

A woman with long, dark dreadlocks is shown in profile, looking out towards the ocean. She is wearing a red tank top and white earbuds. The background features a beach, waves, and a bright sunset sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021

 THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

A large jellyfish is shown against a blue background. The bell of the jellyfish is replaced by a globe of the Earth, with visible continents and oceans. The jellyfish's tentacles are visible, extending from the right side of the frame. The overall image conveys a message of ocean conservation and environmental awareness.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR THE OCEAN?

As the **only community foundation** for the ocean, we're dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is impossible not to look back at the past year with a combination of awe, regret, and gratitude. The awe is for all of those who persevered in the good work they do, addressing challenges that made every element of their efforts more complex than before. I remain humbled and amazed by those small workarounds that enabled big accomplishments. Our community stepped up. I am proud to be associated with our supporters, The Ocean Foundation (TOF) staff and contractors, the TOF Board of Directors, TOF's Seascope Council, and our Board of Advisors, Senior Fellows, and the managers of our fiscally hosted projects.

The regret is for all of those whose year brought more sorrow than joy, more problems than solutions. I also regret our failure to act before we learned that extremes — illness, fire, flooding, etc. — and their effects on living communities are no longer the future, but now. And I am

grateful for all of those who look ahead with a willingness to keep working for a healthy ocean.

We have reached a point where there is not only wide recognition that a healthy ocean is essential to human well-being and global biodiversity, but also that the ocean is an integral part of the global climate system. Thus, we need to make investments that prioritize a healthy and abundant ocean. Because the global ocean knows no political boundaries, we need diplomatic cooperation and equitable access to ocean science. Each coastal nation needs to understand its nearshore waters and act to limit the harm from human activities even as we need global cooperation to work on common threats. Our investments need to back solutions and leverage action to demand reductions in ocean-harming behavior, whether by corporations or governments.

The ocean disregards any lines we may draw on a map. The transboundary nature of oceanic systems and animals crossing jurisdictional lines happens across 71% of the earth's surface. Countries and states that share waters are also affected by similar sets of issues and environmental factors like algal blooms, tropical storms, pollution, and more.

Because of our shared waters, it only makes sense for non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and governments to work together to achieve common goals. By sharing knowledge and resources around ocean science, we can establish trust and maintain working bilateral or regional relationships. Cooperative efforts are critical in the ocean sciences, which include ecology, ocean observing, chemistry, and geology as well as the biology of marine life.

“Ocean science diplomacy” is a multi-faceted practice that can occur on two parallel tracks:

First, science-to-science collaboration brings scientists together through multi-year joint research projects to find solutions to the ocean's biggest problems. Leveraging resources and pooling expertise between two countries makes research plans more robust and deepens professional relationships that last for decades.

Second, is science to policy change. Scientists can apply the new data and information developed through scientific collaboration to also educate decision makers about the state of changing coasts – and encourage them to ultimately change policies for a more sustainable future.

When pure scientific inquiry is one common goal, ocean science diplomacy can help build long-lasting relationships and increase global awareness around the ocean issues that affect us all.

Science diplomacy is a term used for scientific cooperation to build international partnerships. As well as international collaboration between scientific institutions, such partnerships may encompass nation states, diplomacy, government agencies, voluntary organizations, and business.

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



Since 2007, the pursuit of purpose-driven ocean science diplomacy has been a cross-cutting theme throughout our work. For example, our marine research and conservation efforts in Cuba since 1998 continue to be one of the longest running programs in the area. We convened Cuban and American scientists and decision makers for the first time ever to agree on marine research and conservation priorities.

Mexico joined what became our Trilateral Initiative in 2008 to broaden our understanding across the Gulf of Mexico. For the United States, Cuba, and Mexico, we provide a platform for scientists, government officials, and other experts to gather and discuss common objectives and data from joint marine research. Over the past few years, we continued to develop diplomatic and scientific relationships on a bigger scale. Our growing “CariMar” program helps support science related to coastal and ocean ecosystems across the broader Caribbean region.

Unfortunately, ocean science capacity is distributed unequally, and a rapidly changing ocean requires widely and equitably distributed human, technical, and physical ocean science infrastructure. In 2021, we founded EquiSea to

address systemic inequities in ocean science, particularly the unequal distribution of ocean science capacity and the extreme inequity in funding allocated to ocean science. EquiSea is a platform co-designed through two years of consensus-based stakeholder discussion with more than 200 scientists from around the world. EquiSea aims to improve equity in ocean science by establishing a philanthropic fund to provide direct financial support to projects; coordinating capacity development activities; fostering collaboration and co-financing of ocean science between academia, government, NGOs, and private sector actors; and supporting the development of low-cost and easy-to-maintain ocean science technologies that conform to best practices for use in countries with emerging economies.

We share the belief that addressing this inequity will be critical to the success of the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which was launched in June 2021. This initiative is intended to bring together unprecedented international scientific research to fulfill the vision to develop “The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want.” Creating a parallel effort, the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration challenges everyone to massively

scale up restoration efforts that breathe new life into our degraded ecosystems. Restoring saltwater ecosystems increases the ocean's role as our most important carbon sink, on top of supporting healthier populations of fish and other sea life. For TOF, both initiatives represent incredible opportunities to increase equity, catalyze positive economic activity, and improve the health of the ocean.

TOF is also the ocean subject-matter advisor to Rockefeller Capital Management (RCM), adding our ocean expertise to RCM's investment savvy. Our investment lenses internalize the proposition that the ocean is an amazing ally for addressing human disruption of the climate. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and others are drafting climate and sustainability disclosure requirements that will help us. We are seeing many companies measure their impact on the ocean by working to reduce their carbon footprint, their use of plastic, and their holdings and practices that are extractive and unsustainable.

Today, as part of a globally positive effort to address the human disruption of the climate, be more environmentally sensitive, pursue a circular economy, and more equitably and justly use our planet's resources, we are looking to restore abundance. For the ocean economy, we call this the new "Blue Economy." A sustainable blue economy presents a rare opportunity to reformulate our relationship with the ocean. That means asking a lot of questions and striving for answers.

