



Inspection Report

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: 08-JAN-2025

3.101(a)(1)

Repeat

Facilities, general.

Multiple primary enclosures housing marine mammals are in disrepair.

*** Along the far wall of the sea lion stadium pool where a seal was swimming, rust is still coming through the wall and running down the wall and into the water. This section of wall must be addressed to protect water quality and keep the pool in good repair. There is also evidence of rust coming down the back walls of holding A and C pools where another seal and sea lion are housed.

***The main sea lion stadium pool and back holding pools are still in disrepair throughout the area. The shade structure over the public seating area is deteriorating. The staff reports that pieces of the structure fall and, "get wind-blown" into the sea lion and seal main show pool where animals have access during the day. There is still evidence of rust coming through the wall and running down into the water of the main stadium pool which can impact water quality.

*** Sections of the wall at the water level in the outdoor holding pool for sea lions adjacent to the stadium pool still has paint that is actively chipping. This chipped paint can enter the water and impact the water quality or become an ingestion hazard to the seals and sea lions who are placed in this pool.

*** The stadium stage area which is the haul out space for the seals and sea lions is deteriorating with multiple sections of concrete actively breaking off and peeling when touched by the inspector. When the seals haul out and drag themselves over the area, there is a high likelihood that their weight and water is continually deteriorating the concrete. These haul out areas must be maintained in good repair for the safety of the animals.

*** The ramp that leads into holding pool A for sea lions is also breaking down with the top layer of the ramp missing and exposed wood underneath. The continued weight of the sea lion coming in and out of the pool will further degrade the ramp and it should be addressed to keep the ramp in good repair for the safety of the sea lions.

*** The haul out space in the port area housing two sea lions is beginning to show wear and some of the plastic coating is coming off the wood platform. These areas should be addressed to keep the haul out space adjacent to the pool in good

Prepared By: DAVID MERSEREAU

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

14-JAN-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

14-JAN-2025



Inspection Report

repair.

***The back wall along the stage for seal and sea lion stadium is still in disrepair with sections of wood broken and paint actively chipping.

*** The perimeter around the dolphin stadium pool is in the early stages of disrepair with paint flaking off right at the edge of the pool. These areas need to be addressed to prevent chipped paint from entering the water and impacting water quality or becoming an ingestion hazard to the dolphins.

*** The cracked and broken concrete all around the perimeter of the far west dolphin pool has not been addressed and is still breaking down. These areas of concrete are breaking off and when touched by the inspector, the powder under broken areas is coming up and loose. This can be a hazard as the concrete powder can be wind blown into the pool impacting water quality for the animals. There was evidence of concrete dust on enrichment devices (basketballs) when thrown from the pool by the dolphins.

Facilities where animals are housed must be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury.

3.103(b)

Repeat

Facilities, outdoor.

The facility still has not provided shade over the far side of dolphin east pool where dry guest interactions are done, or the over the main show stage where the dolphins station for food during training sessions with the trainers or during public guest interactions after shows. The lack of shade in these key areas makes it necessary for the dolphins to bring their heads up out of the water and feed facing the sunlight during the show and during guest interaction programs. Direct sunlight can be uncomfortable for the animals and excessive exposure to sunlight has been linked to the development of eye abnormalities in captive marine mammals.

The facility must provide the animals protection from direct sunlight for their health and wellbeing.

3.106(b)(3)

Repeat

Water quality.

The facility did not have the required testing supplies and due to funding was not able to test for coliforms as per this regulation. Coliforms were not run on any marine mammal pools from October 19, 2024 through November 14, 2024. Timely and accurate testing for coliform counts is required to quickly identify harmful levels of bacterial counts and effectively maintain water quality standards. Water samples shall be taken and tested at least weekly for coliform count.

3.106(d)

Water quality.

At the time of the inspection, there is no working filter for dolphin east pool which went down on November 13, 2024. According to staff, the filtration for dolphin west is only functioning at 50 percent. Dolphins have been housed in dolphin east pool with no working filter and then moved to another pool when east must be "shocked" with granular chlorine due to lack of liquid chlorine. Dolphins were housed in east pool as recently as Jan 5, 2025. There is an abundance of algae

Prepared By: DAVID MERSEREAU

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

14-JAN-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

14-JAN-2025



Inspection Report

growth in multiple dolphin pools with the inspector scraping algae off a step that was almost 6 inches in length. The algae growth has reduced visibility of the dolphins in all the pools. Water quality must be maintained by filtration, chemical means or other means to comply with water quality standards. The facility does not have a working filter on a large pool for the dolphins and the addition of granulated chlorine does not appear to be effective in mitigating extensive algae growth throughout the pools.

Correct by: Jan 21, 2025

3.108(a)

Employees or attendants.

The facility has lost six maintenance employees in the past three months leaving them with two maintenance employees. Additionally the facility has lost seven animal care employees in the past three months. Based on the increased number of non-compliant items and the repeat items that have been cited and not addressed since the May 2024 inspection, it is evident that the facility does not have enough employees to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart which includes maintenance and repair of housing facilities under subpart 3.101(a), 3.103(b), and 3.106(d). Overall facility maintenance of pools, haul out areas for animals and filtration maintenance is vital to the health and well-being of marine mammals. The facility must have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to address the physical environment the animals are living in.

Correct by: Feb 14, 2025

3.158(c)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

At the time of the inspection, the penguins had been moved to an indoor room due to colder temperatures. The room where the animals are housed appears to be an storage space with carpet, old sound equipment with cords hanging down the cabinets, paint for crafts in the area, dust and debris throughout the room. Premises where birds are located should be kept clean and maintained in good repair for the safety of the birds.

Correct by: Jan 21, 2025

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

ANDREA D AMBROSIO, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Prepared By: DAVID MERSEREAU

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:

14-JAN-2025

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

14-JAN-2025



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
324287	58-C-0992	001	GULF WORLD MARINE PARK INC	08-JAN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000009	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000004	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN
000004	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	CALIFORNIA SEA LION
000002	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	HARBOR SEAL
000004	<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
000042	Total	