

waterlines

2023 - 2024 CALENDAR



It's no secret why people love the Oregon Coast Aquarium: this is where memories are made, connections are fostered, and generations are inspired.

2023 was another milestone year for the Aquarium. In the spring, our mammalogists assisted in a life-saving mission to detangle a stranded fur seal during a field excursion in Washington State. Just a few weeks later, aquarists announced their progress in developing an effective treatment plan for Sea Star Wasting Syndrome, a deadly set of symptoms that decimated sea star populations in recent years. And, in an ongoing partnership with coastal conservation groups, our research dive team collected vital data concerning the health of Oregon's kelp forests. On the dry side, we opened our new education-focused Discovery Zone and our freshly remodeled Moon Jelly Café. In the fall, construction began in our indoor galleries, paving the way for new exhibits and experiences.

In the coming year, we aim to upgrade our facility, expand our education programs, and break ground on our Sees-Ha Xwee-Nish Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

As we plan for the future, we look to those who helped us get here, knowing we have an ocean of support. Our mission, vision, and progress would not be possible without the dedication of our Board of Directors, donors, members, staff and volunteers: **thank you.**

Sincerely,

Carrie Lewis
President/CEO

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1 Sea of Lights	2 Sea of Lights
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 ☾	5	6	7 Hanukkah Begins	8 Sea of Lights	9 Sea of Lights
10	11	12 ● Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)	13	14	15 Sea of Lights Hanukkah Ends	16 Sea of Lights
17	18	19 ☾	20	21 Winter Solstice	22 Sea of Lights	23 Sea of Lights
24	25	26 ○	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	Aquarium Closed Christmas	Boxing Day (Canada) Kwanzaa Begins			Sea of Lights	Sea of Lights



A FRESHWATER START

At the start of every river lies its headwaters—the origin point where water begins its journey to the sea. The Aquarium’s Headwaters feature greets guests at the start of their visit, its babbling stream leading visitors towards the native flora and fauna found throughout our grounds.

Connect with nature at the Oregon Coast Aquarium at aquarium.org/exhibits/grounds

American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Kwanzaa Ends
New Year's Day

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Epiphany

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Ocean Acidification Day

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Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

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Tu B'Shevat

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A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR SUNFLOWER STARS

Sunflower stars are a keystone species, native to the Northeast Pacific Ocean. Voracious predators, they keep urchin populations in check, preventing the destruction of offshore kelp forests that serve as vital habitat for marine life. While their numbers were decimated by Sea Star Wasting Syndrome, juvenile sunflower star sightings are becoming more and more frequent, fueling hope of the species' recovery.

In 2023, Aquarium staff found two dozen sunflower stars in Newport's Yaquina Bay; read about the latest aquarium news at aquarium.org/news

Sunflower Sea Star, *Pycnopodia helianthoides*

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY




TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2  Groundhog Day	3
4	5 Constitution Day (Mexico)	6	7	8	9 	10 Lunar New Year
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16 	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24  Flag Day (Mexico)
25	26	27	28	29		



SPRING BREAK ON THE BEACH

Every year, spring breakers flock to the Oregon coast—not for white sands and sunshine, but for adventure and exploration. As the tide recedes, ocean amateurs and sea savants take to the rocky shores and wind-swept beaches, eager to see otherworldly species previously hidden beneath the surface.

Plan your visit with the tides in mind:
aquarium.org/tide-chart

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2
3 ☾	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day Maha Shivaratri Begins	9
10 ● Daylight Savings Time Begins Ramadan Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16 ☾
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Eastern Orthodox Lent begins	19 Spring Equinox	20	21	22	23 Purim Begins
24 Palm Sunday	25 ○	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter	Holi		Enrichment Day		Good Friday	



FUELING DISCOVERY

“How do sharks breathe?” and “Do rays have bones?” and “What do anemones eat?” These are the questions asked and answered in our Discovery Zone. The zone is equipped with biofacts, activities, and education staff, all dedicated to inspiring tiny hands and young minds. At the Discovery Zone, the scientists of tomorrow can explore today.