So, how do we identify those elements that already support such a blue economy? What will create systemic social, economic, and political change that will lead to a sustainable blue

economy? How do we halt or avoid cumulating human activities that threaten ocean-generated value to society? What moves humankind away from destructive extraction-focused business sectors that deplete our ocean resources, damage our economy, and cost people jobs? And how should nation-states and individuals invest in restoring abundance?

Here at TOF, we focus on answering these questions and acting on those answers. As we know, restoring ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass meadows, and kelp forests has multiple benefits and few downsides. Understanding where those restorations should occur is part of our collaborative science and policy work. As the ocean's chemistry, temperature, and depth shift, we believe that investment in healthy ecosystems, whether through protection or restoration, is one equitable, cost-effective path forward in the face of climate change.

As I write, the 2021 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is being released. It tells us that much harm has been done, but there is still much we can do. I know we will all do our part thanks to the can-do collaborative spirit that drives The Ocean Foundation community. I am grateful to all of you and look forward to the work ahead.

For the ocean,



MARK J. SPALDING

OUR IMPACT FOR THE OCEAN

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

\$2,561,246

TOWARDS CONSERVING MARINE HABITATS AND SPECIAL PLACES

Conserving the places and habitats that are special to the people of the world who rely on them most is important to us and our community.

\$1,664,776

TOWARDS PROTECTING SPECIES OF CONCERN

Protecting species of concern is of utmost importance to us. We strive to protect those species and their habitats for future generations.

\$1,129,820

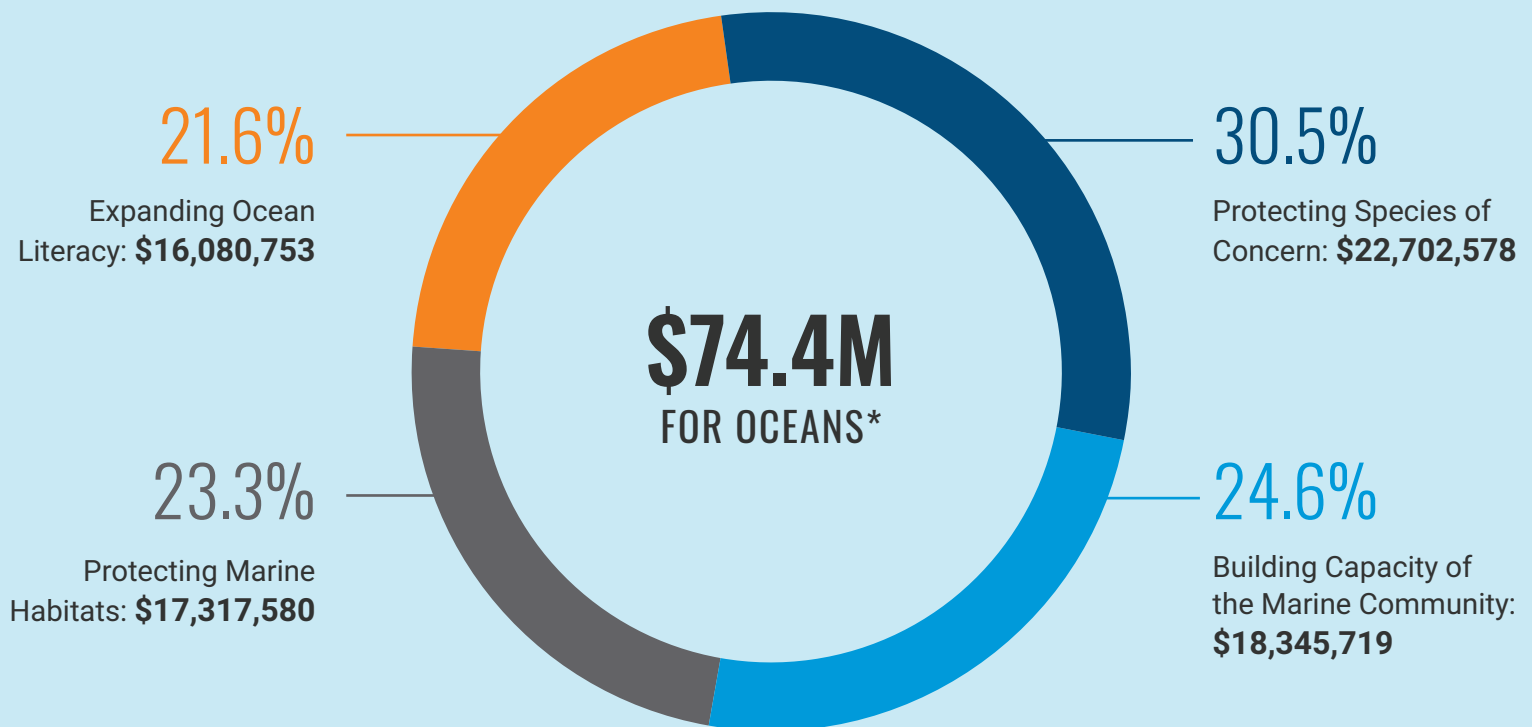
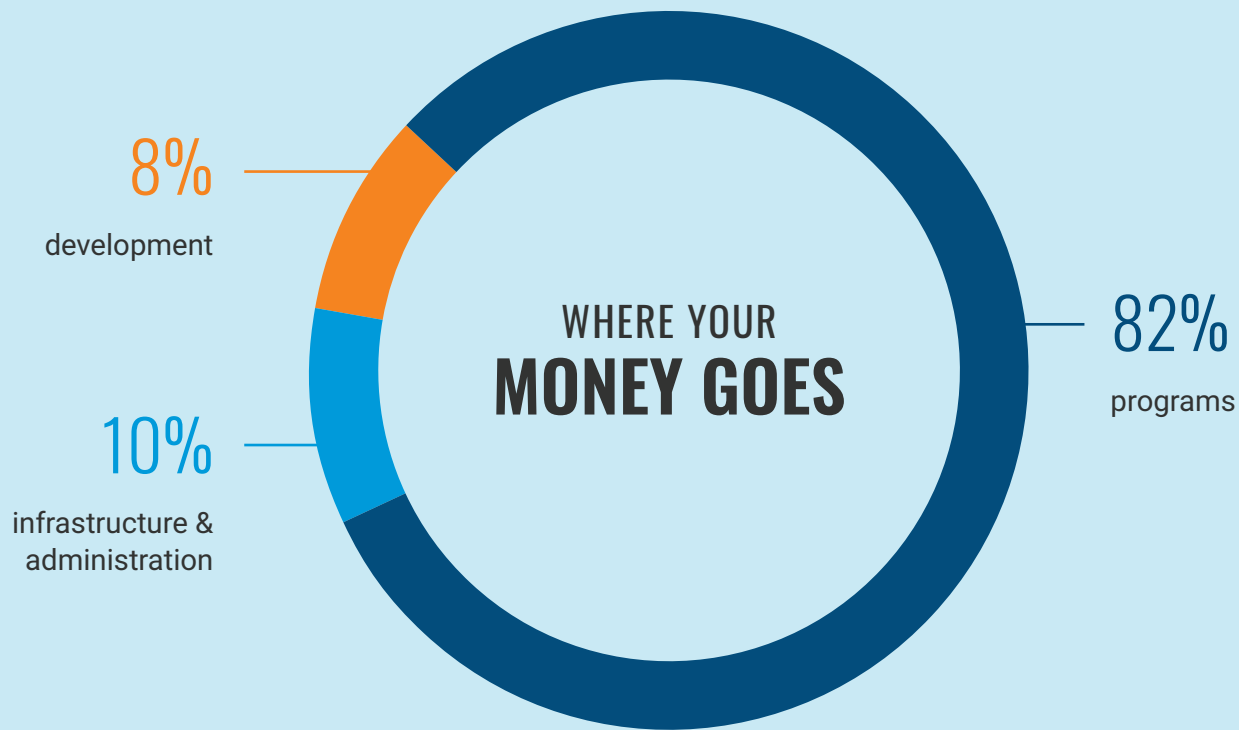
TOWARDS BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE MARINE COMMUNITY

