

# MEDIA INFORMATION

3720 Stephen M. White Drive • San Pedro, CA 90731 • Phone 310-548-7562 • Fax 310-548-2649



A facility of the City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks

## Did You Know...

- In the early 1930s, Los Angeles City Lifeguards organized a collection of local sea life collected by beach-goers on a table at Venice Beach. The collection was moved temporarily to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks building and then moved permanently to the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse in 1935. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium originated at a museum.
- Cabrillo Marine Museum continued to accumulate collections of local and foreign marine and non-marine objects. From the 1940s through the early 1970s, maritime exhibits and active educational programs for schools and the public developed.
- During the 1950s, local marine phenomena, such as grunion fish spawning on the beach and migrating gray whales, were incorporated into unique and highly popular programs that continue to this day. The programs were recognized nationally by National Geographic magazine in May 1969.
- In the early 1970s, the facility became overcrowded with exhibits and the building structure was aging. A new facility was designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry to expand upon the success of the original museum. The new facility opened to the public in 1981.
- After sitting dormant for many years, the community's treasured and historical bathhouse underwent renovations beginning in summer 2000. In October 2002, the beautifully restored Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse opened to the public.
- In the late 1990s, in an effort to expand its ability to provide the community and visitors with even more up-close-and-personal hands-on learning experiences, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium embarked on an ambitious expansion plan and capital campaign. The expansion, which nearly doubled the size of the facility, opened to the public in October 2004.
- Cabrillo Marine Museum was instrumental in the founding of the American Cetacean Society, the oldest whale conservation organization in the United States.
- Volunteers contribute more than 35,000 hours annually in supporting Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's tours, gift shop, programs, special events, office and administrative support and serving as trained whalewatching naturalists.
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has more than 500 active volunteers.
- Despite its relatively small size and staff, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium serves more than 350,000 people a year. This includes (numbers are rounded):

150,000	General visitors
95,000	Free exhibit and beach tours for school children
45,000	Festivals and other special events and activities
38,000	Whalewatching boat trips for schools and families
30,000	Outreach program with "Octobus" vans for school children
16,000	Sea Lab workshops and field trips for schoolchildren and adults
9,000	Unique late-night grunion programs for families
500+	Trained adult and junior volunteers and interns.
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has an exhibit of rare black jelly fish. Recorded sightings of these jelly fish have only occurred on four occasions in 1926, 1965, 1989 and most recently in summer 1999 when an adult medusae drifted into the Los Angeles Harbor.
- The new Aquatic Nursery allows Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's staff and volunteer scientists to expand their work in the area of aquaculture. Visitors can watch the successful culturing techniques that have reproduced grunion, black jelly fish, moon jelly fish and bright orange garibaldi, the designated California state marine fish.
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has more than 160 different species of Southern California marine life on display, the largest collection in the world.
- Exhibit animals eat more than 3,000 pounds of mackerel and 100 pounds of squid every month. Other food sources include shrimp, plankton, crabs, anchovies, sardines, Purina fish mix, seaweed and mussels.

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