



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2005

THE PENGUINS ARE COMING! *New Penguin Exhibit to Open at Atlantis Marine World*

The penguins are coming to Atlantis Marine World this summer when it will open its newest exhibit, Encounter, at the Penguin Pavilion.

Construction recently began on the habitat which will feature above- and underwater viewing, nesting and feeding areas, and open stadium seating. Featuring 14 South African Black-Footed Penguins, the year-round exhibit will continue with the Lost City of Atlantis theme on which the Aquarium is built.

The penguins, who were captive bred in South Africa, were received by the Aquarium in April 2004 after being confiscated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an illegal shipment. "Building a penguin habitat has always been on the radar for Atlantis," explains Aquarium Curator and Co-Founder Joe Yaiullo. "Our schedule was pushed up a bit as we wanted to make a home for these 'lost' penguins in our 'lost' city."

The penguins are now waiting behind-the-scenes for their new home. In just under one year of learning each penguin's habits and personalities, they are being named after characters from the sitcom *Seinfeld*. Yaiullo enthuses, "To date, we have Kramer (an eccentric bird who grabs his food in a unique manner), Newman (eats everything in sight), Jerry (very neat and clean; he just sits back and observes), George (eats the food the others drop), and Crazy Joe Davola (high-strung and a bit of a troublemaker)." In the coming weeks blood samples will be drawn to accurately determine their sex and, at that time, they will receive color-coded wing bands for ID purposes.

Atlantis Marine World, Long Island's newest Aquarium, is located in downtown Riverhead on 3.2 acres along the scenic Peconic River. By capturing our visitors' imaginations and emphasizing the importance of marine life and environmental conservation and preservation, Atlantis Marine World's mission is to provide visitors with an interactive and exciting educational experience. Atlantis Marine World is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized stranding and rehabilitation center.

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