Shampe

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



GEORGIA AQUARIUM



2022 RHIBCT

DEAR FRIENDS,

2022 has been another great year of growth and development for Georgia Aquarium.

We welcomed new additions, including Asian small-clawed otters Triton and Han. Both were born at other North American zoological facilities and have acclimated well to their new space. We also built a spacious koi pond exhibit, bringing more color and life into our open atrium area. A new gallery sponsorship, Dolphin Coast presented by Margaritaville Vacation Club by Wyndham, was also added and will continue to bring exciting new changes into 2023.

The Research and Conservation team has been busy working on many projects and scientific papers both here at the Aquarium and around the world. The team started the year in the Galapagos studying a new aggregation of whale sharks and helping to contribute data to our global microplastics project through researching other shark species off Isabela Island. Our Research team also successfully tagged multiple manta rays off the coast of Florida, after working at the Aquarium to develop efficient tagging methods.

Our Education team continued to educate and inspire thousands of students in 2022 through field trips, camps, online lessons and more. We have been grateful for the support of the new symbolic adopt-an-animal program which benefits all Education-led activities. We were also able to continue to support students from Atlanta's Westside district by selecting ten more students to receive the Georgia Aquarium College Scholarship. This support helps pave the way for these deserving students to achieve their academic goals and encourage future scientists.

Again, this year, I want to thank you deeply for your continued support of Georgia Aquarium.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Davis

Dr. Brian DavisPresident & CEO
Georgia Aquarium

Georgia Aquarium
is a nonprofit
committed to
inspiring awareness
and preservation of
our ocean and
aquatic animals
worldwide.



365 DAYS OF FUN, FACTS & FIGURES AT THE AQUARIUM



Georgia Aquarium is proud to offer engaging and exciting guest experiences that promote the conservation of aquatic biodiversity throughout the world—and it takes exceptionally talented, hardworking staff members and volunteers working around the clock to operate one of the largest aquariums in the western hemisphere.



be our guests

Purchasing tickets or memberships

help maintain our in-house research facilities but also support Georgia Aquarium in our larger outreach efforts.



Other events benefiting our mission programs included Aqua Vino, Fish & Chips Golf Tournament, and Science on Tap.

annual 5K race! Runners braved the cold for this Peachtree Road Race Qualifier. We also had participants run or walk virtually, even from abroad with six participants from the UK, India, and Germany! All proceeds benefited our vital Research and Conservation initiatives.

events

Georgia Aquarium offers memorable venues for fundraisers, black-tie galas, corporate dinners, as well as formal and informal events.



57,000 guests participated in our Behind the Seas Tours, getting a sneak peek at the inner workings of our facility



Almost 7,000 guests spent the night in one of our galleries through our Sleep Under the Seas program, including general guests, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts

Helped almost 4,000 guests celebrate at the Aquarium through our **Birthday Party programs**



overall membership sales increase in 2022 compared to 2021

Event attendance hit

approximately 100,000 guests

Hosted over 600 events, close to our 2019 event levels!

\$1 million+ in catering

sales in multiple months

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Total number of students

Total Sponsored Education Admissions (SEA) students

Total Georgia schools

education

Georgia Aquarium's school programs provide opportunities for students to discover the aquatic realm in an immersive, standards-based learning environment.



raised for Education Programs (including STEM camps, robotics workshops, teacher professional development, and community outreach) through our symbolic Adopt an Animal Program

May the 4th Be With You Celebrated our Cognia STEM Certification and Inaugural STEAM Day on May 4th, which included Star Wars characters in the atrium

Total instructor-led programs (individual programs)



In 2022, Georgia Aquarium became a Center for Species Survival (CSS) through a partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), part of the world's largest environmental conservation organization. The Aquarium is one of just three such Centers in the United States and was tapped for our expertise in marine species conservation. These new partnerships help our research and conservation work become a more structured part of the global conservation community, unifying under One Plan to assess, plan and act to reverse negative wildlife trends.

