



Animal training at Mare Nostrum Aquarium, Montpellier-France

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Many facilities around the world train terrestrial and marine mammals and birds, but few people think it is possible or indeed useful to attempt the same level of training with fish as trainers do with dolphins or sea lions. From the beginning of the Mare Nostrum Aquarium, it was decided that animal training of emblematic fish and penguins under veterinarian control would be part of the aquarist's duties, in addition to life support system control, cleaning and feeding, and visitor edutainment.

This presentation describes Mare Nostrum's team's first steps and progress in training animals such as Sawfish (*Pristis microdon*), Bowmouth Ray (*Rhina ancylostoma*), Zebra Shark (*Stegostoma fasciatum*), as well as African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). It highlights the choices we made in order to complete all the aspects of the aquarist's job, the tools we had to design and use, the errors we've made, and the results we have achieved after four years.