Ocean literacy is at the core of what we do; learn more about our education efforts at aquarium.org/education

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Laylat al-Qadr

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Eid al-Fitr

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National Volunteer
Appreciation Week
Begins

Tax Day

National Volunteer
Appreciation Week
Ends

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Earth Day
Passover Begins

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Passover Ends



SEAL PUP SEASON

Each spring, harbor seal pups cover Oregon's shores; their fuzzy, sausage-shaped bodies strewn along sandy beaches and rocky outcroppings. For the first 4-6 weeks of its life, a seal pup spends most of its time resting ashore as its mother forages nearby. If you see a pup on the beach, give it space and let it lie. It's likely alone, not abandoned. If you suspect the pup is injured or at risk, call Oregon State Police at **800-452-7888**.

Learn more about the harbor seals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium: [aquarium.org/mammals](https://www.aquarium.org/mammals)

MAY 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Battle of Puebla Day
(Mexico)
Eastern Orthodox Easter

International
Migratory Bird Day

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Mother's Day

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Victoria Day
(Canada)

Aquarium Summer
Hours Begin

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31

Memorial Day



REHABILITATION EFFORTS

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is one of only three facilities in the Pacific Northwest authorized to provide critical care to endangered marine species, like sea turtles, snowy plovers, and sea otters. To expand our capacity for helping injured, stranded, and vulnerable animals, the Aquarium aims to build the Sees-Ha Xwee-Nish Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The name of the center is “Na-Dené,” meaning “Ocean Life,” and will allow us to further serve Oregon’s marine wildlife.

Learn more about the center at givetooaquarium.org/build-marine-rehabilitation-center/

JUNE 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3	4	5	6 ●	7	8 World Ocean Day
9	10	11 Shavuot Begins	12	13 ☾	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17 Eid al-Adha Begins	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice	21 ○	22
23 Shavuot Ends	24	25	26	27	28 ☾	29
30	St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec)				Pride Day	



DIVING FOR DATA

Our scientific dive team contributes to ongoing research; aboard research vessel *Gracie Lynn*, staff tag broadnose sevengill and tope sharks, taking measurements and muscle samples to provide researchers with crucial data. Below the surface, divers conduct surveys to document biodiversity and deploy tracking equipment to capture animal movements.

This research acts as the foundation for long term conservation planning—one of many ways the Oregon Coast Aquarium takes action for our ocean.

See the highlights here:
[youtube.com/OrCoastAquarium](https://www.youtube.com/OrCoastAquarium)

JULY 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Canada Day

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Independence Day

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Muharram Begins

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Shark & Ray
Awareness Day

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Ashura Begins

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Moon Landing
Anniversary

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AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

Ambassador animals take center stage at our outdoor amphitheater, giving guests the chance to see eye-to-eye with Oregon's wildlife. Visitors learn about birds of prey by meeting a quick-witted American kestrel, while our Virginia opossum highlights backyard wildlife and best practices. Pacific banana slugs show off the role of coastal composters, and guests gain new insight as a kind-eyed rubber boa dispels stigmas surrounding snakes.

Our ambassador animal program continues to expand—get to know the ambassadors at aquarium.org/ambassador-animals

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2 Rockfish Day	3
4 ●	5 Muharram Ends	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 ☾	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 ○ Raksha Bandhan	20	21 Tuna Fishery Day	22	23	24
25	26 ☾ Janmashtami	27	28	29	30	31



CRUCIALLY CUTE

Sea otters are a keystone species, their presence promoting the health of offshore kelp forests. While once prolific along Oregon's coast, their populations were decimated during the height of the fur trade. Currently, the sea otters at Oregon Coast Aquarium are the only sea otters who call the Oregon coast their home. In connecting visitors with these charismatic creatures, we aim to inspire ocean conservation.

