



## 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: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 13-APR-2022

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### 3.103(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

The dolphin pools, housing 4 adult male dolphins, do not provide enough shade. The dolphin pools consist of a larger, irregularly shaped exhibit pool connected by 2 channels to a smaller round off-exhibit pool. When the sun is high, the only shade available to the animals is a few small shadows along some of the walls of the pools. Previous overhead shade structures were damaged by storms and were removed. According to facility personnel, portable umbrellas are used intermittently to protect animals from looking into the sun during training sessions or public encounters. These umbrellas were not in use during public encounters observed at approximately 2:30PM on 4/13/22, at which time the weather was bright and sunny.

Shade is important for protecting marine mammals from sun exposure which can lead to discomfort and may contribute to the development of eye problems.

Correct by providing protection from direct sunlight for the dolphins as appropriate for local climatic conditions. Temporary correction due by 5/1/22, permanent correction due by 9/1/22.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the attending veterinarian and facility personnel.

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**Prepared By:** DIANA CARE  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
15-APR-2022

**Received by Title:** Attending Veterinarian

**Date:**  
15-APR-2022



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
503551	65-C-0564	001	MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM	13-APR-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Tolypeutes tricinctus</i>	BRAZILIAN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000004	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER
000004	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000010	<b>Total</b>	