



Sensory Guide

A guide intended to make it easier for parents to plan activities for children on the autism spectrum, by providing insight on how sensory processing issues may be affected.

Disclaimer: The assessors believe the information in this assessment report to be correct at the time of printing. The assessors do not accept responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of this information. This should not be relied upon as an exhaustive record of all possible risks or hazards that may exist or potential improvements that can be made.



Animal Exhibits

Sensory Guide



SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



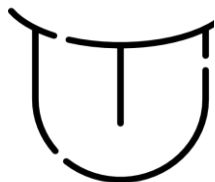
Admissions Area & Tank

This is the first tank you see at arrival. The admissions area is where you will check in for your visit and receive a hand stamp with permission. We also have Dive Log Books which guide guests throughout their journey with interactive activities at certain tanks in the aquarium. You may also choose to pick up these here.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

1

3

1

4

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Don't Touch or climb into the tank
- Place hands by your side at all times
- The coral décor and fish may appear colorful to guests who are sensitive to colors, which is indicated by the high Sight sensory rating.
- **Warning:** There is a wave machine in the tank that releases a large amount of water **once every minute**.

Animals to Check Out

- Dogface Puffer
- Regal Tang
- Yellow Tang
- Engineer Goby

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



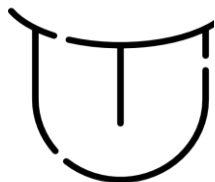
Photo/ Introduction Room

This area includes a green screen where you and your family can take photos. This is optional and not mandatory. Next, you will go into the double doors, which will remain open, into our "submarine." Normally a video plays, but we will have it off for the event. You will simply walk through the "submarine" and into the aquarium.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

1

1

1

1

3

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- All photos are optional and you can bypass at any time.
- Doors will remain open for the Introduction Room, where the video will remain off.
- The colors in the Introduction Room are a bit bright, which is why we rated it as a 3 for sight.

Animals to Check Out

- None! This is just a stop to begin your Aquarium Journey.

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



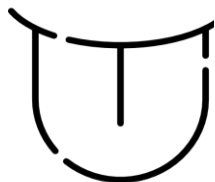
Catawba River

This exhibit showcases local aquatic life commonly found in the Carolinas, particularly the Catawba River.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

2

4

2

1

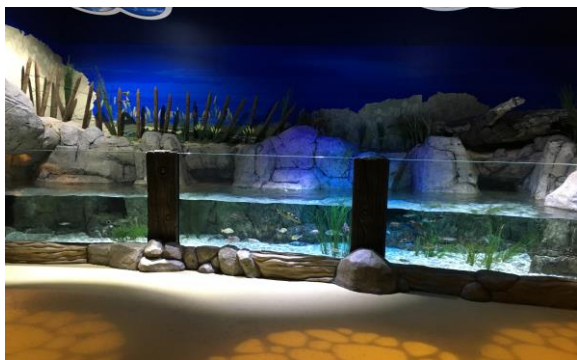
Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Don't touch or climb on the tanks.
- Do not place hands in the tank, keep hands by your side at all times.
- Don't climb on the rocks around the tanks.
- **Tip:** The Catfish are always on the right portion of the tank, down at the bottom.

Animal to Check Out

- Largemouth Bass
- Bluegill
- Channel Catfish

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



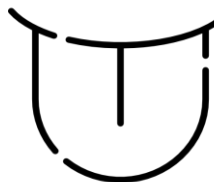
Sandy Shores

As you move through the aquarium, it starts with animals local to the region, working your way to more Tropical animals. Sandy Shores showcases a unique variety of fish and horseshoe crabs.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

1

2

4

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Don't touch or climb over the tank.
- Place hands by your side at all times.
- Don't climb on the rocks.
- **Warning:** There is a wave machine that produces movement in the water a few times every few minutes, creating a constant water flow.
- **Horseshoe crabs:** These animals are very clumsy and will flip over from time to time. If you see one upside down, just find a host and they can tell a member of our Displays team to turn the crab back over.