Watch daily sea otter feeds and enrichment sessions at aquarium.org/otter-cam

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Labor Day

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Aquarium Winter Hours Begin

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Ganesh Chaturthi

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Vulture Awareness Day

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Grandparents Day

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Independence Day (Mexico)

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International Peace Day

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Autumnal Equinox

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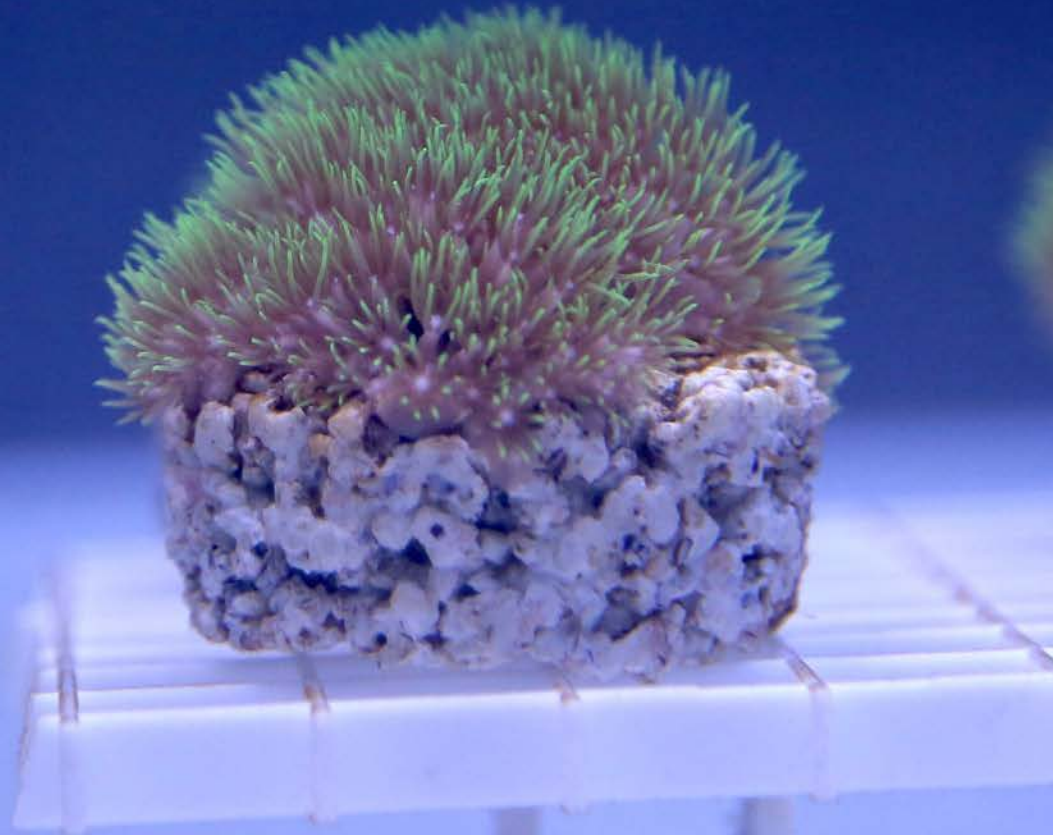
27

Sea Otter Awareness Day

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COASTAL CONNECTIONS

The Pacific Ocean connects the Oregon coast and all of us to incredibly diverse animals and places, and we are all empowered to safeguard its health and inhabitants. The Aquarium gives visitors the chance to view vibrant species found in and beyond the Pacific; in expanding our collection and improving our galleries, guests can see eye-to-eye with even more of the ocean's most unique creatures.

Learn more about what's to come at aquarium.org/about/future

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Rosh Hashanah Begins

Navaratri Begins

Rosh Hashanah Ends

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Yom Kippur Begins
Navaratri Ends

Dussehra

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Indigenous People's Day

Sukkot Begins

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Sukkot Ends

Simchat Torah Begins
United Nations Day

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Diwali Begins
Halloween

Harbor Seal, *Phoca vitulina*



ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

As the gifting season approaches, consider starting a chain reaction of compassion: by symbolically adopting an Aquarium animal. You can help us provide the highest quality food and medical care to our marine mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates. Adopt a specific individual or a species representative, and know your contribution makes a difference.