Empowering implementors allows for marine conservation to thrive well into the future.

\$1,663,767

TOWARDS EXPANDING OCEAN LITERACY

Educating future ocean leaders, expanding ocean knowledge, and increasing public awareness are sometimes the first steps towards preserving a healthy ocean.



*CUMULATIVE OVER THE PAST 19 YEARS



TOF'S STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

We, at TOF, acknowledge where disparities in diversity and equitable opportunities and practices exist in coastal and ocean conservation today. And we are striving to do our part to address them. Whether it means directly instituting changes or working with our friends and peers in the marine conservation community to institute these changes, we are striving to enforce justice and make our community more equitable, diverse, and inclusive at every level.

At TOF, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice are core cross-cutting values. We established the formal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (D.E.I.J.) initiative to support TOF's leadership

in the development and implementation of new policies and procedures to institutionalize these values in the organization's operations and the broader TOF community of advisors, project managers, and grantees. TOF's D.E.I.J. initiative also promotes these core values to the marine conservation sector.

On May 21, 2021, TOF D.E.I.J. Chair Eddie Love presented an overview of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice at TOF to the Board of Directors. The presentation discussed how TOF defines Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice, areas of focus for TOF's D.E.I.J. Committee for the year, and questions to continue to explore.

DIVERSITY

The spectrum of people's identities, cultures, experiences, belief systems, and viewpoints that encompasses the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another.

INCLUSION

Respecting and ensuring that all relevant experiences, communities, histories, and people are a part of communications, plans, and solutions to address conservation issues affecting our planet.

EQUITY

Equal access to power and resources while identifying and eliminating barriers that could prevent access to participating and contributing to the leadership and processes of the organization.

JUSTICE

The principle that all people are entitled to equal protection of their environment and entitled to participate in and lead on decision making about environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and that all people should be empowered to create better environmental outcomes for their communities.

FOCUS AREAS

- Establishing processes and procedures that promote D.E.I.J. in organizational practices
- Incorporating best practices in TOF's conservation strategies
- Promoting awareness of issues through donors, partners, and grantees
- Fostering leadership that promotes D.E.I.J. in the marine conservation community

QUESTIONS CONSIDERED

- What are our challenges in: 1) Philanthropy? 2) Conservation? 3) Society?
- Which organizations are effectively working on this issue?
- Which communities are being hit hardest, not appropriately equipped with the right tools, or are being left out of the conversation?

MARINE PATHWAYS INTERNSHIP AT THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

TOF offers paid internship opportunities for those looking to advance their knowledge in marine conservation and nonprofit management. Internships take place throughout the year. In this position, interns will be assigned an internal and external mentor who will provide professional development support during the intern's tenure at TOF. Women, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ+, and individuals with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



