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LUMINESCENCE – A CELEBRATION OF AQUATIC LIGHT THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM’S NEW TEMPORARY HOLIDAY FEATURE

Vancouver, B.C. – This holiday season, the Vancouver Aquarium presents a shining new feature, *Luminescence – a celebration of aquatic light*. Discover the fascinating ways in which animals create and reflect light through unique exhibits and shows.

This glowing exhibit looks to answer questions about some of the intriguing animals found in the deepest, darkest parts of our oceans. Interpretative staff will be running daily demonstrations that will investigate phenomena such as bioluminescence and fluorescence. The Aquarium will be featuring both alien looking preserved specimen like viperfish and lanternfish as well as an array of living animals that fluoresce.

“Luminescence is an immersive holiday experience that invites guests to witness and learn about surprising light phenomena that occur in our deep seas,” says Clint Wright, senior vice-president and general manager of the Vancouver Aquarium. “Submerge yourself in our world and see our pink-tipped green surf and mushroom anemones, corals and even scorpions under a different and new light!”

Luminescence is accompanied by *Jelly Swarm*, an interactive light installation created by Tangible Intervention, in collaboration with origami artist Joseph Wu. Over a hundred jellies with LED lights fill the entire ceiling of the entrance gallery. The lighting is controlled at the touch of a button and guests have the ability to create their own patterns of light throughout the amazing swarm hanging above.

Celebrate the holiday season with annual tradition, such as a beautifully lit Christmas tree powered by two electric eels. This dazzling display of electricity and light is created by an amazing animal, one of only a few species in the world that can discharge a huge jolt of electricity.

Experience another Aquarium winter favourite, *The Polar Express 4-D Experience*. Jump on board and smell hot chocolate, feel the rumble of the train and see snow falling as part of this classic holiday film. Making an appearance this winter is *Scuba Claus*. Santa continues to visit the Aquarium every year to swim merrily amongst the halibut, rockfish, sturgeon and sea stars!

The *Luminescence – a celebration of aquatic light* daily show schedule is available online at www.vanaqua.org.

About Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a recognized leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

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