



## Inspection Report

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Gulf World Marine Park Inc  
15412 Front Beach Road  
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Customer ID: **324287**  
Certificate: **58-C-0992**  
Site: 001  
Gulf World Marine Park Inc.

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 02-JUN-2025

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### 3.150(a) Repeat

#### Facilities, general.

The enclosure housing 2 African penguins has cracked concrete in areas where the birds have access. The cracks go through the impervious coating and expose the concrete below.

Cracked concrete with exposed aggregate can be signs degradation which can worsen over time, increasing the risk of breakage, enclosure compromise, and possible injury to the birds.

Housing facilities for birds must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of bird housed in them. They must be kept in good repair

### 2.40(b)(1) Repeat

#### Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The facility did not maintain a program of adequate veterinary care by failing to ensure the availability of appropriate facilities, and personnel to comply with the Animal Welfare Regulations and Standards.

- Following multiple citations for failing to maintain proper facilities, an email dated May 19, 2025, from the General Manager to company leadership provided a quote for repairs that would bring the dolphin enclosures back into compliance. At the time of inspection, the deficiencies had not been corrected and additional requests for approval to make the necessary repairs remained unanswered. The city of Panama City Beach has also cited the facility for code violations, including electrical deficiencies and unsafe areas. Failure to maintain appropriate facilities does not support a program of adequate veterinary care.
- Over the last several months, numerous employees have resigned, including key members of the Animal Care team, leaving an insufficient number of employees to care for the animals. At the time of inspection, the last on-site member of the veterinary care team, the sole veterinary technician, informed USDA officials that she had resigned. When asked what led to this decision, she cited the most recent dolphin death on April 25, 2025, and the lack of an on-site veterinarian or additional support as the primary factors. Accordingly, the facility does not have the appropriate personnel to ensure a program of adequate veterinary care.
- The Attending Veterinarian lives in Nevada, leaving only one on-site member of the veterinary staff, a veterinary

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Prepared By: CHARLES PALMER  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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technician, to oversee the daily care of all animals on property. Because of the lack of adequate veterinary staff, the veterinary technician informed USDA officials that she must prioritize the care and treatment of sick animals over routine care. Routine care is a component of acceptable veterinary standards and failure to meet this component does not ensure a program of adequate veterinary care.

- Medical Records document that on April 25, 2025, when the veterinary technician was informed of a dolphin found unresponsive at the bottom of an enclosure, she was forced to call the former Attending Veterinarian for assistance because the current Attending Veterinarian was at his home in Nevada and there was no other on-site or locally contracted veterinarian to call. Failure to provide a sufficient number of appropriately trained personnel does not ensure a program of adequate veterinary care.

Appropriate facilities and a sufficient number of trained employees are necessary for providing the adequate veterinary care required for the proper husbandry, treatment, and maintenance of the health of the animals.

Each exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include the availability of appropriate facilities and personnel to comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Regulations and Standards.

### 3.101(a)(1)

Repeat

#### Facilities, general.

The facility failed to maintain the marine mammal enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury. USDA inspectors identified several areas in disrepair.

- The far west dolphin pool has previously identified cracks in the walls and surrounding concrete which has still not been addressed and is continuing to break down. These areas have flaking paint, exposed aggregate, and loose stone or cement pieces which could fall into the water.
- The wooden shade structure over Dolphin Med pool and a portion of Dolphin West has many rusted and pitted joist hangers. Flakes of rust are observed hanging loosely and can flake off into the water below.
- On the east side of Dolphin East pool, there is a viewing window that is at and below the level of the visitor platform. There is a leaking crack on the upper left portion of the window frame. There is a small white stalactite, which appears to be another calthemite formation, at this location and algae can be seen growing on the exterior of the enclosure. The crack on the outside of the enclosure was wet to touch. There was also visible water on the ledge below the crack.
- The deck is separating from the curb of the pool along the entire north side Dolphin East.
- Cinder block walls behind Dolphin Main, Dolphin East, Dolphin Med Pool, Dolphin West, and Dolphin Far West show signs of deterioration. The lower course of block has the coating lifting off and the block disintegrating. Material from these blocks is on the deck and can be blown or washed into the pools housing the dolphins.

Enclosures that are not maintained in good repair can lead to health and well-being hazards to the animals within.

Indoor and outdoor housing facilities for marine mammals must be maintained in good repair.

### 3.103(b)

Repeat

#### Facilities, outdoor.

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The facility failed to provide protection from the weather or direct sunlight. Although previously identified, the facility has not provided shade over the far side of dolphin east pool where dry guest interactions are done, or over the main show stage where the dolphins station for food during training sessions with the trainers or during public guest interactions after shows.

Direct sunlight can be uncomfortable and adversely affect the animal's health.

Natural or artificial shelter shall be provided for all marine mammals kept outdoors to afford them protection from the weather or from direct sunlight.

### 3.108(a)

### Repeat

#### Employees or attendants.

The facility does not have a sufficient number of adequately trained personnel and is unable to make the corrections necessary to comply with the Animal Welfare Act, as indicated by the number of repeat noncompliances identified during this inspection. The facility's current employees must fulfill collateral duties just to maintain current operations.

Failure to maintain an appropriate number of employees can lead to the inability of the facility to address the corrective actions necessary to return to compliance.

A sufficient number of adequately trained staff to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry can ensure that optimal welfare and care can be provided for the animals maintained at this facility. A sufficient number of adequately trained employees or attendants, responsible to management and working in concert with the attending veterinarian, must be utilized to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry practices.

A complete routine inspection was conducted starting on 2 June 2025. This inspection report is limited to the Repeat non-compliances identified during that inspection. An additional inspection report will be delivered with the other issues identified during this inspection.

This inspection was conducted with facility representatives. The exit briefing was conducted on 3 June 2025, with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

KRISTIN NAPOLI, SUPERVISORY ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
324287	58-C-0992	001	Gulf World Marine Park Inc.	02-JUN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000008	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000004	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN
000002	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	AFRICAN PENGUIN / CAPE PENGUIN
000002	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	RED-AND-GREEN MACAW / GREEN-WINGED MACAW
000001	<i>Cacatua moluccensis</i>	SALMON-CRESTED COCKATOO / MOLUCCAN COCKATOO
000002	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	CONGO AFRICAN GREY PARROT / GRAY PARROT
000003	<i>Ara ararauna</i>	BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW / BLUE-AND-GOLD MACAW
000001	<i>Ara, Anodorhynchus, Primolius, Diopsittaca spp hybrid</i>	MACAW HYBRID
000002	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>	BLUE-CROWNED PARAKEET
000001	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>	HYACINTH MACAW
000001	<i>Ara militaris</i>	MILITARY MACAW
000001	<i>Amazona oratrix</i>	YELLOW-HEADED PARROT / YELLOW-HEADED AMAZON / DOUBLE YELLOW-HEADED AMAZON
000001	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>	GALAH / ROSE-BREASTED COCKATOO / ROSEATE COCKATOO
000001	<i>Corvus albus</i>	PIED CROW
000001	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	YELLOW-NAPED PARROT / YELLOW-NAPED AMAZON
000033	<b>Total</b>	