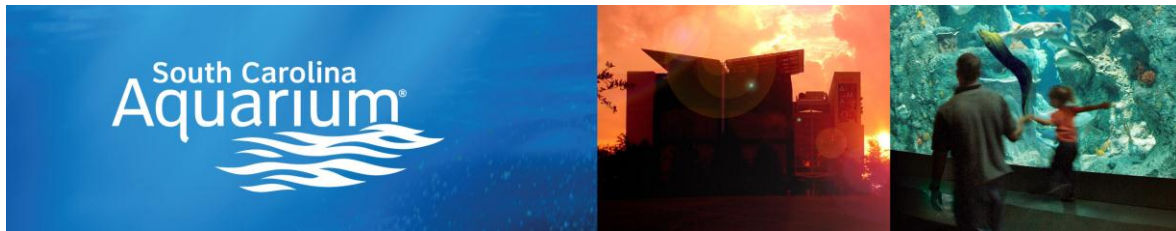
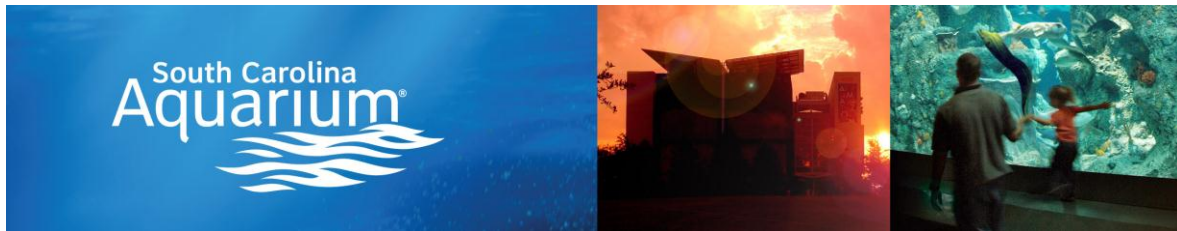


## Aquarium Achievements

- First aquarium in the country to open with a complete Education Master Plan and during its first year launched a structured school program which admits organized, curriculum-driven groups of South Carolina students to visit the Aquarium free of charge.
- *Coastal Living* magazine awarded the South Carolina Aquarium with its 2000 “Best of Coast” Award for Design. Selected based on its “site reclamation,” the Aquarium was noted for its remarkable view of Charleston’s harbor.
- Joining the country’s top aquariums and marine organizations, the Aquarium was designated the 14<sup>th</sup> Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center by Coastal America. Becoming a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center offers a wide variety of resources to the Aquarium, including expert speakers on specific programs and topics, educational publications, lesson plans, exhibit films and more.
- The Aquarium was a proud recipient of the Preservation Society of Charleston’s 2000 Carolopolis Award, an annual recognition for buildings that have been preserved, restored or newly constructed that adds to the beauty of Charleston.
- Charleston-based Matrix Media, Inc. released a 60-minute nature documentary in January 2001, “This Fragile Planet,” which showcases the features and beauty of an aquarium. The film—which is sold in aquariums and zoos across the country—was not only produced and filmed in its entirety at the South Carolina Aquarium, but also features several of the Aquarium staff members.
- The Aquarium is a proud recipient of an Honor Award for Design Distinction in the coveted Excellence on the Waterfront Program. This award is granted by the Waterfront Center and recognizes top-quality urban waterfront projects, comprehensive waterfront plans and outstanding citizen efforts.
- The Aquarium became the 201<sup>st</sup> member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) in September 2001, signifying that the Aquarium stands in the top 10% of all zoos and aquariums in North America.
- Phoenix Award for Community Impact was presented to the Aquarium during the Brownsfield 2002 national conference in Charlotte, NC. Created in 1997, the prestigious Phoenix Awards honor individuals and groups who have worked to solve the environment problem while redeveloping abandoned industrial areas into productive new uses.
- In 2000 and 2001 Charleston City Paper readers chose the South Carolina Aquarium for the *Best New Building Award*.



- In 2002, the South Carolina Aquarium was awarded the AZA award for Excellence in Education. The Aquarium was judged on its ability to promote conservation knowledge, attitudes and behavior, show innovation, and measure success.
- In 2005, the South Carolina Aquarium was given the South Carolina Environmental Education Award, by the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina, for outstanding contributions in environmental education.
- In 2006, the South Carolina Aquarium was awarded the AZA Diversity Award for their High School Intern Program. The high school internship program at the Aquarium gives students the opportunity to work in a science-based field. The program was implemented in 2003 with the long-term goal of developing a pool of qualified minority applicants for science-related careers at the South Carolina Aquarium and all science fields of work.
- In 2007, Charleston City Paper readers chose the South Carolina Aquarium as Charleston's *Best Attraction*.
- The South Carolina Aquarium was accredited for the second time on March 26, 2007 by the Association of Zoo's and Aquariums, signifying once again that the Aquarium remains standing in the top 10% of all zoos and aquariums in North America. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of accredited zoos and aquariums in the areas of animal care, wildlife conservation, education and science. AZA is America's leading accrediting organization for zoos and aquariums, and accredits only those institutions that have achieved rigorous standards for animal health, education, wildlife conservation and science.
- Sustainable Seafood Initiative receives the *2008 Organization Culinary Legends Award* from the BB&T Charleston Food & Wine Festival. The award honors an organization that has made a impact in the culinary community of Charleston, South Carolina and has contributed significantly to Lowcountry cuisine.
- March of 2008, the Aquarium opened CAMP CAROLINA, a major new exhibit located in the Countess Alicia Spaulding-Paolozzi changing exhibit gallery.
- On December 1, 2009 the Aquarium announced the Fourth Annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Gala recipients to include Former Vice President Al Gore, the Charleston Battery and Dr. Emory Campbell.
- In February, 2010, the Aquarium announced it was now debt free after paying off an \$11.5 million opening debt.



- In March 2010, the Aquarium welcomed an albino alligator. One of only 50 in the world the reptile will remain a part of the Aquarium's permanent collection. In welcoming the new animal, the Aquarium's Piedmont Gallery, home to the Blackwater Swamp (the albino alligator's habitat), underwent renovations which allowed for the addition of hands-on interactive activities and additional experiences such as gopher tortoises, rattle snakes and a screech owl.
- In May, 2010, the Aquarium celebrated it's 10-year anniversary.
- February of 2011, the Aquarium's new exhibit "Toddler Cove" opens to the public. It's the first exhibit the Aquarium created specifically for the youngest of visitors.
- March of 2011, the Aquarium opens the renovated Saltmarsh Aviary with a new "Feed the Stingray" experience.