

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY REPRODUCTION PROGRAM

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Dolphin Discovery opened its first facility in 1994 and since has sustained significant growth. In 1999, Dolphin Discovery started a reproductive management plan that yielded its first successful birth in 2001. The same year, Dolphin Discovery's bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) population was registered in the North American Regional Studbook for Bottlenose Dolphins. In 2003, two California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) gave birth to 0.2 pups. Elements that have been key in our reproduction program include: population management, preventive medicine, close social structure monitoring, use of operant conditioning, and facility size and design.

We will discuss our plan for the training of this new generation of marine species conceived in our reproduction program. The animals born at our facilities are ambassadors to the many guests that visit us.

TRAINING OF SEA LIONS BEHIND THE GLASS OF AN UNDERWATER OBSERVATORY

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NAUSICAA recently began working with pinnipeds through the glass of their underwater observatory. Several challenges were faced when developing the underwater training plan with animals that previously participated in a more mainstream public presentation. Overcoming these obstacles provided the opportunity to create a dynamic presentation for the public. The goals and successes of this ambitious training project will be discussed.