

NEWS RELEASE

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Imagine Children's Museum Welcomes the Return of Beloved Wolf Eel

EVERETT, WA — On Tuesday, March 7, Imagine Children's Museum in downtown Everett welcomes back wolf eel after rehabilitation at Port Townsend Marine Science Center.

Imagine Children's Museum's Shallow Sound Aquarium wolf eel was collected from Puget Sound in April 2022 after marine biologists noticed the wolf eel with a large headwound of unknown origin and poor body weight. It was decided that she might not survive to adulthood and should be given the chance to act as an ambassador for Puget Sound marine life in the safety of human care at Imagine Children's Museum. She was collected at 24 inches long and approximately 1-2 years old. Most of her juvenile coloration is gone, which is unusual for her size and may indicate that she may be older than estimated and had been struggling in the wild for some time.

While the wolf eel's head injury healed under museum staff care, she showed no interest in food and needed more specialized care to become acclimated to aquarium life. The Museum partnered with Port Townsend Marine Science Center, an educational and scientific organization devoted to inspiring conservation of the Salish Sea to rehabilitate the wolf eel.

The wolf eel has been in the expert care of Port Townsend Marine Science Center since July 2022 where staff and volunteers worked hard to acclimate the wolf eel to human interaction and feeding. She developed a healthy appetite and made the journey from Port Townsend back to Everett. Children and their families can now see the beloved animal ambassador at Imagine Children's Museum and learn about the wolf eel's story to promote empathy towards native wildlife and spark curiosity about science, conservation, and marine ecosystems.

Although they are long and skinny, wolf eels are not actually eels. They have two large fins behind their heads called pectoral fins, which true eels do not have. In fact, there are no true eels in Puget Sound. When full grown, wolf eels find a den and a mate which they stay with for life. Imagine Children's Museum's Shallow Sound Aquarium was carefully designed to include a hollow rock feature which serves as a den for the wolf eel.

Imagine is a family-friendly museum dedicated to enriching children's lives through playful learning. Open From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, families are invited to learn about the biological diversity of the Puget Sound region in the Museum's Puget Sound Ecosystem gallery, free with Museum admission or membership.

Offering three floors of unbeatable play spaces for children ages 1-12 and their families, Imagine Children's Museum recently opened a \$25 million expansion including state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits to inspire a lifelong love of learning through play. The new exhibits showcase the Pacific Northwest, the Puget Sound and Port of Everett; an engineering gallery; a tinker shop where children can learn to use real tools; an exhibit about woodlands; an exhibit about package distribution; and others. These complement the Museum's original exhibits, which include an Everett Transit bus, a miniature locomotive track, and a water works area.

Imagine is located at 1502 Wall Street in downtown Everett, with the main entrance on Hoyt Avenue. Street parking and pre-pay parking lots are available around the Museum. Visit ImagineCM.org for more information about all the Museum has to offer!

About Imagine Children's Museum

With a mission to enrich children's lives through playful learning, Imagine Children's Museum is a nonprofit organization serving children ages 1-12 and their families. Incorporated in 1991, it has long received grassroots, community support to become an integral resource for children, families, schools, youth organizations and social service agencies in Snohomish County and beyond. In 2017 Imagine achieved American Alliance of Museums accreditation, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums, becoming first accredited children's museum in the Pacific Northwest. It has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's leading independent evaluator of charities for financial health, accountability, and transparency. To learn more, go to www.imaginecm.org.