

Frequent Fliers of a Different Kind Arrive at Tampa International Airport

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (June 11,1999) -- Hundreds of tropical fish from the Florida Keys will soon be arriving at their new homes at Tampa International Airport (TPA).

More than 200 yellow tail damsels, princess parrotfish, harlequin bass, blue tangs, butterfly fish and more from a Florida patch reef are scheduled to arrive at 9:00 a.m. on June 15, 1999, to their two new 1,280-gallon, saltwater tank homes situated on the Red and Blue baggage claim level at the Airport.

Please join us for the "unveiling" and dedication of the Blue Side Marine Exhibit along with refreshments and tours of the Red Side Marine Exhibit.

A partnership between the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, The Florida Aquarium and Lykes Bros. Inc. has created two Florida-themed marine exhibits for the community and the traveling public to enjoy while they collect their baggage or wait at curbside while visiting the Airport.

It was the Aviation Authority's vision to construct the two 12-foot long, \$400,000 marine exhibits. The Florida Aquarium accepted the invitation to fill and maintain the exhibits on a daily basis. This includes collecting the fish, stocking the tanks, feeding the fish, managing water quality and cleaning the tanks. Lykes Bros. Inc. has agreed to sponsor the maintenance cost for The Florida Aquarium for one year.

Additionally, the top band of each marine exhibit was reserved for the work of Public Artists. The Airport's Public Art Committee selected artist Josh Johnson and Elle Terry Leonard, Architectural Ceramics, Sarasota, Florida, to create and install relief ceramic mosaic tile for the Blue Side Marine Exhibit which is titled "El Movimiento del Mar".

Artist E. Joseph McCarty, Custom Tile Studio, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, was selected to create and install a hand-painted ceramic tile mural for the Red Side Marine Exhibit which is titled "Tropical Fish Tile Collage".

9:00 a.m. Refreshments and Dedication

9:15 a.m. "Unveiling"

9:18 a.m. "Late Arrivals" - see the introduction of the last fish to arrive and placed into the tank.

9:20 a.m. Photo opportunities, interviews with Airport officials, Aquarium officials and biologists, and the artists.

9:30 a.m. Red Side Marine Exhibit Tours

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Media Contacts:

HCAA: Brenda S. Geoghagan - (813) 870-8707

The Florida Aquarium: Sue Ellen Richardson - (813) 273-4049

Lykes Bros. Inc.: Chris H. Ward - (813) 273-5446

Marine Exhibits at Tampa International Airport

FACT SHEET:

Tanks:

- Two, 1,280-gallon, saltwater tanks
- located in red & blue baggage claim areas
- visible not only to people waiting for luggage inside, but to those waiting outdoors by curbside
- dimensions: 12-feet long by 4-feet high, by 4-feet wide
- construction cost: \$400,000, funded by HCAA
- Tanks built by Fathom One Aquatics of Palm Harbor

Exhibit Designers:

- Kelly Taaffe Design, Inc.

Architects:

- Fleischman Garcia Architects

Designs Surrounding Tanks:

- Blue Side - relief ceramic mosaic tile by artists, Elle Terry Leonard, & Josh Johnson, Architectural Ceramics, Sarasota, FL;
"El Movimiento del Mar"
- Red Side - hand-painted ceramic tile mural by artist Joseph McCarthy, Custom Tile Studio, Turners Falls, Massachusetts;
"Tropical Fish Tile Collage"

Stocking & Maintenance, Sponsored by Lykes Bros. Inc.:

- provided daily by The Florida Aquarium
- Senior Biologist Sean Coats, and assistant biologist Danette White
- includes collecting fish, filling tanks, feeding fish, managing water quality, & cleaning the tanks

Fish:

- obtained by The Florida Aquarium in March
- result of Aquarium collecting trip in the Florida Keys
- over 200 colorful fish from a Florida patch reef
- species include: cherubfish, yellow tail damsels, princess parrotfish, harlequin bass, blue tangs, butterfly fish - see species list for complete list
- resembles exhibits in the Aquarium's Coral Reefs Gallery

Marine Exhibits at Tampa International Airport

SPECIES LIST:

Common Name Scientific Name Size Quantity

Reef Butterfly	Chaetodon sedentarius	2-3"	8
Cherubfish*	Centropyge argi	2-3"	6
Queen Angelfish	Holacanthus ciliaris	3-6"	4
French Angelfish	Pomocanthus paru	3-6"	4
Blue Tang	Acanthurus coeruleus	2-4"	10
French Grunt	Haemulon flavolineatum	2-6"	20
Small Mouth Grunt	Haemulon chrysargyreum	2-6"	20
Yellow tail damsel	Microspathodon chrysurus	1-3"	2
Blue Chromis	Chromis cyanea	2-3"	10

Blue Hamlet	Hypoplectrus gemma	3-4"	2
Harlequin Bass	Serranus tigrinus	2-3"	2
Lantern Bass*	Serranus baldwini	2-3"	2
Belted Sandfish	Serranus subligarius	2-3"	4
Fairy Basslet*	Gramma loreto	2-4"	12
Princess Parrot	Scarus taeniopterus	4-6"	4
Spotfin hogfish	Bodianus pulchellus	3-4"	2
Puddingwife*	Halichoeres radiatus	3-5"	6
Yellowhead wrasse	Halichoeres garnoti	3-5"	6
Bluehead wrasse	Thalassoma bifasciatum	3-5	12
Neon Goby*	Gobiosoma oceanops	1-2"	20
Redlip blenny*	Ophioblennius atlanticus	2-3"	6
Redspotted hawkfish*	Amblycirrhitus pinos	2-3"	4
TOTAL			

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