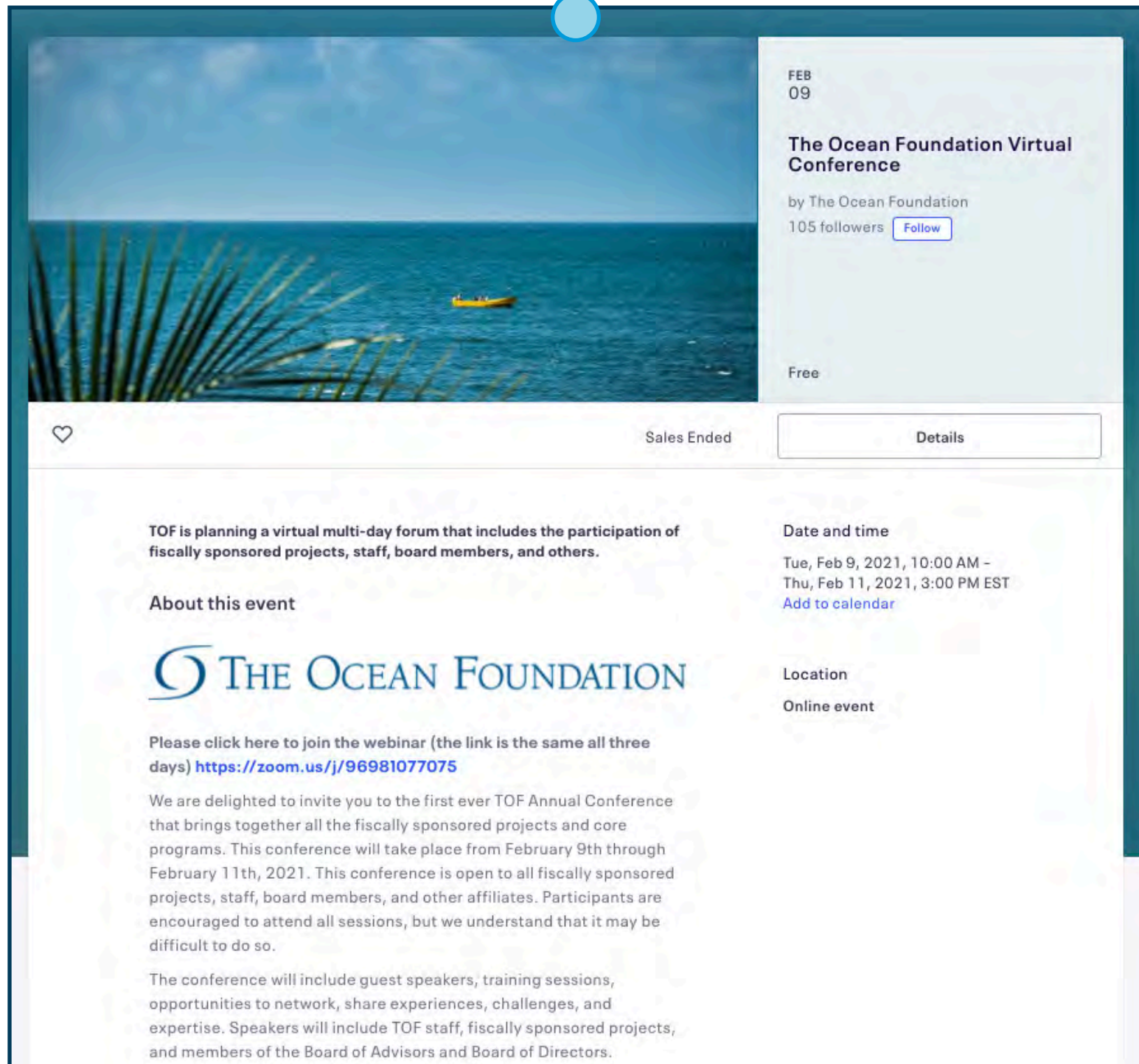
COMING TOGETHER IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

February 2021 marked almost one year since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our lives and drastically changed how we live, work, learn, and engage with our community. Thankfully, through it all, TOF was lucky enough to fully operate virtually and advance the mission of protecting our global ocean. While the pandemic limited our social and work interactions, the 'new normal' challenged everyone to think of creative ways to work together effectively and to maintain our community in a virtual environment.

In response to this isolation, TOF used this as an opportunity to bring our community together.

Over the course of three days, February 9-12, 2021, TOF hosted its inaugural virtual conference for staff, 45+ fiscally sponsored projects, board members and programmatic partners. The conference included presentations by fiscally sponsored projects and TOF program leads, and over 100 registrants. The overarching goal of the conference was to provide TOF community members the space to facilitate conversations and identify challenges, successes, and roadblocks facing our community. The 3-day event resulted in dozens of meaningful connections made, valuable information sharing, and the establishment of several collaborations.

The conference included 7 training sessions, 5 programmatic briefings, and presentations from 12 fiscally sponsored projects, and featured a diverse range of speakers around the world who shared their unique perspectives and lessons learned as we work collectively to advance marine conservation.



The screenshot shows a Facebook event page for 'The Ocean Foundation Virtual Conference'. The event is scheduled for February 9, 2021, and is free. The page includes a description of the event, the Ocean Foundation logo, and a Zoom link for registration. The event is marked as 'Sales Ended'.

FEB 09

The Ocean Foundation Virtual Conference


by The Ocean Foundation
105 followers [Follow](#)

Free

Heart icon Sales Ended [Details](#)

TOF is planning a virtual multi-day forum that includes the participation of fiscally sponsored projects, staff, board members, and others.

About this event



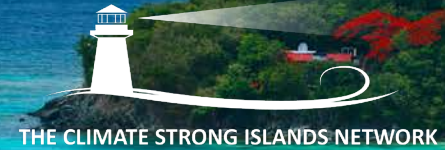
Please click here to join the webinar (the link is the same all three days) <https://zoom.us/j/96981077075>

We are delighted to invite you to the first ever TOF Annual Conference that brings together all the fiscally sponsored projects and core programs. This conference will take place from February 9th through February 11th, 2021. This conference is open to all fiscally sponsored projects, staff, board members, and other affiliates. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions, but we understand that it may be difficult to do so.

The conference will include guest speakers, training sessions, opportunities to network, share experiences, challenges, and expertise. Speakers will include TOF staff, fiscally sponsored projects, and members of the Board of Advisors and Board of Directors.

Date and time
Tue, Feb 9, 2021, 10:00 AM -
Thu, Feb 11, 2021, 3:00 PM EST
[Add to calendar](#)

Location
Online event



TOF IS PROUD TO HOST THE CLIMATE STRONG ISLANDS NETWORK (CSIN)

Despite having some of the smallest carbon footprints in the world, island communities experience a disproportionate burden from the effects spurred by human disruption of the climate. The Climate Strong Islands Network is hosted and staffed by TOF in partnership with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and is currently funded by The New York Community Trust. The Network's governing body, the Climate Strong Islands Network Steering Committee, has diverse representation from organizations operating in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Barbados, Hawaii, Guam, New Zealand, Alaska, and representation from across the continental United States. The Steering Committee continues to actively seek more representation.