As a Center for Species Survival, Georgia Aquarium's work will include:



Conducting additional assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which identifies and evaluates species threatened with extinction



Planning conservation projects and hosting workshops



Conserving endangered species living at the Aquarium



Training other zoos and aquariums on effective species conservation work



In March 2022, Georgia Aquarium was honored to host renowned marine biologist and Explorerin-Residence at the National Geographic Society, Dr. Sylvia Earle. Over the course of her multi-day visit, Dr. Earle participated in two events to speak to our local community, as well as met with Georgia Aquarium Leadership to go behind the scenes at the Aquarium and learn about our research, conservation, and education programs, and to discuss a partnership between us and her organization, Mission Blue. Mission Blue advocates for public awareness and support of a network of marine protected areas called Hope Spots—scientifically identified as areas critical to ocean health.





Through this collaboration we have championed the nomination of St. Helena Island, one of our whale shark research sites, as a Hope Spot which should be designated in 2023. We are also working towards nominating other areas, including the Prince William Sound in Alaska.

Dr. Earle has broken barriers in the field of marine science and ocean exploration for women over the last 50 years. During her visit, we wanted to offer a chance for her to share her experience in a fireside chat style event. This unique event was specifically for women in the fields of science and education with topics focused on ocean science, conservation, and policy interface. Guests included employees in these fields at Georgia Aquarium as well as invitees from the Atlanta community.

Dr. Earle has been a pioneer of exploring and advocating for the ocean for decades, this visit began an exciting partnership, and we are looking forward to being able to work with Mission Blue on these vital efforts for years to come.

volunteers

As a non-profit, Georgia Aquarium depends on the help of extraordinary volunteers and interns to continue our mission.

new volunteers onboarded in 2022

volunteer hours
(an average of 7.7 hours/
volunteer per month)

intern hours

teen volunteer hours
(an average of 112 hours/
teen per session)

total program hours



Number of participants per program

volunteer programs

interns

teen volunteer programs

in-person volunteer appreciation event held since 2019

Research & Conservation interns were piloted in paid internships over summer 2022



volunteers celebrated 15+ vears of volunteer service in 2022 AROUND THE AQUARIUM

new

Every day, our team at Georgia Aquarium is learning more about marine life in order to develop new methods animal care, training, and veterinary medicine.

Our Dolphin Animal Training and Production teams worked in tandem to produce an all-new seasonal dolphin presentation, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!", showcasing dolphins' natural behaviors and educating guests on training methods and conservation practices.

BIRTHS



Five **pufflings** were hatched, reared, and have fully fledged. Now on exhibit in the alcid habitat.

Two eagle ray pups and one sandbar shark pup were born onsite in our Ocean Voyager gallery.



TRAINING



Sea otters, sea lions, seals and Asian smallclawed otters were trained to voluntarily receive their covid vaccines and all are now vaccinated. This is such a huge accomplishment and our trainers worked very hard to achieve this goal!

The African penguin training program continues to grow by leaps and bounds, including voluntary blood sampling, x-ray, and color discrimination behaviors.



SPOTLIGHT

Sanctuary Celebration





October 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary system. Fifty years ago, the U.S. ushered in a new era of ocean conservation by creating the **National Marine Sanctuary** System. Since then, they've grown into a nationwide network of 15 national marine To bring attention to this wonderful milestone in ocean conservation, we added an exhibit to our Ocean Voyager gallery. This new exhibit, sponsored by PrintPack, features a large format wall projection outlining all National Marine Sanctuaries, and an immersive installation focusing on Georgia's own sanctuary: Gray's Reef. Additionally, on the 12th of October, the Aquarium welcomed John Armor, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, along with eight colleagues, for a luncheon and evening event to commemorate the occasion.





Georgia Aquarium is proud to be a scientific institution with offerings that are educational, entertaining and inspiring, that also serves as a community resource anchoring downtown Atlanta.

PROVIDING UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Georgia Aquarium hosted 25 children and adults with critical illnesses through various organizations in 2022. These visits are tailored to each individual's interests, and requests have spanned from swimming with whale sharks or meeting a sea lion to being a penguin doctor. These visits provide a time of respite for families and bring them joy and laughter in the midst of treatment.

It is our honor to host these families, and we look forward to continuing these specialized experiences in the years to come.

GEORGIA AQUARIUM GIVES BACK

In 2022, Georgia Aquarium impacted our local area through organized community service efforts by staff.



Assembled and donated 800 sandwiches to My Sister's House, a shelter for women and children.



