

NEWS RELEASE

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Images available upon request

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Sales for Fishes

(Virginia Beach, VA) – Making sales is the key goal of any director of retail position but at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center sales are likely to translate into food and operational equipment for its animals. Ready to take on the challenge is the Aquarium's new director of retail, Marie Napoli who said, "I've worked in museums and now I'm ready for fishes!"

Napoli, who began February 1, brings twenty-five years of specialty retail experience. Her last position was with the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, Virginia, where she planned, designed, opened, and managed the store of a new \$66 million facility. Napoli also served for eleven years as the buyer and store manager of the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, Georgia.

Other experience includes managing a National Park Service store as well as her own gift shop. Napoli was treasurer of the Museum Store Association Board of Directors and president of a regional museum store association. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Napoli will manage the two Aquarium stores, one at the Ocean Pavilion and one at the Marsh Pavilion. Marie said, "I'm so happy to be here in Virginia Beach. I've always wanted to live near the water. But it was the great job that attracted me, so having both is ideal."

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. The Aquarium is among the first attractions in the state to become certified as a Virginia Green Attraction. It is an authority on the state's aquatic and marine environments featuring more than 800,000 gallons of aquariums and live animal habitats, plus hundreds of hands-on exhibits. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with extended summer hours to 6 p.m., the Aquarium is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard in Virginia Beach. For more information, call (757) 385-FISH (3474) or click on VirginiaAquarium.com.

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