The climate crisis is already devastating communities across the U.S. and around the

world. The extreme weather events, rising seas, economic disruptions, and health threats created or exacerbated by human-driven climate change are disproportionately affecting island communities, and current policies and programs routinely fail to meet their needs. Island communities in the U.S. and around the world are literally on the front lines of the climate crisis, and are already coping with extreme weather events and rising seas that are compromising or destroying critical infrastructure, changes in the marine environment that are devastating fisheries and degrading the ecosystems upon which many island livelihoods depend, challenges associated with their physical isolation, and in most cases, a relative lack of political power.

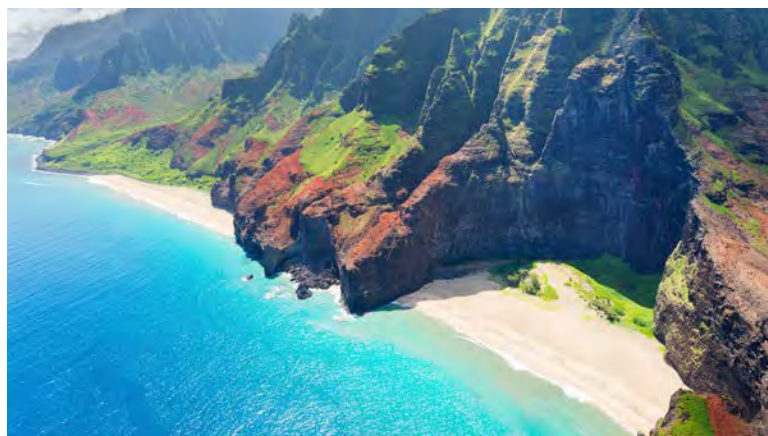
Strong networks are crucial for building community resilience and staying ahead of



disruptive change, whether it be a global pandemic, natural disaster, or major economic shock. Activated networks accelerate the pace of information exchange, strengthen available support to community leaders, help to more effectively amplify priority needs, and direct necessary resources and funding, all vital to island resiliency. U.S. islands face a host of singular challenges exacerbated by climate change and natural hazards, geographic limitations, and varying degrees of political affiliation and representation within the U.S. government. Island communities exist at the forefront of climate change, whether it be recurring disasters such as hurricanes and tsunamis or slow-onset issues such as extreme heat, ecosystem shifts, ocean warming, and sea level rise. These events have far-ranging impacts on human life and livelihoods, as well as on societal support systems. Initial outreach efforts among potential network partners revealed the need for a stronger policy voice by island communities, especially those that do not have representation in the U.S. Congress, when it comes to issues related to the climate crisis. Island communities, often isolated by geography, have had less of a voice in national policy directives and have expressed a strong desire to participate more directly in funding and policy-making activities that affect our future.



DECLARATION: Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, Sens. Sabina Perez and Kelly Marsh, Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Tyrone Taitano, Evangeline Lujan, Thomas Krise, Lauren Swaddell, Michelle Voacolo and Moñeka De Oro take a photo following the signing of the Guam Climate Strong Islands Declaration. The declaration calls upon federal and state governments, philanthropists, academia and the private sector to help communities respond to climate change in an effective way. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor



The New York Community Trust

1 hr · 🌐

What brought so many environment experts under one roof? The **#ClimateStrongIslands** Dialogue hosted by our program officer Arturo Garcia-Costas. Experts and advocates discussed how they were ensuring islands throughout the US and world were taking steps to become resilient in the face of **#climatechange**.

MISSION OF THE NETWORK

To build a network of U.S. island entities that work across sectors and geographies in the continental U.S. and the nation's states and territories located in the Caribbean and Pacific.

CLIMATE STRONG ISLANDS NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE



KATE BROWN
GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP
(GLISPA) | NEW ZEALAND



CELESTE CONNORS
HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH |
HAWAI'I



JASON DONOFRIO
THE OCEAN FOUNDATION |
WASHINGTON, D.C.



LAUREN DIVINE
ALEUT COMMUNITY OF SAINT PAUL
ISLAND | ALASKA



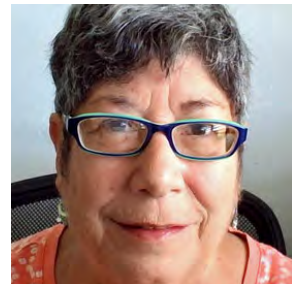
MARTYN FORDE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE |
BARBADOS



DEANNA JAMES
ST. CROIX FOUNDATION FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ST. CROIX



SUZANNE MACDONALD
ISLAND INSTITUTE | MAINE



LIRIO MARQUEZ
VIEQUES CONSERVATION AND
HISTORICAL TRUST | PUERTO RICO



MARISSA J. MERCULIEFF
ALEUT COMMUNITY OF SAINT PAUL
ISLAND | ALASKA



AUSTIN SHELTON
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM CENTER FOR ISLAND
SUSTAINABILITY AND SEA GRANT | GUAM



BRENDA TORRES
SAN JUAN BAY ESTUARY
PROGRAM | PUERTO RICO



JENNIFER VALIULIS
ST. CROIX ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSOCIATION | ST. CROIX

Coalition partners bring extensive experience and knowledge working with island communities to address climate solutions across housing, energy, and intergenerational leadership and capacity building.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE NETWORK

- Build trusting relationships by investing time, care, and respect for each other's commitment and contribution to increasing the resiliency of island communities
- Deepen awareness and use of the concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in our work
- Conduct transparent governance and decision-making
- Amplify the voices of island-based leadership, focusing on current and future generations
- Honor the distinct cultures and character of U.S. islands, while growing our collective impact
- Collaborate in a respectful and participatory way with island communities to develop new initiatives, programs, and projects that help them respond effectively to the growing climate crisis and other environmental challenges

OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

- Drive more resources, supporting policy and attention to U.S. islands. Advocate for resiliency improvements in housing and infrastructure and tie it together with federal funding opportunities
- Amplify the collective voice (needs and opportunities) of U.S. island communities, especially through the Climate Strong Islands Declaration
- Support a laboratory of learning, identifying bright spots and lessons learned to replicate best practices and accelerate progress on island sustainability and the circular economy, energy, housing and community development, natural climate solutions, regenerative agriculture, national policy reform agenda for islands, COVID-19 impacts, and the intersection between local and global action
- Link U.S. island champions to each other to accelerate progress
- Link the Network to the global island space, including U.S. island leadership
- Leverage guidance and contributions from the CSIN membership to help U.S. islands adopt proven solutions for climate change mitigation and to achieve climate resiliency goals

TOF IS PROUD TO HOST **EQUISEA: THE OCEAN SCIENCE FUND FOR ALL**

Ocean Science capacity is distributed unequally, but a rapidly changing ocean requires widely and equitably distributed human, technical, and physical ocean science infrastructure. EquiSea is a platform co-designed through consensus-based stakeholder discussion with more than 200 scientists from around the world.