Packed and donated 72 meal kits to Must Ministries, providing a week's worth of meals for students who otherwise struggle with food insecurity during summer break.



Gathered 1,000 lbs of trash out of a watershed with Chattahoochee River Keeper.

Other community service initiatives included a back-to-school drive supporting Dobbs Elementary, a Title I school, a hygiene drive, holiday toy drive and tree planting with South Fork Conservancy.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

With support from The Coca-Cola Company, we were able to unveil the Aquanaut Express—an outreach vehicle to visit schools and provide amazing experiences for those that otherwise could not make it to the Aquarium. The RV includes outreach animals, scientific animal tagging and tracking data, and coral conservation information.

Georgia Aquarium has also partnered with City of Refuge to host a satellite classroom, the Innovation Lab. Our Education Department will travel to the Innovation Lab to teach programs to K-8 students with outreach animals and engaging activities—all made possible with support from Chick-fil-A and Georgia-Pacific.

inspiring THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our commitment to provide support to Atlanta's Westside district continues, with the Georgia Aquarium College Scholarship. This support helps pave the way for ten deserving students from Booker T. Washington High School to achieve their academic goals as future scientists.

FUN WEIRD SCIENCE

25 female students from Yeager Middle School, a Title I school, were selected to participate in Fun Weird Science. A camp that engaged the students in hands on and exciting science activities with the goal to encourage more young women to pursue careers in the STEAM field. Made possible with support from NCR Foundation.



We also hosted a special ROV (remotely operated vehicle) Camp with funding from David and Carolyn Gould. 12 minority, female students already involved in STEM classes at Sweetwater Middle School, a Title I school, participated in a five-day camp in April 2022. Aimed to inspire the students towards careers in STEAM, the group built a MATE Angelfish ROV unit, learned about women in STEM throughout the week, and concluded with piloting the ROV and testing their work!





Georgia Aquarium and our Military Salute program's founding partner, The Home Depot Foundation, are proud supporters of our armed forces and are committed to serving the brave men and women, active and retired, who have served us.





VETERANS IMMERSION PROGRAM (VIP)

This program provides adjunct therapy during rehabilitation and reintegration as wounded military personnel swim or dive with whale sharks in Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot or cage dive in Sharks! Predators of the Deep. We have successfully organized and funded travel to veterans' groups that would not have the ability to attend our VIP events otherwise; and expanded our reach to veterans in 27 different states, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam. Over 1,000 veterans were able to participate in this program in 2022.



In partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, we also were able to host 12 deserving non-military groups in 2022. This included groups from Special Olympics Georgia, Shepherd Center, Alabama Special Camp for Children and Adults and BeLoved Atlanta, as well as transplant and cardiac patients from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Our Veterans Field Immersion Program provides veterans with meaningful and fulfilling experiences in the field. We took four trips diving off the reefs of Jupiter, Florida collecting multiple types of marine debris and trash to help keep the marine environment as clean as possible. Participants also spend time in the classroom learning the importance of keeping our ocean environments clean, and how to safely remove debris in fragile ecosystems before participating in the service project.

MILITARY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

2022 brought back our Military Volunteer **Program**, providing special opportunities for Georgia Aquarium's Military Volunteers. Volunteer opportunities included:



Service Projects at Piedmont Park

Veterans' events at



Gold Star Family Days



Georgia Aquarium



Representing Georgia Aquarium at the Georgia Veterans Day Parade

MILITARY MONDAYS

Georgia Aquarium provided free admission for nearly 3,000 veterans in 2022 on our Military Mondays promotion during November and December.

BATTLE BUDDIES DAY

We organized and hosted a day for service animals in training to roam the Aquarium with their trainers to help the animals learn to cope with large crowds and distractions. These animals will go on to be paired with servicedisabled veterans as their lifelong Battle-Buddies.



GOLD STAR FAMILY DAYS

We hosted 3 Gold Star Family Days to serve families that have lost loved ones in service to this country. We were able to provide a completely free experience for all families at the Aquarium including admission, meals, and animal interactive programs, as well as photos and videos of their experience here. Families also participated in ceremonies and flag presentations honoring their fallen loved ones.





Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Florida Georgia Guam Hawaii

Alabama

Kentucky Maine Maryland Massachusetts Missouri Montana **New Jersey New York** North Carolina

Illinois

Ohio Oklahoma Oregon **Puerto Rico** South Carolina **Tennessee** Texas Virginia Washington



ZEBRA SHARK REHABILITATION PROCESS

LAY

Eggs laid in accredited aquariums

RELEASE

Juveniles are tagged and released into designated marine protected areas

MONITOR

Individual sharks are tracked and monitored

Eggs transported to local hatcheries in Indonesia

CARE

Local teams manage the welfare of the pups

EDUCATE

Local communities are taught the ecological importance of sharks and their recovery effort



RESHARK AND THE STAR PROJECT

ReShark is an international. collective effort of over 60 conservation organizations, aquariums, government agencies, and more, dedicated to recovering threatened shark and ray species around the world. These groups work together to ensure efforts are sustainable, culturally respectful and add value to both the local environments as well as the communities who live alongside them. Sharks help balance the food web and are important to the ecosystems they live in. They maintain the species below them by removing sick and injured prey and improve the health of prey populations by increasing species diversity.

Zebra shark (Stegostoma tigrinum) populations in the wild have drastically declined due to habitat loss and depletion from the shark fin trade and are now listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List.

The StAR Project, led by the West Papua Provincial Government and the Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, seeks to reestablish a healthy population of zebra sharks by bringing aquarium-bred egg cases to hatcheries in protected areas of Raja Ampat for rearing and release.

One of the objectives is to not just provide any eggs but genetically appropriate and diverse eggs so that once reintroduced, these animals can thrive in their natural habitat. Zebra sharks often produce parthenotes—eggs developed without the presence of a male—so embryos must be checked to determine if parthenogenesis has occurred. Research from Georgia Aquarium has contributed towards parthenogenesis detection methods as well as a better understanding of reproductive biology of these animals.

Georgia Aquarium has also contributed to the husbandry practices of this project by assisting with creating husbandry manuals for breeding institutions and hatcheries, designing and commissioning of the life support systems, participating in mock shipments of eggs and sending representatives to train aquarists in the hatcheries.

In August 2022, the first three eggs were shipped and after a long journey, successfully arrived at one of the hatcheries in Indonesia. This exciting milestone even included a blessing of the eggs by locals. Shortly after, zebra shark pups Audrey, Charlie and Kathlyn were hatched. Once old enough, the juvenile pups will be tagged and make their way to a sea pen before being released into the lagoon in early 2023.

The proven breeding success and husbandry expertise of accredited aquariums, like Georgia Aquarium, are critical in the recovery of this species.

ZEBRA SHARK

SCIENTIFIC NAME Stegostoma tigrinum

ANIMAL FACT Juveniles are dark with yellowish bars, lending to the name, "zebra shark," while the coloration of adults is tan with dark spots.

CONSERVATION STATUS Endangered















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Georgia Aquarium has partnered with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to carry out field research on the biology of manta rays (Mobula sp. cf. birostris) one of the largest fish in the ocean. This project also included participants from Shedd Aquarium, Kennedy Space Center and Stanford, as well as other volunteers. The team was able to tag five oceanic manta rays with acoustic tags and used a fishing method successfully used in the past on reef manta rays on oceanic manta rays for the first time.

Our Research and Conservation and Ocean Voyager teams began with in-house tag testing on one of our oceanic manta rays, Blue. With the goal to refine a new tag design to determine best methods for attachment, the team worked alongside Arribada Initiative, a UK based engineer team, to design a tag package that can be attached to the dorsal surface of a manta ray via vacuum cup and compressed air. This new tag design has been effective and we have had 12 successful attachments so far.

This research will determine potential overlap between oceanic manta rays and BOEM's marine mineral extraction activities off the Southeastern United States. By better understanding aspects of the oceanic manta ray's life history, such as site fidelity, migration patterns, and fine-scale habitat use, BOEM can implement future mitigation policies to reduce risk of potential interactions.

REHABILITATION EFFORTS

Rehabilitation programs are an important part of Georgia Aquarium's mission. With dedicated staff and resources, we can help not only animals that call Georgia Aquarium home, but also offer temporary housing and rehabilitation to animals in the wild.

LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES



We received eight cold-stunned loggerhead sea turtles that were rescued off the coast of New England. The Aquarium's animal care and veterinary teams have since provided exceptional care for these animals

so that they can be returned to the wild.

