



## Inspection Report

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Mississippi Aquarium  
PO Box 1100  
Gulfport, MS 39502

Customer ID: **503551**

Certificate: **65-C-0564**

Site: 001

MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 06-JAN-2025

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### 3.103(c)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

Early morning (i.e. 2:39am) on November 26, 2024, an intruder had 17 minutes of unauthorized access to the facility and missed encountering the security officer by 56 seconds during security walking rounds. Video surveillance showed the intruder was able to hoist himself over a solid vertical 8-foot panel perimeter fence and solid concrete 10-foot pillar at the main gate by utilizing the perpendicular hand railing that is connected to the main gate concrete pillar. The intruder proceeded to the outdoor dolphin habitat and jumped over the 3.5-foot public barrier consisting of top and bottom horizontal beams connected via vertically spaced posts. While inside the public barrier the intruder picked up three large 8-9 inch diameter rocks from the surrounding landscape approximately 4 feet away from the pool enclosure and threw them at the four dolphins housed in the enclosure. The dolphin team found the rocks in the dolphin pool during their 7am morning rounds which was approximately 4.5 hours after the intruder left the facility. The dolphins voluntarily retrieved the rocks, gave them to trainers, and the dolphins stationed and ate normally. Veterinary examination of all four dolphins included visual and behavioral assessments as well as ultrasounds which did not reveal evidence of shadowing that could indicate ingestion of a rock foreign body.

Perimeter fencing that does not prevent animals and unauthorized persons from having contact with the marine mammals can pose a safety risk which may result in injury or disease transmission to the marine mammals. Prior to the January 6, 2025 inspection, security monitoring improvements to the surrounding dolphin habitat area had been completed and supplies for planned modifications to the perimeter fence were on order.

Correct by January 31, 2025 by ensuring the perimeter fence protects marine mammals by restricting animals and unauthorized persons from having direct contact with marine mammals.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with a facility representative.

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Prepared By: KEM SINGLETARY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

10-JAN-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:

10-JAN-2025



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
503551	65-C-0564	001	MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM	06-JAN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>	BLUE-THROATED PIPING-GUAN
000005	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i>	SUN PARAKEET
000007	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	ASIAN EMERALD DOVE / GREY-CAPPED EMERALD DOVE
000004	<i>Guira guira</i>	GUIRA CUCKOO
000005	<i>Colius striatus</i>	SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD
000001	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	GUINEA TURACO
000002	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	HOODED MERGANSER
000002	<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>	LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT
000002	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	MARBLED TEAL
000001	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	MASKED LAPWING
000002	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	NICOBAR PIGEON
000005	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>	PIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON
000001	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	PRINCESS PARROT
000002	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	SAFFRON FINCH
000001	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	SCARLET IBIS
000010	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	AFRICAN PENGUIN / CAPE PENGUIN
000002	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	SUPERB STARLING
000002	<i>Gallicolumba tristigmata</i>	SULAWESI GROUND DOVE
000003	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	AMERICAN BEAVER
000004	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000001	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	NORTHERN RED-BILLED HORNBILL
000004	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER
000001	<i>Tolypeutes tricinctus</i>	BRAZILIAN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000002	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	EMERALD STARLING
000001	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	PURPLE STARLING
000002	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK
000002	<i>Capito niger</i>	BLACK-SPOTTED BARBET
000002	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000078	<b>Total</b>	



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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