

MARINE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION/EDUCATION CENTER



The Oregon Coast Aquarium plays an active role in conservation and wildlife rehabilitation efforts. It is recognized as an authority and a trusted resource for the health of sea turtles, seals, sea lions, otters, birds, fish and invertebrates. The Aquarium is one of three wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the Pacific Northwest, and the only one in Oregon authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide specialized care to endangered marine life like sea turtles and sea birds. With the warming and rising ocean, the number of stranded marine animals who are off course from their normal migration is rising dramatically.

Partnering with institutions of higher learning, wildlife organizations and local veterinarians, the Aquarium not only aids the animals, it provides practical research opportunities and in-field learning experiences for graduate students and interns interested in environmental impact, animal care and wildlife rehabilitation.

Currently, the Aquarium utilizes old warehouse facilities to diagnose and treat marine life, and contracts with veterinarians both near and far. Facility limitations make it difficult to quarantine injured or ill animals to safeguard the Aquarium's current marine population against disease, and minimize the impact of human contact. Moving a wild animal imposes further stress, and anesthetizing them puts it at undue health risk. To accommodate increased marine life rescue, improve conditions for rehabilitation, and create an opportunity for learning, the Aquarium plans to build a state-of-the-art Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for animal husbandry and veterinary staff to provide critical care to injured or stranded marine animals as well as our own collection. The facility will include indoor and outdoor enclosures, clinical facilities for veterinary diagnostics, observation and treatment. Further, it will be designed with expansive day-lighting and energy efficiency, and seek the highest LEED-rating possible. It will also serve as a teaching facility, affording age-appropriate visitors a clinical view of this vital work in species survival.

