



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Quarterly Newsletter



Ocean Acidification Day of Action

On January 8th, The New Zealand Embassy graciously hosted our second annual Ocean Acidification Day of Action, which encourages countries to fulfill their mitigation commitments and to share the worldwide success stories of implementation. We also released an policy toolkit to help advance legislation for ocean acidification mitigation.

[Read more in our press release.](#)



Partnering to help Elkhorn Coral

In October, the New England Aquarium hosted us to educate an audience about collaboration towards global ocean issues. Fernando Bretos of The Ocean Foundation and Carimar, a project of The Ocean Foundation, explained how their conservation work- in part supported by the New England Aquarium- engages local communities while studying rare, but once abundant, animals and Elkhorn Coral.

[Read about the Elkhorn Coral project.](#)



Use Our Research Pages

Our staff works hard to aggregate academic research about issues plaguing our ocean and communities. Recently updated compilations include The Blue Economy, Underwater Cultural Heritage, Ocean and Climate Change, Plastic Ocean Pollution, and more.

[Discover research on oceanfdn.org.](#)

Highlights from the 2019 Annual Report



[Open the Annual Report](#)

The International Ocean Acidification Initiative (IOAI) has received global recognition for its mission to foster innovation and develop strategic partnerships to empower scientists, policymakers, and communities around the world. [Jump to the featured story.](#)

Featured Channel: SeaGrass Grow, pages 50-61

Since 2008, The Ocean Foundation has championed blue carbon through coastal restoration projects. See how SeaGrass Grow has evolved over time through a variety of restoration projects worldwide. [Jump to the featured channel.](#)

Highlights of Hosted Projects, 41-50

We featured two fiscally sponsored projects this year: Laguna San Ignacio Ecosystem Science Program (LSIESP) and Ocean Revolution. Read about the unique ways they each contribute to marine conservation and education. [Jump to the highlighted projects.](#)

Financial Reporting: Where Your Money Goes, pages 7, 64

We spend our money on conserving marine habitats and special places, expanding ocean literacy and public awareness, protecting species of concern, and building the capacity of the marine conservation community. [Jump to our financial statements.](#)



State of the Ocean

Last fall, I shared our thoughts on what global greenhouse gas emissions are doing to the ocean and ice habitats of our planet, and how some of The Ocean Foundation's core initiatives are doing something to address this existential threat: [The Disruption of the Ocean by Climate Change.](#)

This month, I also wanted to share some of our internal practices as an organization because we do believe small actions can make a huge difference, especially when we all strive to embed them in our daily activities. So, at TOF, we:

- Offer public transportation benefits to staff (which is now required by DC law)
- Have bike storage available in building
- Apply a decision tree to determine the opportunity costs of every possible meeting or appearance involving travel, especially those that require air travel
- Offset necessary and unavoidable travel with [SeaGrass Grow](#), our blue carbon offset program
- Opt out of regular housekeeping while staying in hotels
- Travel with our own reusable water bottles and coffee mugs
- Strive to ensure the best use of multiple heating/cooling zones, operable windows, and motion detection lights in the office (the latter now required by DC code)
- Avoid individually packaged items for catered meals
- Order reusable cups and utensils for events held outside our office when possible
- Use non-disposable pottery, glassware, and utensils in the kitchen
- Use a composting service for our food waste
- Have a coffee maker that uses whole beans (not individual pods)
- Ensure that the paper we use for copies, stationery, and envelopes has the highest possible recycling content
- Work with building management to minimize use of toxic cleaners and products
- And encourage staff to work from home on Fridays.

We do not pretend that our office practices are going to solve the threats to the world's ocean. We do believe that if we are going to promote blue carbon and address the threats to communities from changes in ocean chemistry, temperature, and depth, then we should take the small steps along with the big ones.

For the ocean,

Mark J. Spalding
President



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