



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW ARRIVAL!

Harbor Seal Born at Atlantis Marine World Aquarium.

It seems like just yesterday when Coral, our youngest harbor seal was born. Now she has a baby sister or brother - and born just in time for the anniversary of the Aquarium's ninth birthday!

Atlantis Marine World Aquarium is proud to announce the birth of its newest resident. On Sunday, June 14 at 11:45pm, female harbor seal, Buoy, Atlantis Marine World's 17-year-old harbor seal, gave birth to a baby seal, weighing 23 lbs.

While the gender is still unknown, Director of Mammal Training, Ann Yaiullo, is encouraged by the care given by mother, Buoy. "The baby is healthy and we're encouraged that mother and baby are adapting well. This should be a lot of fun for visitors to watch this summer."

Mating season occurs annually, generally in late spring through fall. Total gestation is about 9 to 11 months, which includes a period of delayed implantation when the fertilized egg stops growing and remains free-floating in the uterus for one-and-a-half to three months. The fertilized egg then implants on the uterine wall and continues to develop. Delayed implantation assures that the ensuing pup will be born when environmental conditions are optimal for its survival.

Pups are well-developed at birth. Their eyes are open and they follow their mothers, learning to swim right away. Seal pups undergo a nursing period of about four weeks. The average pup will double its birth weight to approximately 50 pounds by the time it is weaned. At maturity, females can top 200 lbs. and can live up to 30 years.

Photo opportunity and interview available all day on Monday, June 22, beginning at 11:00am.

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About Atlantis Marine World Aquarium

On June 15, 2000, Atlantis Marine World (AMW) opened in Riverhead, NY as the first large-scale Aquarium to open in New York State in more than 35 years, Atlantis Marine World (AMW) is situated on 3.2 acres along the Peconic River. General Admission Rates are \$18.00 (plus tax) for Children 3 - 17 and Seniors 62+; \$21.00 (plus tax) for Adults 18 - 61; Children 2 and under are always free at AMW. Aquarium Members enjoy unlimited visits year-round, along with other benefits. Additional information can be found at www.atlantismarineworld.com or by calling 631.208.9200, ext. H2O (426). AMW is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center.

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