

Admission is **FREE** to all exhibits and events. Donations are appreciated.

## VISITOR CENTER HOURS

**Tuesday through Saturday:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.    **Sunday:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

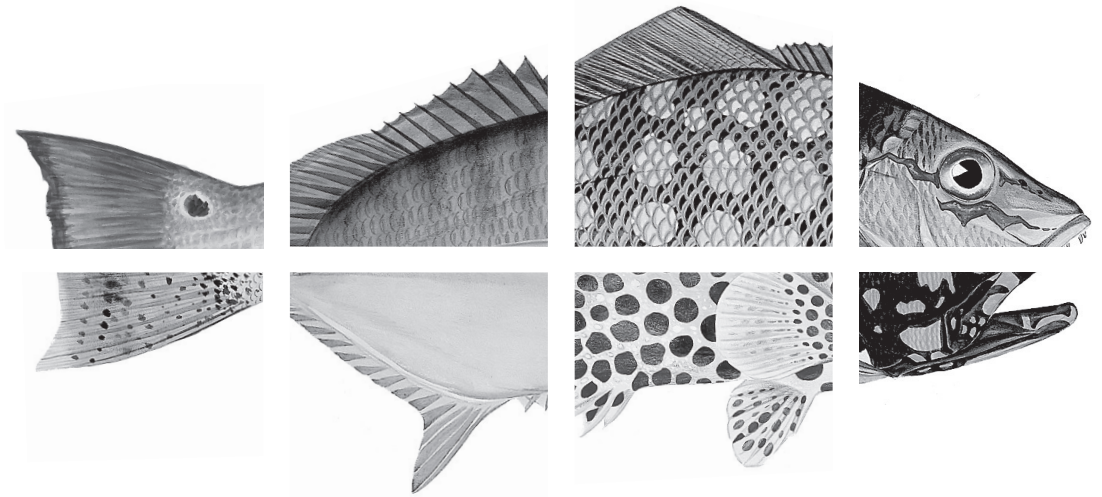
Closed Mondays and the following holidays:

New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

Check the Sea Center Facebook Page for any additional closures.

## WETLAND WALKWAY HOURS

**April through October:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.    **November through March:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## EVENTS

<b>Hatchery Tours</b> <i>Reservations recommended</i>	9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Saturday
<b>Aquarium Fish Feeding Times</b>	10:30 a.m., Wednesday and Friday
<b>Story Time</b> <i>Reservations recommended</i>	10:30 a.m., Saturday 10 a.m., third Friday of each month
<b>Youth Fishing Pond Events</b> <i>By reservation for groups of 10-20</i>	First and third Wednesdays of each month
<b>Christmas with the Fishes</b>	1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, December 2, 2017
<b>Nature Day</b>	10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 2018
<b>Public Fishing Days for Youth</b> <i>No reservation required</i> <i>Rods, reels and bait not provided</i>	1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 2018 8 a.m. – 10 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2018 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, September 15, 2018
<b>Halloween Spooktacular</b>	1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Sunday, October 28, 2018

# SEA CENTER TEXAS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to Sea Center Texas, a marine aquarium, fish hatchery and education center. On your self-guided tour you can explore our visitor center which houses a variety of Texas sea life and enjoy a stroll down our outdoor wetland boardwalk. The next page contains a map and information to guide you through our exhibits. Dates and times for special events and programs are listed on the back cover of this leaflet.

Sea Center Texas is also home of the largest redfish hatchery in the world. Guided hatchery tours are available by reservation. More information about hatchery tour reservations can be obtained at the guest registration area in the visitor center.

Sea Center Texas opened in 1996 and is operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in partnership with the Coastal Conservation Association and The Dow Chemical Company. No food is available for sale at the facility. Picnic areas for large groups are located nearby at MacLean Park. The facility is accessible. Binoculars, a wheelchair and a walker are available for use on a first-come, first-served basis.

