SURFACE AREA OF TANKS at Marineland compared to French Decree - TURSIOPS (bottlenose dolphins)

NOTE: The tank at the far right is not accessible to the Tursiops – that is exclusively for the belugas.

For bottlenose dolphins, Marineland of Canada has two tanks (and no medical tank) [i.e., one less tanks than the 3 required under the French Decree & no medical tank]

Size in m² = 78.7 + 266 = TOTAL AREA 344.7 m² [this is 1,655.3 m² smaller than the requirement under the French Decree]

No tank deeper than the required 6 m (rather it appears that the deepest is no more than 3m) therefore the dolphin tank(s) [completely fail the ‘more than 50% should be at least as deep as 6 m]

There are 5 dolphins held in these tanks – with a total area of 344.7 m² available (see below), therefore the surface area per dolphin is only 40 m² [the French Decree states there should be 200 m² per dolphin - i.e., Marineland fails this by 60 m² per dolphin]

NOTE: the main tank is not always accessible to the Tursiops, because the tank is ‘shared space’ with the belugas and the two species are not kept in the tank at the same time.
EXTRACT from the French Decree, Article 7 states for TURSIOPS:

I. Cetaceans shall be kept in basins adapted to their species according to the requirements of this Chapter.
For specimens of the species Tursiops truncatus, it has at least 3 basins all interconnected with one another.

- For Tursiops truncatus, at least 2,000 m² and each specimen of Tursiops truncatus has a minimum area of 200 m².

The minimum depth of the basins on half of the total area is 6 m for Tursiops truncatus. Whenever possible, all the basins are made available to the animals.

Rounded shape of the basins is preferred and right angles are prohibited.

Particular attention is brought, from their conception, to the enrichment of the basins, including the installation of currents of water, waves, cascades or any other physical or hydraulic process.

IV. - Each establishment must have an isolation basin equipped with a lifting platform or with a device allowing the quick drying of a cetacean, either by emptying or by raising the bottom, in order to allow a veterinary access to the animals, secured for the animal and the personnel.