Six of the eight rescued turtles were cleared to be returned to the ocean in March 2022 off Little Talbot Island beach, near Jacksonville, Florida. The remaining two will continue to receive care until they are strong enough to be released.

JAMAICA

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Beginning work in March 2022, Georgia Aquarium participated in coral and fish transect surveys in Jamaica. This work was done alongside local scientists at the request of the Government of Jamaica. We conducted a



marine ecological assessment and community dialogue towards the establishment of two new Fish Sanctuaries (no-take zones) around the island. This program will culminate with the designation of these sites as Marine Protected Areas by June 2023.

FLORIDA

MANATEES





Georgia Aquarium joined the Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP) to provide emergency care and housing for manatees in distress. The MRP is a cooperative of aquariums, zoos, government agencies, NGOs and marine parks that rescue and respond to manatees in distress, rehabilitate them, and return the animals back into Florida waters where they are closely monitored.

Florida manatees are in a crisis due to starvation and loss of habitat. The seagrasses they need to survive are disappearing due to water pollution in the Indian River Lagoon. There are currently only five critical care facilities for manatees in Florida, including SeaWorld Orlando. Once the manatees' conditions are stabilized, it's ideal to move those manatees to secondary care facilities to free up space in the critical care facilities. Operating as an extension of SeaWorld's permit, Georgia Aquarium can now receive manatees that are past the critical care stage.

Two orphaned manatee calves, a male and female, arrived at Georgia Aquarium from SeaWorld Orlando in March 2022. Both calves were too young and small to be returned to the wild, weighing under 200 lbs. each. They will be cared for at Georgia Aquarium's Animal Care Facility until they are closer to 600 lbs. and the veterinarians determine they are ready to be prepared for their return to Florida waters.

2022 PRESENTING SPONSORS

Our Presenting Sponsors represent Georgia Aquarium's highest level of sponsorship. These companies help support our mission to inspire awareness and preservation of our ocean and aquatic animals worldwide.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is made up of a group of dedicated individuals who have brought their impressive combined experience into one group. Together, they are committed to steering Georgia Aquarium into the future.

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MARGARITAVILLE





SAND TIGER SHARK

SCIENTIFIC NAME Carcharias taurus

ANIMAL FACT Sand tigers are the only shark species that will swim to the surface and swallow air to regulate buoyancy.











THANK YOU TO **OUR DONORS**

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we rely on the support of our community to ensure that we can continue our groundbreaking research initiatives, conservation efforts, educational programs, and community partnerships. By supporting Georgia Aquarium, these generous donors allow us to make a positive impact on the health and welfare of aquatic life from around the globe and remain at the forefront of aquatic science.

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2022 INCOME STATEMENT

REVENU

Admissions	\$110,298,572
Commissions & Events	\$16,327,305
Fundraising & Memberships	\$9,903,985
In-Kind Contributions	\$663,470
Total Revenue	\$137,193,332
EVDENCES	

EXPENSES

Total Expenses	\$105,052,764
Other Expenses	(\$301,841)
Fundraising	\$338,152
Support Services	\$33,573,727
Program Services	\$71,442,726

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$32,140,568

2022 BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash & Investments	\$109,550,532
Prepaids & Other	\$2,536,899
Receivables	\$13,573,964
Property, Plant & Equipment, Net	\$419,408,223
Total Assets	\$545,069,618

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$16,983,951
Deferred Revenue	\$7,589,603
Debt	\$57,435,817
Other, Operating Lease Liabilities	\$1,522,291
Total Liabilities	\$83,531,662
NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Postrictions	\$434 085 123

\$436,085,123
\$25,452,836
\$461,537,959

\$545,069,621

Note: The statements shown above are condensed versions of our audited financial statements and do not include footnote disclosures. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS



Starting at our inception, Georgia Aquarium has always been dedicated to bringing the ocean to Atlanta—and continuously growing and changing with our city. We have committed to bringing new exhibits, animals and experiences to our guests every year. Most recently, this took the form of our spectacular gallery **Sharks! Predators of the Deep**. Developments like these are some of our biggest endeavors, forever changing not only the face and footprint of Georgia Aquarium, but the experience for millions of visitors every year. By supporting us through generous donations, you become a part of our mission.