Animals to Check Out

- Horseshoe Crabs
- French Angelfish
- Scrawled Filefish

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



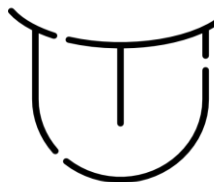
Tidal Touchpool

This is our main interactive activity at the aquarium. Guests will be able to touch a variety of animals, allowing them to get closer than ever before. However, we will have an alternative tool where guests can touch non-living objects that mimic the texture of the animals in the tank.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

5

1

5

2

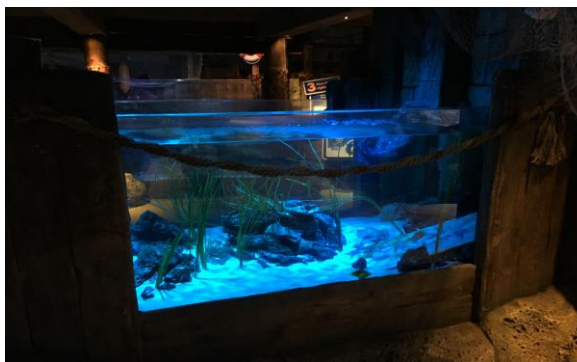
Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Touching is encouraged, but you must do a gentle, 2 finger touch on all animals.
- No climbing on the rocks or diving into the tanks.
- All animals must remain in the water at all times. No animal can be picked up out of the water.
- You will need to stand in the designated spot in the station line to wait your turn, to allow plenty of space for each guest to touch. The host who is stationed there will tell you when it is okay to come up to touch.
- **Warning:** the cleaner shrimp tend to move the quickest, as soon as hands enter the water.
- There is a hand sanitizer station directly across from Touchpool. We encourage you to wash your hands after touching.

Animals to Check Out

- Slipper Lobsters
- Cleaner Shrimp
- Chocolate Chip Sea Stars

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



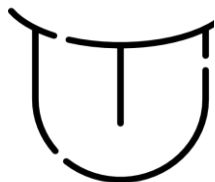
Harbour

This area includes three main tanks featuring a variety of animals. It begins with the tank pictured to the left, moves to a bubble tank with garden eels, and then a larger tank with a variety of fish and a spiny lobster.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

1

3

2

3

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Keep hands down by your side at all times.
- Don't climb on any display items and place hands in the tanks.
- The female Yellow Stingray is currently in quarantine preparing to give birth to two pups.
 - The fish in the stingray tank tend to hide in the stones, so keep an eye out for those.
 - **Warning:** there is a water pump in this tank that can be a bit loud.
- The Garden Eels rise from the sand and blend in with the grass, so look closely.
- The Spiny Lobster tends to hide at times, but it is normally in either bottom corner or along the back wall.

Animals to Check Out

- Yellow Stingray
- Spiny Lobster
- Black Drum Fish

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



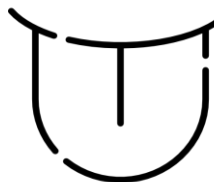
The Shoal

This is a semi-circle shaped room that features Silver Moonies swimming in one direction. However, some fish tend to go the opposite direction occasionally.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

1

1

5

1

4

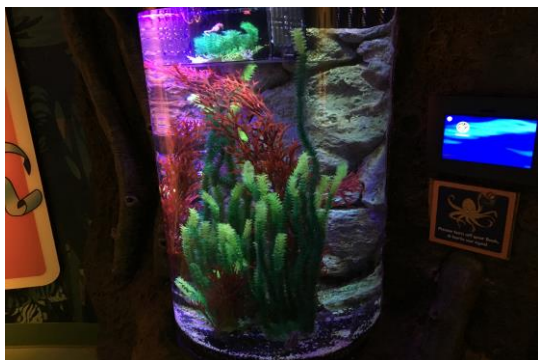
Guest Guidelines/Tips

- The fish are shiny, so may be overwhelming for some.
- There are bubble machines in the tank which helps the water current.
- **Warning:** The room echoes so sound can be very loud at times.

Animal to Check Out

- Silver Moonies

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



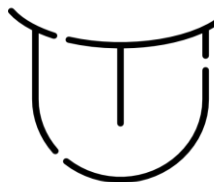
Seahorse Nursery

This includes three separate tanks featuring a variety of fish, a turtle, and our Seahorse Nursery where you can see the babies that were bred and born here on site.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

4

3

1

1

4

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Don't climb on any of the displays or the tree branches.
- Please keep hands by your side when approaching the Four-eyed Fish Tank.
- Watch your head when going under the bubble for a closer view.
- **Warning:** There is a water stream in the Four-eyed Fish Tank. Sometimes these fish can splash as well.
- **Tip:** The Mandarin Gobies are hard to find at times, but are normally in the back of the second tank, closest to the tree.
- **Tip:** The Seahorse Babies are in the smaller, upper left corner in the Seahorse tank.

