



# Fact Sheet

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## **OCEANARIUM FACT SHEET**

Shedd Aquarium's Oceanarium transports guests more than 2,000 miles from downtown Chicago to the Pacific Northwest coast bringing them face-to-face with the natural habitat of dolphins, whales, sea otters and sea lions. The Oceanarium opened in 1991, and has been seen by nearly 2 million visitors per year. Shedd chose a Pacific Northwest setting for the Oceanarium for guests to become more aware of the plight of North America's vanishing temperate rain forests and encourages each visitor to support the protection and conservation of these fragile environments. Second, marine mammals found in the Pacific Northwest include species such as beluga whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins and Alaska sea otters — animals that many people from Chicago and the Midwest may never have an opportunity to see in the wild.

## **OCEANARIUM RENOVATION:**

For the first time since its opening in 1991, the popular 3-million-gallon saltwater Oceanarium underwent major renovations. Over a period of nine months, all five pools were recoated, animal habitats received routine maintenance, and the latest technology in animal life-support, heating and cooling systems were installed. In early May 2009, the beluga whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins and other animals returned to their renovated homes in Chicago from their temporary locations at partnering aquariums and zoos accredited by the same organizations that accredit Shedd: the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

## **RENOVATION BY THE NUMBERS:**

- **1,100** tradespeople worked around the clock for nine months to accomplish the project.
- **300** hours were spent underwater by the team polishing and perfecting the acrylic windows of the underground viewing area.
- **700** total gallons of Epoxy- and Urethane-based pool coating were required to paint five pools.
- **950** total gallons and over **50** different colors and types of acrylic- and oil-based wall and ceiling paint were used to complete the project.

## **ANIMALS IN THE OCEANARIUM:**

- Beluga whales
- Pacific white-sided dolphins
- Alaska sea otters
- California sea lions
- Rockhopper and Magellanic penguins
- Tide pool fishes
- Invertebrates

**OCEANARIUM HABITATS:**

Whale Harbor	2 million gallons	Otter Cove	40,000 gallons
Secluded Bay	400,000 gallons	Veterinary pool	35,000 gallons
Misty Passage	200,000 gallons	Sea lion pool	22,000 gallons
Penguin Shore	60,000 gallons	Tide pools (including PPZ)	2,000 gallons

**OCEANARIUM TEMPERATURES:**

Air:	68 degrees Fahrenheit	Penguin Shore maintains an air temperature of
Water:	55 degrees Fahrenheit	about 68 degrees Fahrenheit and a water
		temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

**DAILY DIET:**

Together, the animals in the Oceanarium consume approximately 650 pounds of herring, mackerel, pollack, smelt, squid, shellfish and other restaurant-quality seafood each day.

**EAST FACADE WINDOWS:**

A curtain wall of 215 windows stretches 475 feet from the east facade of the Oceanarium, offering a sweeping vista of Lake Michigan.

**POLAR PLAY ZONE:**

Ten acrylic windows in the Polar Play Zone (also known as Underwater Viewing) are 20 feet wide and seven feet high.

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