operations. Three students sank a model of the RMS Titanic to demonstrate the impact of iceberg collisions.

Marine Science Technicians Zach Cote, Alicia Todman and Matthew Tyson showed the students some of the properties of oil and how the Coast Guard analyzes it for enforcement. Each student had the opportunity to participate in a demonstration of the surface tension of oil.

The International Ice Patrol and the Marine Safety Lab regularly host groups who want to learn more about the units, their missions and the science required to conduct them. Unit members also go to local schools throughout the year, often emphasizing science, technology, engineering and math career options.

For more information visit www.uscg-iip.org or www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/msl/default.asp.