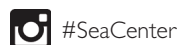


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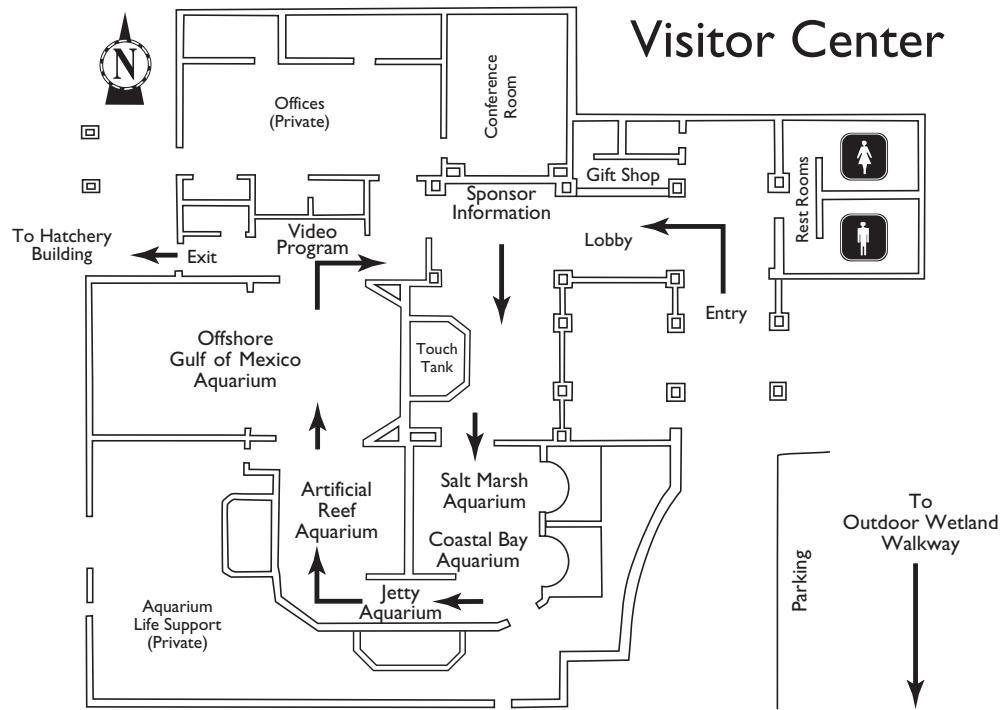
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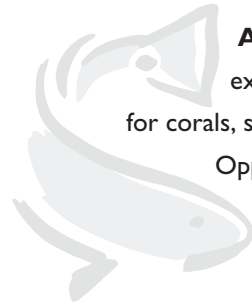


**Visitor Center Lobby** – Impressive replicas of state-record saltwater fish greet guests.

**Touch Tank** – A shallow tank with crabs, anemones and snails allows visitors to experience marine life up close. Located opposite are boxes revealing ocean mysteries.

**Salt Marsh, Coastal Bay, and Coral Reef Aquaria** – In the salt marsh exhibit you can see stone crabs, killifish and juvenile redfish and trout. At the coastal bay aquarium, view species such as redfish, hardhead catfish, black drum, croaker and tripletail cruising over an oyster reef bottom. Opposite, a coral reef aquarium highlights corals, urchins, starfish and anemones.

**Jetty Aquarium** – Granite boulders recreate a man-made jetty complete with barnacles and other shelled animals. Spotted seatrout, black drum, pinfish, sheepshead, flounder, scorpion fish and snook hover among the pilings and rocks that spill across the bottom.



**Artificial Reef Aquarium** – This 5,000-gallon exhibit features habitat created by offshore platforms for corals, sponges, grunts, triggerfish, groupers, and eels.

Opposite, a smaller aquarium highlights tropical fish.

**Gulf of Mexico Aquarium** – The centerpiece of the exhibits is a 50,000-gallon Gulf Aquarium.

A grouper flaps his fins slowly and stares back at onlookers, while red drum, jack crevalle, horse-eye jacks, tarpon, spade-fish and snapper constantly circle in the open water.

**Video Program and Sport Fish Restoration Program Information** – Enjoy a 10-minute video tour of the largest redfish hatchery in the world and learn how anglers contribute to Texas fish restoration efforts.

**Sponsor Information and Rubbing Tables** – Sea Center Texas was created by a unique partnership between state government, private industry and a conservation organization. Rubbing tables and crayons provide a spot for visitors to create marine artwork.

**Gift Shop** – Unique merchandise pertaining to sea life and coastal resources is available. Donation boxes adjacent to the gift shop collect funds to assist in operating the facility.

**Outdoor Wetland Walkway** – Adjacent to the visitor center is a 5-acre wetland exhibit that includes shallow freshwater and saltwater marshes and an elevated boardwalk. Adjacent to the walkway are demonstration wildflower and hummingbird gardens.

## SEA CENTER TEXAS GUIDED HATCHERY TOUR

Visitors must be accompanied by a guide to tour the hatchery. The hatchery building is engineered for low-maintenance, semi-intensive fish production.

The high-tech life support systems are tailored for species such as redfish and speckled trout. Mature adults are housed in the hatchery and induced to spawn naturally in tanks. Eggs are transferred to incubators and hatched. The tiny, 1-millimeter larvae are then stocked in ponds to be grown out. The fish, called fingerlings, are harvested and transported to bays to enhance natural populations and improve the recreational fishery in Texas. The facility's annual production goal is 15 million fingerlings.