



Who's Who in One Health

1. Organization/ Group Name

Georgia Aquarium

2. Description and Scope of One Health Activities

Georgia Aquarium has an obligation to protect and study aquatic species and to be an advocate for the health of their ocean home. By conducting research that leads to a greater understanding of ocean environments, Georgia Aquarium has the potential to improve the health of all species. The Aquarium also provides a remarkable platform for educating people of all ages about the ocean and the ways it is impacted by human activities and vice versa.

Georgia Aquarium has world-class facilities and an international reputation for research that has One Health implications, including using aquatic species such as coral , whale sharks, penguins and marine mammals as sentinels for ocean and human health. Georgia Aquarium's research helps to improve the understanding of the health of marine animals, as well as the emergence of infectious diseases and toxins that impact the habitats of these species.

Research in this area is very focused on the link between marine health and the health of human populations and includes the Georgia Aquarium's ongoing research on bottle-nosed dolphins in central and northern Florida. Many of these dolphins are being affected by newly found or reemerging infectious diseases, suggesting distress in the surrounding environment. Tracking these marine mammals provides a way to evaluate aquatic ecosystems and identify damaging environmental trends, including those triggered by human activities.

3. Type of Organization

Private, Non-Profit Organization

4. Address of Organization/ Group

225 Baker St NW, Atlanta, GA 30313, United States

5. Contact(s)

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6. Organization/Group Website Address

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7. Other One Health Activities/Initiatives

A current research effort is a recent study exploring mercury exposure amongst human residents living along Florida's Indian River Lagoon. Georgia Aquarium, along with researchers from Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute conducted a first of its kind investigation into a possible correlation between high mercury concentrations found in resident dolphins of this ecosystem and the human population eating locally caught seafood. The study concluded that human residents who ate these foods had significantly higher mercury concentrations in their bodies. The results demonstrate how a sentinel animal can help identify a public health hazard.

8. Additional Information

Mission: "To be a premier institution delivering an awe-inspiring entertainment experience which supports animal research and conservation, inspires learning and instills a passion for the aquatic world."