



Contacts: Marilyn Padilla/Cecile Fisher
Aquarium of the Pacific
562-951-1684/562-951-1676
mpadilla@lbaop.org/cfisher@lbaop.org
Digital Images/B-roll Available

General Aquarium Information:
562/590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

WHAT: The Aquarium of the Pacific's **mission** is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. Our **vision** is to create an aquarium dedicated to conserving and building Natural Capital (Nature and Nature's services) by building Social Capital (the interactions between and among peoples).

Beyond its world-class animal exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. Through these programs and a variety of multimedia experiences, the Aquarium provides opportunities to delve deeper into ocean science and learn more about our planet. The Aquarium of the Pacific has redefined the modern aquarium. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and a place where important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions.

The Aquarium features a NOAA Science on a Sphere, which exhibits imagery and real-time ocean and weather data on a six-foot diameter globe. It also presents daily shows covering topics such as sea level rise and marine ecosystems. Throughout the year, the Aquarium features art exhibits, performing arts shows, and cultural festivals as a way to engage new audiences and make science accessible.

The Aquarium of the Pacific was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including its LEED platinum SAVOR... Watershed classroom. In 2009 the Aquarium was awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with revenues under \$150 million. In January of 2013, Governor Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown recognized the Aquarium of the Pacific for its role in California's environment and economy. The Aquarium of the Pacific is the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums to receive the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award ([GEELA](#)). This award program was established in 1993 and is California's most prestigious environmental award, according to the California Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition to its public programs and exhibits, the Aquarium is involved in numerous conservation efforts, including sustainable seafood, watershed education, ocean literacy, and more. The Aquarium's team of scientific divers collects critical data used by a variety of ocean research institutes and reporting agencies. And through its Aquatic Forums, the Aquarium brings together scientists, educators, community leaders, and policy makers to develop solutions to complex environmental issues.

WHERE: The Aquarium is located on an over six-acre site on Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, Calif.—across the water from the Long Beach Convention Center, Shoreline Village, and the Queen Mary Hotel and Attraction.

Address: 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

SIZE: Three football fields could fit into the Aquarium's expansive, three-story 353,685 square foot facility, which features 50 exhibits and Behind-the-Scenes Tour areas. More than 11,000 ocean animals, representing over 500 species, reside in the Aquarium. Exhibits range in size and capacity from about 5,000 to 350,000 gallons.

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GRAND OPENING: Founded in June 1998, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ATTENDANCE: 1.5 million people visit the Aquarium annually

RANK: 4th most attended aquarium in the country

AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE: The journey through the Pacific Rim unfolds as visitors are guided through the Pacific Ocean's three major regions: Southern California/Baja, Northern Pacific, and the Tropical Pacific. The exhibits introduce the inhabitants and seascapes of the Pacific, while also focusing on specific conservation messages associated with each region. As visitors enter the Aquarium's vast *Great Hall of the Pacific*, a full-scale model of a blue whale, the largest animal in the world, floats high above their heads. Visitors are given a preview of what awaits in the Aquarium's main galleries, including an up-close look at Southern California/Baja with the nearly three-story tall *Honda Blue Cavern* exhibit, home to leopard sharks, barracuda and other kelp fish. The Aquarium's Great Hall panels feature quotes from celebrities and Aquarium staff that illustrate ways to reduce carbon footprints, and visitors are invited to write their own pledge to help reduce carbon emissions. Throughout the day, Aquarium guests can enjoy the multimedia presentations in the Aquarium's Great Hall of the Pacific.

Southern California & Baja: Upon entering the first gallery, visitors explore familiar, temperate local waters. Seals and sea lions can be viewed in an up-close-and-personal indoor/outdoor setting. A kelp forest with California's state fish and many other fascinating animals are featured. This section includes the bilingual Gulf of California gallery featuring reef fish of Baja California, Mexico. This gallery features a NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary kiosk exhibit where visitors can learn about these protected islands found off the coast of Southern California.

Northern Pacific: The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the North Pacific and are introduced to the ice-cold waters of Alaska, Russia, and northern Japan. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and "fly" underwater, while the sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the mesmerizing sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. An interactive three-player sea otter conservation game is included in this gallery. This gallery features a NOAA Ocean Today kiosk exhibit, which provides guests with a national feed of ocean news and video as well as local stories created by the Aquarium. This kiosk is linked to the NOAA Ocean Today kiosk in the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

Tropical Pacific: Leaving the frigid world of the North Pacific, Aquarium explorers burst into the sun-splashed paradise of Micronesia. From coral lagoons to deep reefs, the islands of the Palau archipelago are among the earth's most beautiful spots. Visitors are introduced to a coral lagoon with colorful fish as well as to sea horses, sea snakes, and mysterious sea dragons. In the Aquarium's largest exhibit, the *Tropical Reef Habitat*, sharks and colorful

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sea life swirl around visitors in a tunnel and through various viewing windows..