Animals to Check Out

- Four-eyed Fish
- Potbelly Seahorse
- Diamondback Terrapin

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



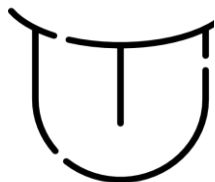
Stingray Bay

This is one of our larger exhibits in the aquarium. It features a wide variety of fish, stingrays, and sharks. This space also has benches for quiet resting areas, if any should be needed.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

2

3

1

2

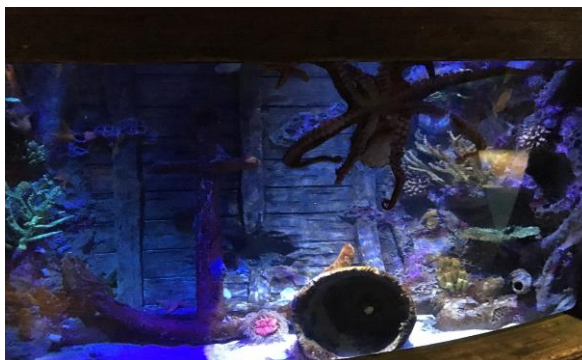
Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Don't climb on the glass or reach over and place your hands in the tank.
- Keep hands by your side at all times.
- There is an area behind the tank where you can go to see different, closer views of the animals. **Warning:** this space is tight and not as open.
- **Warning:** This area is chillier than the previous exhibit and you begin to hear the blower over the ocean tank, which may be a bit loud.
- **Warning:** There are fake pirate skeletons (on the left) as you leave Stingray Bay. These are to remain untouched and are just for décor.
- **Tip:** The Blue Spotted Fantail Rays tend to bury themselves under the sand so try and see if you can spot them!
- **Tip:** Look inside the tubes to see the Epauvette shark or the California Horn Shark- that's their favorite hiding place.

Animals to Check Out

- Shovelnose Guitarfish
- White Spotted Bamboo Shark
- Brown Banded Bamboo Shark

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



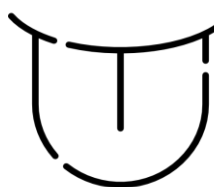
Shark Shipwreck

This exhibit features our Giant Pacific Octopus tank, our Lion Fish Tank, a sneak peek of the Ocean Tank, and another tank with clown fish and regal tangs. This area is very chilly compared to other areas of the aquarium, due to the octopus' preferred temperature.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

1

1

1

1

3

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- **Warning:** There is a change in ceiling height coming from Stingray Bay.
- The lion fish tank is a bubble magnifying animals that are swimming further away.
- There is a video showcasing a Giant Pacific Octopus, which will be on in case the octopus is not active at the time.
 - **Note:** There will be a host there to point out where the octopus is hiding if she is. There will also be a stuffed octopus that guests can touch if they would like.
 - **Tip:** If the octopus is hiding, she tends to be in the upper or lower corners of the tank. Her favorite spot is the upper left corner.
- **Warning:** the lighting is much darker compared to Stingray Bay.

Animals to Check Out

- Lion Fish
- Giant Pacific Octopus
- Clown Fish
- Regal Tang

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



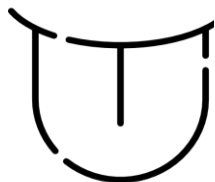
Claws

This is our limited time exhibit that we will have until the end of 2019. Claws features a variety of animals including: Giant Marine Isopods, Vampire Crabs, and an American Lobster. Be sure to look closely at the Vampire Crabs, they are purple and have yellow eyes!

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

1

2

1

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- **Warning:** There are Emergency Doors in this exhibit. If you touch them, they will make a loud noise. **Please don't touch.**
- Please enter on the right and exit on the left.
- There is a temperature rise as you come from Shark Shipwreck to Claws, it is warmer.
- Vampire Crabs are small, about 1" across, and love to bury themselves in the sand.
- There is space underneath the Lobster tank to crawl beneath for a different view.
- There is a panel where you can touch different textures to see what different crabs feel like.