MISSION OF EQUISEA

The mission of EquiSea is to improve equity in ocean science by establishing a philanthropic fund to provide direct financial support to projects, coordinating capacity development activities, fostering collaboration and co-financing of ocean science between academic, government, NGOs, and private sector actors, and supporting the development of low-cost and easy-to-maintain ocean science technologies.

The importance of ocean science is well recognized as critical to sustaining resilient economies and communities, particularly in the face of ocean

change caused by anthropogenic activities. The physical, human, and financial infrastructure to conduct ocean science is currently inequitably distributed across the world. The 2017 Global Ocean Science Report from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission noted that ocean science is primarily financed and conducted by a small number of countries, and higher resolution ocean observations, local models, or ecosystems studies that are critical to ensuring resilience are disproportionately available in countries in higher income countries.

EQUISEA TEAM MEMBERS



ALEXIS VALAURI-ORTON
PROGRAM OFFICER, THE OCEAN
FOUNDATION | USA



BRIAN K. ARBIC
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN | USA



GINA BONNE
CHARGÉE DE MISSION, INDIAN
OCEAN COMMISSION | MAURITIUS



MARCIA CREARY FORD
MARINE SCIENTIST, UNIVERSITY OF
THE WEST INDIES | JAMAICA



AILEEN TAN SHAU HWAI
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITI SAINS
MALAYSIA | MALAYSIA



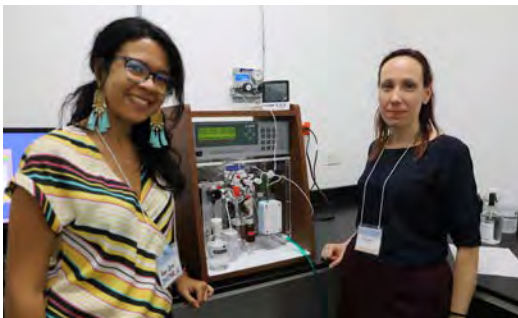
EDEM MAHU
LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF
GHANA | GHANA



**DR. RER. NAT. JORGE RAFAEL
BERMÚDEZ MONSALVE**
PROFESSOR, GALAPAGOS MARINE
RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION | ECUADOR



COURTNIIE PARK
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, THE
OCEAN FOUNDATION | USA



OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

- Establish a philanthropic fund to enable equitable distribution of ocean science capacity, including through funding of training programs and infrastructure grants
- Coordinate with key international processes and partners to ensure effective delivery of capacity development
- Foster collaboration between scientists and policymakers to enhance national support for sustained ocean science programs
- Engage private sector actors to provide job training and employment opportunities in ocean science
- Engage with ocean science technology developers to ensure a pipeline of accessible technology suitable for use in under-resourced regions

Recognized EquiSea projects posted on EquiSea's website are accepted on a rolling basis. To submit a project or for more information please email equisea@oceanfdn.org.



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION INITIATIVE (IOAI)



Across the globe, seawater chemistry is changing faster than at any time in Earth's history. As increased carbon dioxide emissions dissolve into the ocean, its chemical makeup is altered, becoming more and more acidic. On average, seawater is 30% more acidic than it was 200 years ago. This change in chemistry is known as ocean acidification (OA). As the ocean becomes more acidic, shellfish and coral reefs struggle to form their shells and skeletons, some fish lose their ability to smell their predators, and some crustaceans die before they can reproduce. This process has already been devastating to marine organisms and ecosystems and is being further exacerbated by regional sources of pollution, including agricultural runoff and local factory emissions.

The Ocean Foundation's International Ocean Acidification Initiative (IOAI) works to ensure every country has a robust national ocean acidification monitoring and mitigation strategy, driven by local experts to address local needs. IOAI also coordinates regional and international action to provide the necessary governance and national frameworks needed to address this international problem and engages with policymakers to help identify and implement effective legislative solutions.