Find your new best friend at
aquarium.org/adopt

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1 ● All Saints Day	2 All Souls Day
3	4 Daylight Savings Time Ends Diwali Ends	5 Election Day	6	7	8 ☾	9 Sea Turtle Day
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 ○	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 ☾	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 ●



SET SAIL WITH SEA OF LIGHTS

Each winter, visitors see the Aquarium in a new light—thousands of them. In the weeks leading up to December, our groundskeepers install props and string lights throughout the facility in preparation for Sea of Lights, our month-long holiday light event. Beloved by coastal locals and travelers alike, Sea of Lights is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the season.

Join the fun! View our full Calendar of Events at aquarium.org/calendar

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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International
Day of Persons with
Disabilities

Sea of Lights

Sea of Lights

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Our Lady of Guadalupe
(Mexico)

Sea of Lights

Sea of Lights

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Sea of Lights

Winter Solstice
Sea of Lights

22



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Aquarium Closed
Christmas

Hanukkah Begins
Kwanzaa Begins
Boxing Day (Canada)

Crab Fishery Day
Sea of Lights

Sea of Lights

29

30



31

New Year's Eve



THANK YOU DONORS

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Oregon Coast Aquarium relies on tax-deductible contributions, admission fees and membership dues to meet operating expenses. Our mission is to create unique and engaging experiences that connect you to the Oregon coast and inspire ocean conservation. By donating, you play a crucial role in supporting exceptional animal care, wildlife rehabilitation, conservation efforts, education, outreach and so much more. No matter the amount, your contribution makes a difference.

We recognize each of our donors at [aquarium.org/donors](https://www.aquarium.org/donors)





ROCKFISH DONORS

Rockfish donors show unyielding support for our mission. Remarkable for their commitment and dedication to the Aquarium, their annual gifts contribute to the quality care of our animals and the maintenance of our exhibits, while also supplementing the Aquarium's education efforts and conservation programming.

Learn more and join the Rockfish Society Donor Circle at aquarium.org/support/rockfish





LEAVING A LEGACY LIKE A SEA STAR

Sea stars are known for their unmatched ability to regenerate cells, allowing these creatures to heal and grow rapidly. When you become a Sea Star legacy donor with a planned gift, you ensure growth and strength for future generations.

True legacy includes the values and capital we leave for future generations. The Oregon Coast Aquarium relies on philanthropic support to expand and meet the needs of our coastal communities. Whether planning your financial future, retirement or estate, consider options that support both your altruistic ideals and economic goals.

Leave your legacy at aquarium.org/support/planned-giving

PAVING THE WAY

You can help the Aquarium build a foundation of lasting support, one brick at a time. Through our Buy a Brick program, you can choose to engrave a brick with your name, in honor of another individual, or with a personalized message. This tax-deductible gift acts as a permanent commemoration of your support that you can revisit again and again.

Make your mark at aquarium.org/bricks

Horned Puffin, *Fratercula corniculata*



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As a private non-profit organization, the Oregon Coast Aquarium relies on tax-deductible contributions and membership dues to support our vital work.

Your annual membership helps maintain and bring in new exhibits, rehabilitate injured marine wildlife, and provide education about the ocean and its inhabitants. Enjoy unlimited free admission for a year, plus many other benefits, while supporting us in inspiring conservation.

Learn more at aquarium.org/membership

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Permit No. 5300

 OREGON COAST
AQUARIUM
2820 SE Ferry Slip Road
Newport, OR 97365



YOUR GIFT HELPS OUR MISSION

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is a nonprofit organization dedicated to public enjoyment, education and research. The Aquarium strives to be a center of excellence for ocean literacy, and plays an active role in conservation and animal rehabilitation efforts. Through our programs and exhibits, we connect visitors with the Oregon coast and inspire ocean conservation—an endeavor made possible thanks to your support.

Join our cause at aquarium.org/support

THE LATEST

Stay up to date with the latest Aquarium news: subscribe to our e-newsletter and connect with us on social media at aquarium.org/subscribe