Animals to Check Out

- Giant Marine Isopods
- Vampire Crabs
- American Lobster

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



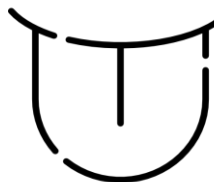
Tropical Ocean Tunnel and Ocean Tank View

Enjoy 180 degree views of our ocean tank, as you walk through our Ocean Tunnel. Sharks, rays, and fish love to swim above you as you walk below. You can see a wide view of our 117,000 gallon ocean tank as you walk out and turn to the right. There are also benches at the view for a resting place as needed.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

2

1

3

1

5

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- **Note:** There are small turtle feet along the floor of the ocean tunnel and following areas. This leads to our Behind-the-Scenes area.
- **Warning:** There tends to be an echo in the ocean tunnel, but it is not as loud as The Shoal. The ocean tank view does not echo, but you may hear the pump and blower system above as the ceiling is open.
- **Warning:** The light tends to move with the effect of the wave, so the glare changes as you walk through.
- **Warning:** It tends to be a bit cooler in the tunnel as AC is blowing throughout.
- Do not climb on any of the coral in the tunnel or outside of it, around the tank view, etc.
- **Warning:** There are mirrors on each side of the tank window.
- **Tip:** Neptune prefers to swim in the view of the tank window and he is normally sleeping in the bottom right corner. The weights on him are to help him swim better, because when we rescued him his shell was damaged, so the weights allow him to swim more efficiently.

Animals to Check Out

- Zebra Shark
- Sea Turtle- Neptune
- Bonnethead Shark
- Southern Stingray
- Cownose Ray

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



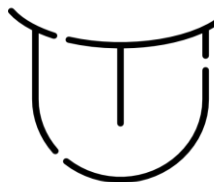
Jellies Exhibit

This is another interactive zone for guests. Guests are encouraged to turn the color dial to change the glow of the Moon Jellies.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1 = low sensory stimulation, 5 = high sensory stimulation)

5

1

4

1

5

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- **Note:** The dial changes the colors of the overhead lights, not the actual jellyfish. More so, the light changes the glow on the moon jellies.
- **Warning:** This area tends to be a bit louder as you hear the overhead blower of the ocean tank.

Animal to Check Out

- Moon Jellyfish

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



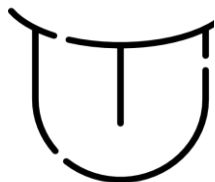
Coral Reef

This small tank draws attention to coral and the coral breeding process. We do not breed coral on site and the coral in the tank is not real.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

1

3

1

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Do not climb on the coral display.
- **Warning:** the small tunnel is low the ground and is a small space. Please use caution as necessary.

Animal to Check Out

- Yellow-tail Damselfish

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



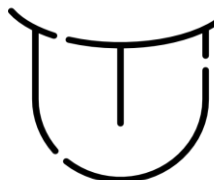
Play Area/Conservation Cove

This area features a soft kids play area, a horseshoe shaped tank, and an area that features signage about recycling and conservation efforts. Because of the play area, the noise can be very loud at times, depending on the children playing. However, there is plenty of benches for resting.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

1

5

1

4

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Shoes must be off when you enter the play area.
- Do not let children fill out surveys on the survey machine (in Conservation Cove) unsupervised.
- Do not climb on any of the coral surrounding the Horseshoe Shaped Tank.
- **Note:** The video in Conservation Cove will be off because the sound tends to be loud.
- **Warning:** The play area can be loud at times and the lights are not dimmed, so may be a bit bright for some who are sensitive.
- **Note:** The room where we will have a safe space with a variety of tools and calming activities is directly across from Conservation Cove.

Animals to Check Out

- Tomato Clownfish
- Damselfish
- Marine Beta Fish



Behind-the-Scenes

Sensory Guide



SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



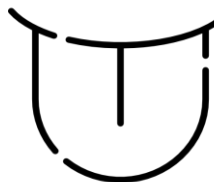
Behind-the-Scenes: Life Support System

This is the first stop on our Behind-the-Scenes tour. However, this is a free-flowing experience and a host will be there to discuss how this Life Support System works. This section discusses the system we filter our water through and how it varies across the different tanks depending on the animals are in it.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

1

1

4

5

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Ask any questions you have to the designated host.
- **Warning:** Because of the kitchen area, it tends to smell “fishy” right after they prepare the food for the day.