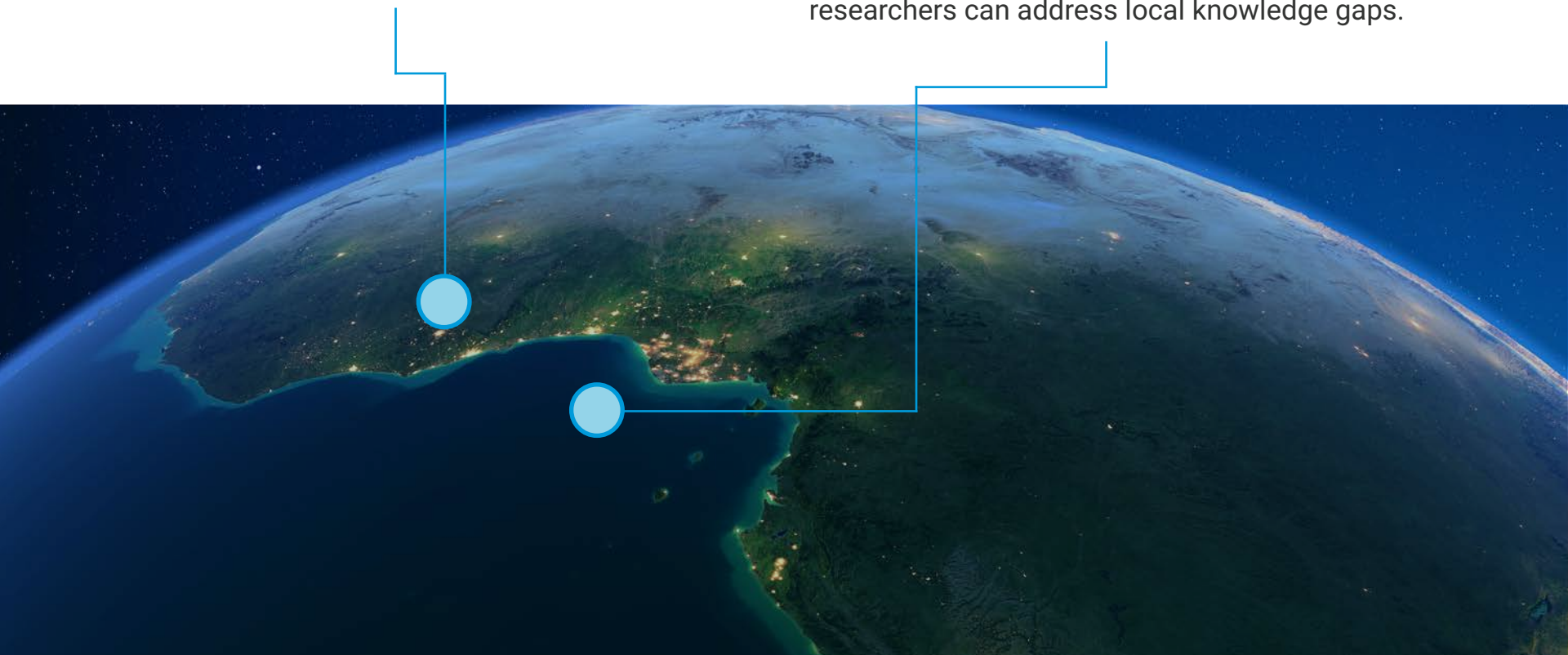


COASTAL OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT SUMMER SCHOOL IN GHANA (COESSING)

TOF led a group of partners to design an online course for the Coastal Ocean and Environment Summer School in Ghana (COESSING). The team included leading experts like Dr. Andrew Dickson and Dr. Christopher Sabine. The course consisted of pre-recorded videos, live discussions, and online communications. During the discussions, as many as 30 students from West African countries tuned in at a time and interacted with world experts. To create a custom opportunity for advanced students, TOF also organized one-on-one coaching sessions for select research groups. Through these sessions, TOF matched research groups with experts who could guide their specific research questions and help them determine how to best achieve their goals with the equipment they had access to.

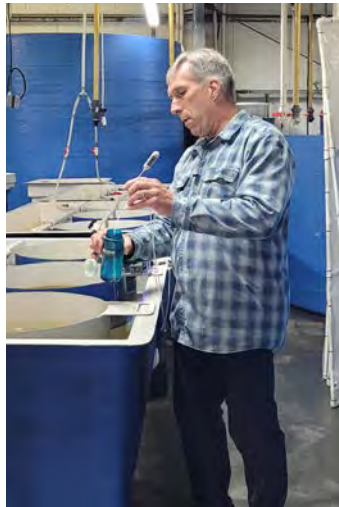
FUNDING WEST AFRICAN MONITORING EQUIPMENT

TOF pledged to fund USD \$100,000 worth of equipment to support monitoring capacity in West Africa through the Building Capacity in Ocean Acidification Monitoring in the Gulf of Guinea (BIOTTA) project. This initiative follows the virtual course we provided in 2020 for the Coastal Ocean Ecosystem Summer School in Ghana (COESSING), furthering our commitment to the scientists in the region. TOF formally joined the advisory committee of BIOTTA and assisted BIOTTA with designing and distributing a landscape assessment survey to identify existing capacity and where there are unmet needs. Soon, TOF will begin designing training programs with BIOTTA to expand the understanding of ocean acidification in the region and to coordinate the procurement and delivery of monitoring equipment so that researchers can address local knowledge gaps.



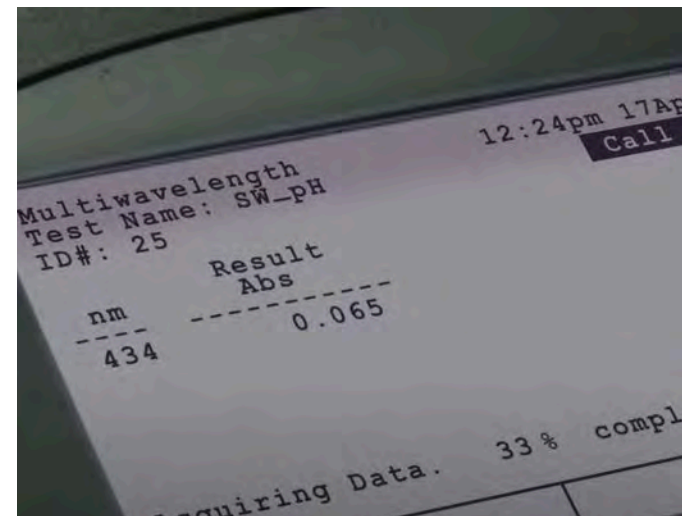
RESILIENCE IN SHELLFISH HATCHERIES

TOF has been working to develop a low-cost system for building resilience to ocean acidification in shellfish hatcheries. TOF funded Dr. Burke Hales' work to design his low-cost $p\text{CO}_2$ sensor, the $p\text{CO}_2$ to Go, that fits in the palm of a hand and incorporates a digital screen to provide instant readouts of the amount of dissolved carbon dioxide in the seawater, one metric of ocean acidification. TOF also funded Dr. Hales and the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Alaska to remote test an app-based software that accompanies the $p\text{CO}_2$ sensor. This app lets users determine how much buffering solution to add to hatchery tanks to achieve optimal growing conditions for young, vulnerable shellfish, using input from the $p\text{CO}_2$ to Go. The Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute staff are now running a series of tests using the sensor and the associated app, including practicing how to buffer the tanks, making it easier for their clams to build calcium carbonate shells, and comparing the readings from the $p\text{CO}_2$ sensor to the Burke-o-Lator, a highly-precise yet highly-costly instrument to measure ocean chemistry, to confirm whether the uncertainty of readings obtained by the $p\text{CO}_2$ to Go is within the desired range. In the future, the $p\text{CO}_2$ to Go can be deployed at hatcheries all over the globe, providing a cost-effective way for vulnerable shellfish industries to continue to produce young shellfish despite ongoing acidification. This effort is a natural evolution of our GOA-ON in a Box Kit — another example of delivering high quality, low-cost tools to enable our partners to understand and respond to ocean acidification.



