



Open Seas

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In 2011, Monterey Bay Aquarium's million-gallon Outer Bay Waters and surrounding exhibits re-opened as the newly renovated Open Seas. This presentation provides an overview of the new Open Seas Galleries; shares the integrated exhibit components that aim to advocate and inspire ocean conservation; and highlights how we have reduced the environmental impact of construction and operations.

After decommissioning the Outer Bay Wing we took ten months to significantly modify life support systems and install live animal exhibits and newly integrated messaging. 'High-tech' interactives, Diving Bird and Sea Turtle exhibits, theatrical lighting and a state-of-the-art offsite animal holding facility all support the Open Seas Exhibit.

The original impetus for the modification was based on a desire to re-theme the exhibits and upgrade the overall visitor experience. Ultimately the need for infrastructure repairs became a key driving force. The final planning process and product reflects the results of numerous integrated goals that influenced animal selection, exhibit and life support design, and construction strategies. At the heart of the planning process was the desire to contribute to conservation and sustainability through the engagement of visitors. Along the way, many features were incorporated to minimise our environmental impact.