

Generic Copy for Guidebooks:

The 93,000-sq ft state-owned aquarium showcases plants and animals of the Cape Fear River, swamps, estuaries, beaches and ocean. A half-acre freshwater conservatory, a touchpool, large ocean tank with sharks, moray eels, stingrays and more. Transitioning to the open ocean from inland freshwater habitats includes a seahorse display, an indoor salt marsh, and a baby loggerhead sea turtle. Exhibits include: an octopus, dart frogs, Pacific reef fishes, spiny lobsters, Hawaiian fishes, and lionfish. Dive shows daily, 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. Feedings at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Free programs include films and live animal presentations. Special activities may require reservations & fee. Details: www.ncaquariums.com.

River Circle Brochure:

N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, expanded in 2002, continues to grow. Visiting is like traveling the length of the Cape Fear River, strolling through estuaries, then descending into the coral-reef canyons beyond the river's mouth. See alligators, sharks, moray eels, sea turtles, stingrays, seahorses and more. New in 2005, sea snakes, cuttlefish, lionfish, and an octopus are now all on display as well. Dialogue with a diver or sign up for a surfing class, canoe trip or summer camp. Gift shop, food and refreshments, outdoor gardens. Open 9 to 5, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Adults \$8; seniors \$7; children (6-17) \$6. South of Wilmington on US 421, just past Kure Beach. From Southport, take the ferry. Info: 910-458-8257.