



## Inspection Report

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The Alaska Zoo  
4731 O'Malley Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Customer ID: **8784**  
Certificate: **96-C-0025**  
Site: 001  
The Alaska Zoo

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 01-DEC-2022

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### 3.106(b)(1)

#### Water quality.

The primary enclosure housing two harbor seals has had multiple dates for which the coliform bacteria count has exceeded 1000 MPN per ml of water.

- August 2, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was >2419.6 MPN. Subsequent tests were not taken at 48 hour intervals, however the facility took steps to try to resolve the issue by changing out part of the water on each of the days between August 2 and August 6, 2022. The facility failed to test the water during this time in order to ensure appropriate water quality conditions for the animals when the bacteria coliform count was >2419.6. On August 7, 2022, the pool was dumped and the sample on August 9, 2022 was below 1000 MPN.
- August 16, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was 1986.3 due to a backflow valve being stuck closed. The valve issue was corrected and the subsequent test was below 1000 MPN.
- August 29, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was >2419.6. The next test recorded was on September 3, 2022, five days later, with a recorded result of >2419.7. The records do not indicate that subsequent tests were taken at 48 hour intervals between these two high counts so the water quality conditions remained unknown. Records indicate the ozone generator had malfunctioned and there were some system issues addressed, but no further tests were done until September 5, 2022. On that day, the reading was below 1000 MPN.
- September 7, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was 1732.9. The pool was drained on September 8,

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2022. The next test recorded in the records was not until September 13, 2022 and the recorded count was below 1000MPN.

- September 28, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was 2419.6. A second reading was taken on September 30, 2022 with a count of 16.8MPN. The records indicate another test was done on October 7, 2022 and the bacteria coliform count was still high at >2419.7. Another test was conducted on October 9, 2022 with a count of 1413.6. To resolve the issue, the records indicate the O3 was bumped to 700. The subsequent test result on October 11, 2002 was under 1000MPN. The records indicate there may have been some issues with the probe and the system and that parts were ordered on October 15, 2022.
- November 15, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was >2419.6. The records indicate that the chlorine had been turned off on November 8, 2022. The chlorine was turned back on after the high count. The records indicate another test was done on November 17, 2022 where the bacteria coliform count was recorded as >2419.6. The records indicate "Ozone back up and running." The records indicate that additional maintenance efforts to the system were conducted with the count taken on November 20, 2022 being below 1000 MPN.
- November 21, 2022, the records indicate the bacteria coliform count was >2419.6 and that the chlorine was turned up. A subsequent test on November 23, 2022 indicate the count is below 1000 MPN.

The above scenarios describe high total coliform counts that the facility has failed to address correctly and which do not ensure adequate water quality conditions for the two resident harbor seals. When water quality is not adequate, there could be adverse impacts to the animals health and well-being. The facility needs to ensure that steps are taken to keep total coliform counts at acceptable levels. When total coliform counts exceed 1,000 MPN per 100 ml of water, corrective measures must be taken ensure appropriate water quality. More frequent testing may also be warranted to ensure the measures taken were sufficient to correct the problem. The facility stated that parts have been ordered for the ozone

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system for the pool. It is acknowledged that supply chain issues have caused a delay in procuring the necessary equipment to correct the problem.

To be corrected: From this day forward.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the Curator.

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
8784	96-C-0025	001	The Alaska Zoo	01-DEC-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	HARBOR SEAL
000002	<b>Total</b>	