Ocean Science Center:

Visitors can travel across the globe in an immersive multimedia experience to see how climate change, maritime trade and ports, and other topics impact our lives through the *Ocean Science Center*. The centerpiece of this gallery is a six-foot global display that combines technology from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which enables the Aquarium to show recent environmental occurrences, including tsunamis, tornadoes, earthquakes, and more.

Molina Animal Care Center:

The Molina Animal Care Center features an interactive exhibit, daily animal care shows, and the chance to see veterinary procedures.

Special Exhibits:

As part of the new Ocean Exploration program, the Aquarium opened the *Wonders of the Deep* gallery. Guests can journey to the depths of the ocean and uncover mysteries through exhibits featuring marine animals from the ocean abyss, educational displays, films, and more. About 95 percent of the ocean remains unexplored. The Aquarium hopes to inspire a push to explore our planet's last frontier. This exhibit will remain open until February 1, 2015.

Lorikeet Forest:

Lorikeet Forest is a walkthrough aviary filled with dozens of Australian lorikeets. Visitors can purchase a cup of nectar to feed these friendly birds that will land on your hand, arm, or even your head to get a sip of the nectar.

Shark Lagoon:

Shark Lagoon is an educational adventure that features a main exhibit showcasing large sharks and two touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 150 smaller sharks. Interactive displays are also part of Shark Lagoon, and Bamboo Bistro and the Pacific Treasures gift store are located next to it.

June Keyes Penguin Habitat:

The June Keyes Penguin Habitat opened to the public on May 17, 2012. The permanent exhibit is home to the first penguins in the Aquarium's collection and includes a space where visitors can crawl under the exhibit to feel as if they are inside with the animals. The new habitat features Magellanic Penguins, educational exhibit panels, and interactive touch screens where visitors can learn more about penguins and issues affecting their survival. Some of the birds in the Aquarium's new habitat were rescued near Rio, Brazil and deemed non-releasable to the wild because of health issues. Scientists speculate that these birds ended up stranded north of their normal range in search of food due to issues such as climate change and overfishing.

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AND MUCH MORE:

- Aquarium educators host a variety of classes, daily presentations, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, and programs for school and youth groups, families, adults, and children.
- The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers a variety of entrees, including sustainable seafood, and views across the bay to the Queen Mary and the downtown Long Beach waterfront.
- Hundreds of marine-related gifts, games, educational toys, souvenirs, and surprises are available at the Aquarium's main gift store, *Pacific Collections*.

HOURS:

The Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., every day of the year, except December 25 and the weekend of the Grand Prix of Long Beach in April 11-13, 2014. It is open until 8:30 p.m. on select summer and holidays.

ADMISSION:

General adult admission \$28.95 (12+), senior (62+) \$25.95, child (3-11) \$14.95, and free for children under age 3 and Aquarium members

Annual Aquarium memberships are available. For information, please call 562/437-FISH or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org.

**DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE:**

Inspired by the towering waves of the Pacific, the Aquarium's architecture mirrors the fluid and dynamic temper of the ocean.

- Developer: Kajima International, developers of the world's most critically acclaimed and technologically advanced aquariums.
- Architects: Los Angeles office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassanbaum and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis of San Francisco. EHDD designed many other award-winning marine exhibitions across the world.
- Contractors: Construction was a joint venture of Turner Construction Company and Kajima International.

CONSERVATION:

Activities of the Aquarium of the Pacific employees and volunteers extend far beyond exhibits. The diverse environmental science and conservation ventures include:

- Conservation programs for endangered marine animals and habitats, including blue whale field research and the sea turtle Citizen Science Monitoring program;
- Housing of unreleasable marine mammals and birds from local care centers and marine parks;
- and local beach, street, and underwater cleanups and habitat restoration efforts.

THE BOARD:

A volunteer board of directors that includes leaders of the civic, marine sciences, corporate, and educational communities governs the Aquarium.

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AQUARIUM EXECUTIVES:

David Bader, director of education
Anthony Brown, CFO
Theresa Duncan, V.P. of development
Cecile Fisher, V.P. of marketing and communications
Perry Hampton, V.P. of animal husbandry
Barbara Long, V.P. of government relations & strategic planning
Kathie Nirschl, V.P. of human resources
Marilyn Padilla, director of public relations
John Rouse, V.P. of operations
Tina Sarty, controller
Jerry Schubel, president & CEO
Jeff Spofford, director of retail operations

VOLUNTEERS:

More than 1,000 Aquarium volunteers dedicate over 150,000 hours annually in almost every department, helping to ensure quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the approximately 1.5 million people who visit the Aquarium annually.

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