

## National Aquarium Standard Development in China

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There are about 200 public aquariums in China currently. The number of aquariums has grown rapidly from the mid-1990s through now. This rapid growth presents a challenge: balancing the welfare needs of animal collection and husbandry with the demanding requirements of aquarium construction and aquarium management. Two national systems of aquarium standards, focused primarily on marine mammals, have been developing since early 2000. One system, called the “National Vocation Standards for Marine Mammal Trainers”, was issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security in 2005. The second system focuses on aquarium construction and animal welfare, including minimum spatial requirements for facility, water quality standards, studbook requirements, etc. Parts of this second series standard were issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in 2013, while additional standards are under review or development, which will be releasing successively in the future.