



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: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 04-MAR-2025

3.106(d) **Critical** **Repeat**

Water quality.

This facility is continuing to use granulated chlorine to treat the pools, which is not effective in reducing algae blooms. All the dolphin pools still have an excessive amount of at least 6 inches of algae bloom along all the walls and bottom of pools and clumps of algae floating in pools. The algae growth has significantly reduced visibility of the dolphins in all the pools. When the APHIS inspector was standing above the main pool, looking down into the water, it was difficult to see the dolphins if they are approximately three feet below the water. In the main pool, there are two shallow shelves where the shallow guest interactions are conducted. In looking at the water from the stage area, the shallow area appears visibly darker due to high algae growth.

On March 1, 2025 during the show at dolphin main pool, there was an incident in which a Bottlenose dolphin, "Jett" performed an aerial behavior out of the water and when he came down into the water he went to the bottom of the pool and did not resurface. Due to excessive algae growth, the trainers could not visualize what occurred and according to conversations with the staff, they believed he was hanging out on the bottom of the pool because he did not receive a bridge reinforcer. The trainers did not suspect anything was wrong, until he did not resurface in a timely manner. The trainers then separated the remaining dolphins, cleared the stadium and entered the pool to find him on the bottom. When he was pulled to the surface there was evidence of trauma to his rostrum, and it was clarified by the veterinarian that he was deceased. Preliminary necropsy results confirmed that cause of death was blunt force trauma to his rostrum and skull.

Based on the injuries the dolphin sustained that caused death, and the location of the buoy raised above the water for the aerial behavior, it is suspected by the veterinarian, that when he breeched the water, he came down and hit the shallow shelf causing blunt force trauma to his rostrum, and skull. Due to the lack of clarity in the water and the inability for the trainers to see what happened, all reaction time was significantly delayed.

The facility must address the water quality in the pools, remove current algae growth and put in methods to mitigate the continued extensive algae growth. This is to ensure that all dolphins can be visualized during shows and guest interactions for the health and safety of the animals.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the general manager.

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:

07-MAR-2025

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

07-MAR-2025



Inspection Report

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
07-MAR-2025

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
07-MAR-2025



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
324287	58-C-0992	001	GULF WORLD MARINE PARK INC	04-MAR-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000008	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000004	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN
000012	Total	