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



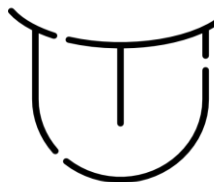
Behind-the-Scenes: Life Support Systems

This is the second stop on our Behind-the-Scenes tour. However, this is a free-flowing experience and a host will be there to discuss how Aquarists test water quality in the lab and perform other necessary tests.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

1

4

5

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Do not go over the blue line, you must remain on the right side of the blue line at all times.
- Do not pick up the shark teeth or touch the display tank.
- **Warning:** the AC is directly blowing along this path, so it is a bit chilly.
- **Warning:** the lights are bright in this area to allow Aquarists plenty of light to work.
- Ask any questions you have to the designated host.
- **Warning:** Because of the kitchen area, it tends to smell "fishy" right after they prepare the food for the day.
- **Note:** There are emergency kits on the wall. Do not touch.

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



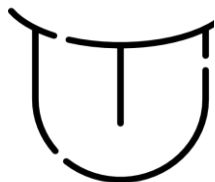
Behind-the-Scenes: Food Preparation

This is the third stop on our Behind-the-Scenes tour. However, this is a free-flowing experience and a host will be there to discuss what Aquarists feed our animals and how they manage the different animals' feeding schedules.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

3

1

4

5

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- Do not go over the blue line, you must remain on the right side of the blue line at all times.
- **Warning:** the AC is directly blowing along this path, so it is a bit chilly.
- **Warning:** the lights are bright in this area to allow Aquarists plenty of light to work.
- Ask any questions you have to the designated host.
- **Warning:** Because of the kitchen area, it tends to smell "fishy" right after they prepare the food for the day.

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



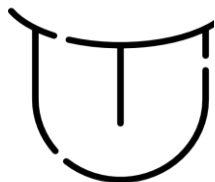
Behind-the-Scenes: Animal Healthcare

This is the fourth stop on our Behind-the-Scenes tour. However, this is a free-flowing experience and a host will be there to discuss how Aquarists take care of animals in quarantine. You will also be able to see our baby stingrays and baby sharks.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

1

1

4

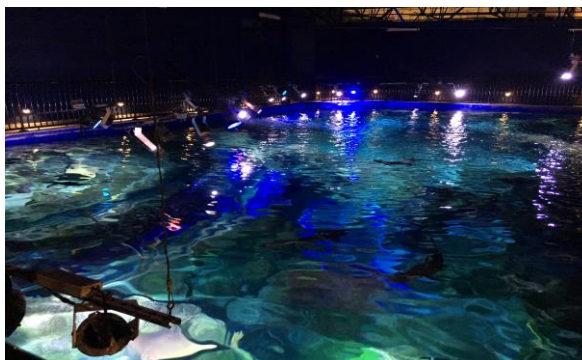
5

2

Guest Guidelines/Tips

- **Note:** the doors are locked, please do not open them.
- Do not touch or open the employees' personal lockers.
- **Note:** the mat in front of the healthcare door is full of disinfectant, so as Aquarists walk in they are not bringing in any germs.
- **Warning:** the lights are bright in this area to allow Aquarists plenty of light to work.
- Ask any questions you have to the designated host.
- **Warning:** Because of the kitchen area, it tends to smell "fishy" right after they prepare the food for the day.

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Sensory Guide



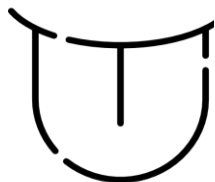
Behind-the-Scenes: Open Ocean Tank

This is the final stop on our Behind-the-Scenes tour. You must walk down a narrow hallway and take the elevator upstairs. However, this is a free-flowing experience and a host will be there to guide you on the elevator and be with you to explain the animals and our 117,000 gallon ocean tank.

TOUCH



TASTE



SOUND



SMELL



SIGHT



Sensory Level (1= low sensory stimulation, 5= high sensory stimulation)

5

1

5

5

5

Guest Guidelines

- **Warning:** you will need to take an elevator to go upstairs to the access point.
- **Warning:** the sound is very loud due to the blower in the ocean tank to create wave movement. This creates a difficulty to see the animals clearly at all times.
- **Warning:** it is very dark and lacks overhead lights. The only lights are spotlights above the tank. However, a host will be there to guide you around the rails.
- **Warning:** sharks and rays swim close to the edge. Do not touch them.
- **Warning:** there is a fountain, water pump at the midpoint of the tank.
- Do not place your hands, feet, or any body parts through the rails.
- Do not climb on the rails.
- Keep your hands by your side at all times.
- Do not touch any of the emergency equipment along the rails.

Animals to Check Out

- Nurse Shark
- Southern Stingray
- Black Tip Reef Shark