

Public Aquariums in Russia. Past, Present, and Future

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It is little known that at the close of the 19th Century, Russia was one of the leading aquarium countries in the World. Unfortunately, a tragic chain of events during the first half of the 20th Century set aquarium science in Russian back, as the rest of the World moved forward. During the era of the Soviet Union, public aquariums were represented by small expositions in zoos. However, at the beginning of the 21th Century, the situation started to change: large commercial aquariums were designed, built, and opened for visitors in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and even in far-flung regions of Russia, such as Siberian Kogalym and Novosibirsk. In addition, some public aquarium projects were supported by the Federal Government, for example the Primorsky Aquarium in Vladivostok and the aquarium in the Museum of the World Ocean in Kaliningrad. As this trend of growth continues, the public aquarium community in Russia must strive to optimize welfare standards for the animals in their care, and optimize exhibition quality and service for their visitors.