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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESCUED SEA LION MAKES AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC HIS NEW HOME

The public is invited to meet Odin, a blind California sea lion, in his new home at the Aquarium's Seal & Sea Lion Habitat

Long Beach, CA, October 26, 2007—The Aquarium of the Pacific invites the public to visit Odin, a rescued sea lion, in his new home—the Seal & Sea Lion Habitat. The two-year-old male was stranded in Zuma Beach, California and was deemed non-releasable to the wild because he is almost completely blind and would starve in the ocean not being able to hunt for food. Because of this, the government was looking to find a home for this sea lion. The Aquarium of the Pacific volunteered to provide him with a home and was selected.

Odin joined the Aquarium's other California sea lions and harbor seals in his new home on October 4. "He immediately bonded with Parker, our 5 year old male California sea lion. Since then the two have been inseparable," said Perrine Leung, an Aquarium biologist who has been caring for Odin.

Odin arrived to the Aquarium's behind-the-scenes mammal area this summer. Shortly after Odin's arrival, the Aquarium received two other California sea lions from another aquarium. During that time, the animals began learning basic behaviors to allow the Aquarium's mammal biologists to provide health care for them, including checking the animals' flippers, mouth, ears, and eyes. "Odin is almost 90 percent blind, yet he was the first out of the new sea lions to learn all of the necessary behaviors to be moved into the Seal & Sea Lion Habitat. He is one smart sea lion and is an inspiration to all of us" said Leung.

Aquarium members, Peri Marek and Peg Urvoas, selected Odin's name and also provided generous funding in support of Odin's arrival, care, and feeding. Odin was named after a god in Norse mythology, who sacrificed one of his eyes in order to gain wisdom.

Aquarium of the Pacific, a nonprofit institution, celebrates our planet's largest and most diverse body of water: the Pacific Ocean. The Aquarium is dedicated to instilling a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. Home to more than 12,500 animals, the Aquarium is open daily from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (except Dec. 25 and during the Grand Prix 4/18-20/08) and is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach, CA. Admission is \$20.95 adult (12+), \$17.95 senior (62+), \$11.95 child (3-11), and free for children under age 3 and Aquarium members. A world of discovery awaits. For more information, the public can call 562-590-3100 or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org

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