

Eye on the Fleet Photo Gallery 

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Image: 050917-N-0793G-003.jpg

Description: Four dolphins are being placed in a temporary saltwater pool facility at the Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport.

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050917-N-0793G-003 Gulfport, Miss. (Sept. 17, 2005) – Chief Steelworker Carlos Church, left, welcomes one of four Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins displaced when hurricane Katrina destroyed their home at the “Marine Life Oceanarium” in Gulfport, Miss. The dolphins are being placed in a temporary saltwater pool facility at the Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport. U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program personnel from San Diego, Calif., provided the aboveground facility, along with other necessary filtration equipment needed to care for sea mammals. The four dolphins, Kelly, Noah, Jackie and Toni spent the last two and a half weeks in the Gulf of Mexico, swept out to sea by a wave reported to be forty feet high during Hurricane Katrina. Because these dolphins are from a captive facility, they do not forage for food or necessarily have the survival skills needed to avoid predators or boat traffic. Since they were spotted off the gulf coast on Saturday, Sept. 10, Marine Life Aquarium trainers and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service biologists have been feeding the dolphins several times a day from a NOAA vessel. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Chris Gethings (RELEASED)