## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## New Low-Riding Dolphin Boat Tour at the Virginia Aquarium

(Virginia Beach, VA) – A brand-new dolphin-watching boat tour experience is now offered at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center! The first of its kind on the east coast, the 70-minute excursion brings guests even closer to wildlife in the new low-riding vessel called the <a href="Atlantic Scout">Atlantic Scout</a>. The new ride is a RIB boat, or a rigid inflatable boat, and hosts 40 passengers with a canvas awning for shade.

Guests are now able to choose from two unique dolphin-watching experiences at the Virginia Aquarium, as the traditional 90-minute tour on the Atlantic Explorer is still offered as well. What makes the Atlantic Scout distinct is that it seats guests at sea level and provides a quieter and more adventurous experience with nature. While cruising, guests will ebb and flow with the waves, so this option may be less suitable for guests who feel motion sickness.

Guests on the Atlantic Scout must be 6 years or older and must be able to navigate stairs. Tickets for guests of all ages are \$34.95. Tickets must be purchased in advance through online ticketing only. A portion of all ticket sales supports the Virginia Aquarium's education, research, and conservation initiatives. Passengers should report to the Aquarium Boat Dock (adjacent to the outdoor Seal Exhibit) at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled tour.

## Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. The Aquarium is also a member of World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Virginia Aquarium's mission is to inspire conservation of the marine environment through education, research, and sustainable practices. It is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard, just south of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach.

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supports the work of the Virginia Aquarium. The Foundation procures and maintains the Aquarium's exhibits, including the animals and habitats. It is also responsible for annual and capital fundraising, administration and funding for the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program, conservation and scientific research efforts, and the Aquarium's mission-related education programs. You can be a part of our mission by making a <u>tax-deductible donation</u> to support our programming.