We are already planning our next major expansion set to open in the coming years, for the first time growing beyond the original walls of the Aquarium. While we are reviewing multiple concepts, we are devoted to creating an innovative outcome that will continue to allow us to advance our important research, animal care and conservation work. This project will require over \$200M in funding over the next five years.

Georgia Aquarium opened our doors in November 2005. Every year, we need to repair, replace and rebuild parts of our facility to ensure we have the highest quality habitat for our animals, including behind the scenes areas, veterinarian facilities and life support systems. These additions, repairs and updates will require over \$38M in funding over the next five years.

\$137.2 M OPERATING REVENUE 84% Earned Revenue

8% Commissions

7% Charitable Giving, Memberships & Fundraising Events

1% In-Kind Contributions

\$105.1 M OPERATING EXPENSES

57% Animal Care

32% Management & Administrative Support

6% Research, Conservation, Education & Guest Programs

5% • Visitor Services

30 🔀 GEORGIA AQUARIUM

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A

S DA CHANGE

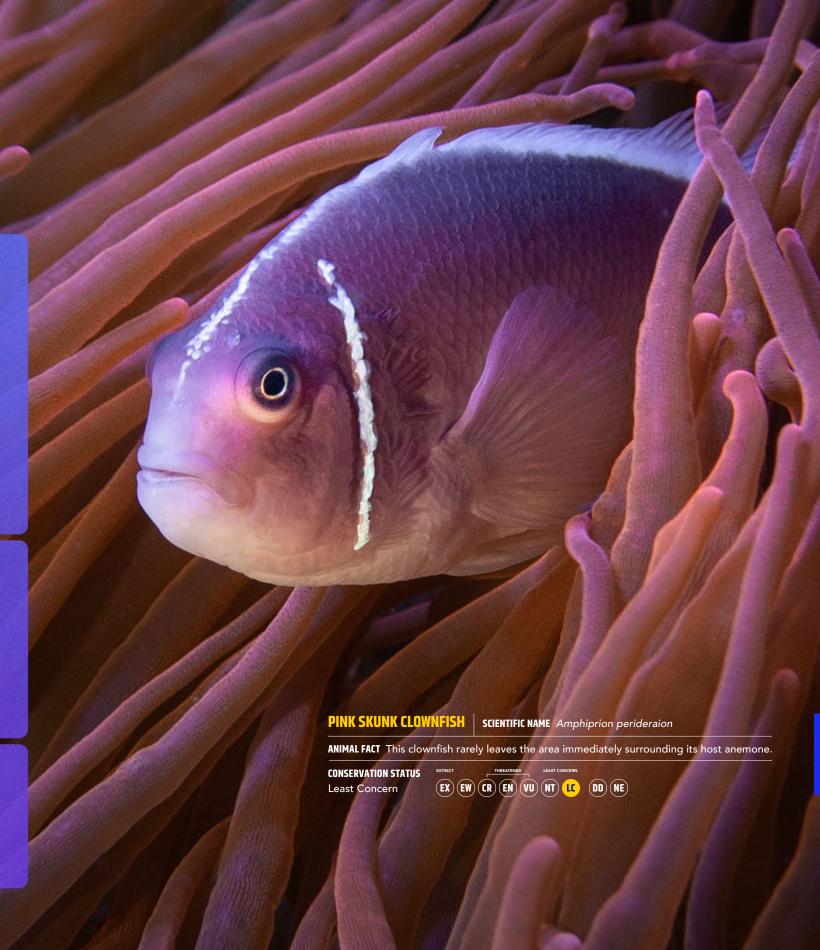
Georgia Aquarium is a nonprofit committed to inspiring awareness and preservation of our ocean and aquatic animals worldwide.

In order to continue these efforts, we need your help.

PLEASE SUPPORT GEORGIA AQUARIUM

Together, we can create a sea change—in our ocean, and for the wondrous life that inhabits it. You can support the work being done in our facility and in the field through a tax-deductible contribution to Georgia Aquarium. Your contributions are vital to the success of our mission. We couldn't do this without you!

For more information on how you can help,
please contact our Development department at
404.581.4136 or DEVELOPMENT@GEORGIAAQUARIUM.ORG
or visit WWW.GEORGIAAQUARIUM.ORG/SUPPORT.





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