

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Aquariums

Name of Fee: Aquariums Admission Fee Schedule

Purpose of Fee: Fee for Admission to the North Carolina Aquariums

Current Fee: See Attached Schedule

Revenue Generated (2002-2003 FY): \$3.7 million

Proposed Fee: See Attached Schedule

Additional Revenue Generated: \$570,000/yr

Projected Total Annual Revenue: \$4.3 million

Rationale for Fee Increase:

Over the past several years, the Aquariums Division has had its State appropriated operating budget reduced significantly. Beginning in FY 1999-2000 and continuing through the current fiscal year, the Aquariums Division has had its State appropriations reduced by \$1,181,891. (The final state budget for FY 2003-2004 includes a reduction of \$42,138 in appropriations for the Aquariums Division.) These reductions in operating funds have been made up by using monies from the Aquariums Admission Fund (2865 Fund). In order to maintain current educational programs, exhibits and services offered by the three North Carolina Aquariums, it is necessary to increase the admission fees at the three Aquariums. Receipted admission funds are budgeted through Fund 2865.

The recommended fee increases are modest increases when compared to existing admission fees at other State attractions and southeastern US aquariums. The recommended fee schedule will still place admission to the North Carolina Aquariums well below admission to the NC Zoo (\$10), Tryon Palace (\$15), the USS Battleship North Carolina (\$9), Roanoke Island Festival Park (\$8), the South Carolina Aquarium (\$14), Ripley's Aquariums at Myrtle Beach and Gatlinburg (\$15.95), the Tennessee Aquarium (\$14), and the Virginia Marine Science Museum (\$10.95).

It should be noted that all registered North Carolina school groups have always been and will continue to be admitted free.

Who Pays: Visitors to the North Carolina Aquariums

Number Affected by Fee: The approximate 1 million individuals that visit the North Carolina Aquariums each year

Inception Date of Fee: 1993

Date of Last Fee Change: March 2002

North Carolina Aquariums Admission Fee Schedule

Current Fee

	Adults	Seniors & Military	Children (6-18)
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island	\$6	\$5	\$4
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores	\$4	\$3	\$2
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher	\$6	\$5	\$4

Proposed Fee

	Adults	Seniors & Military	Children (6-18)
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island	\$7	\$6	\$5
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores	\$4	\$3	\$2
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher	\$7	\$6	\$5