

News Release

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**PHOTOS
AVAILABLE**
Digital images of
Marine Lab, aquariums

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Zoo visitors can make a splash on Ocean Day

TACOMA, Wash. — Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will offer three days of special activities June 6-8 in celebration of the 14th annual World Ocean Day.

The international observance calls attention to alarming declines in ocean health. Most of the world's 17 major ocean fisheries are in decline, important coastal habitats are rapidly disappearing, and coral ecosystems are experiencing unprecedented deterioration.

The newly renovated Marine Discovery Center, which offers several touch tanks, aquatic exhibits and interactive activities, will be the center of the celebration at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Festivities on June 6 and June 7 include creating a three-dimensional ocean mural, aquarium scavenger hunt and kid-friendly programs on water quality, in addition to regularly scheduled aquarium programs.

On June 8, the date of the international World Ocean Day celebration, local environmental groups will offer passport activities for young Zoo visitors. Children also will be able to learn about the importance of oceans in their lives and ways they can help take care of them. North Pacific Aquarium dive or feed presentations will be offered at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. that day.

All activities are free with Zoo admission.

World Ocean Day is coordinated by The Ocean Project, an international network of 450 aquariums, zoos, museums and conservation organizations, including Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. The agency helps coordinate global activities to call attention to degradation of the seas. For more information, go online to www.TheOceanProject.org

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Celebrating 100 years of bringing together people and animals, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo & Aquarium Association.