CREATING A PACIFIC ISLANDS MONITORING HUB

In partnership with the Ocean Acidification Program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), TOF is extremely excited to build additional capacity to monitor ocean acidification in the Pacific Islands over the next three years through the creation of a regional training hub, the distribution of additional GOA-ON in a Box kits, and the provision of more remote and in person training. In the project's first year, TOF conducted a regional capacity assessment to ensure the project met local needs, created a regional working group to enable constant co-design of program objectives, selected a regional training hub, and began designing a remote training course. The training hub will be hosted by a team comprising the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific, both in Suva, Fiji, with additional support from the University of Otago and the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research in New Zealand. The hub will receive funding from TOF to enable local staff to train partners from throughout the Pacific on how to monitor and respond to ocean acidification. Additionally, the hub will serve as a year-round training center and house an inventory of spare parts to service researchers from across the region.



JOINT EVENT WITH THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

On December 17, 2020, TOF, The Embassy of Israel, and Tel Aviv University organized a distinguished team of panelists to discuss the topic of ocean acidification that will surely have lasting impacts in the region. *Protect Our Seas – Solutions for Ocean Acidification* was developed as part of the Embassy's Green Embassy Initiative.

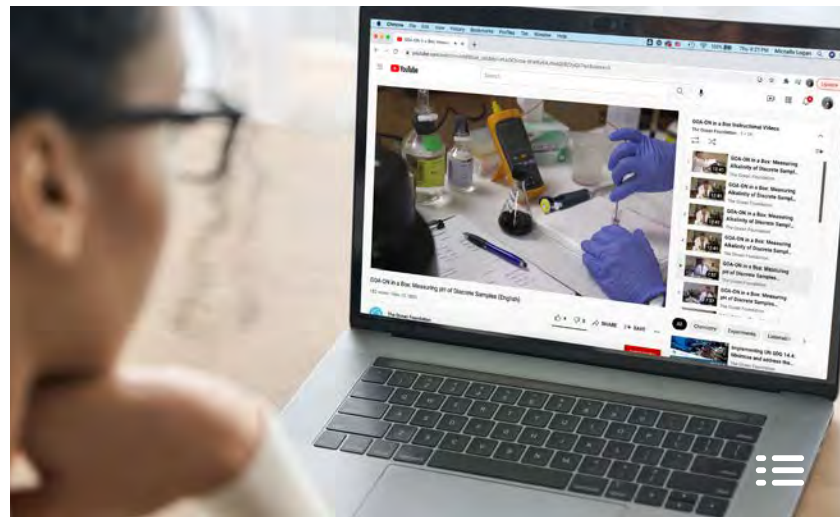


3RD ANNUAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION DAY OF ACTION

On January 8, 2021, TOF convened the Third Annual Ocean Acidification Day of Action (OA Day). To accommodate for COVID-19 event restrictions, TOF shifted the focus of OA Day this year away from a formal embassy event and to a series of online events that highlight and celebrate the work of TOF and its partners. OA Day took place on the 8th of January – or 8.1, the current pH of the ocean. The day featured a flagship event held by TOF on Facebook Live as well as sister events held by TOF's partners around the world. The event, which celebrated the accomplishments of TOF and its partners, was well attended, with the recording viewed almost 2,000 times. Partner events featuring TOF staff and grantees occurred from Jamaica, Mozambique, and South Africa. In Argentina, TOF partners created a video describing the importance of studying OA locally, and in Liberia, our partners brought together government leaders and speakers from throughout Africa to discuss progress in addressing OA and opportunities for partnership.

GOA-ON IN A BOX TRAINING VIDEOS

Last November, TOF published **16 training videos on YouTube**, posted on the GOA-ON website, and disseminated to all past participants in TOF's OA training programs. These videos, produced by TOF, are designed to help scientists around the world learn how to monitor ocean acidification using the GOA-ON in a Box kit and bring the weight of experience from training over 200 researchers on these methods over the past five years. There are four unique videos, each presented in four languages (English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish). The videos have hundreds of views by scientists all over the world and are a particularly critical training tool during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a resource for all OA researchers to learn or refresh best practices, even if they are not kit recipients. These videos were filmed in Dr. Christopher Sabine's lab at the University of Hawaii and filmed by Pua Tree Productions. The lab techniques covered by the videos include properly collecting discrete water samples to measure in the lab, measuring the alkalinity of discrete samples, measuring the pH of discrete samples, and using certified reference materials to confirm the accuracy of measurements.



TRAINING SCIENTISTS TO INFORM SCIENCE-BASED POLICY

In October, in partnership with the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, TOF held a training workshop for scientists to learn how to engage with governments and policymakers to advance science and science-based management. The workshop was held twice to enable participation across multiple time zones. Participants were given pre-workshop materials including TOF's OA Guidebook for Policymakers and a worksheet custom created for this workshop meant to provide scientists a road map for how to engage with policymakers. The workshops were attended by 200 scientists from more than 20 countries. This was a successful instance of adapting to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, TOF and the OA Alliance were going to hold this workshop in person as part of the Fifth International Symposium on the Ocean in a High CO₂ World in Lima, Peru, which was to be held in September of 2020. Because this conference was postponed, the workshop was moved online. As a result, many more scientists were able to attend the digital workshop than would have been able to attend an in-person event in Lima. Throughout 2021, TOF will work with workshop participants to advance their strategies to strengthen the science-policy feedback loop in their countries.





REDESIGNING PLASTICS INITIATIVE (RPI)





TOF's Redesigning Plastics Initiative (RPI) focuses on developing original science to inform a suite of legislative standards on the polymers and additives used in the production of plastics to re-engineer plastic to be Safe, Simple, and Standardized.

TOF's solution to plastic pollution in the ocean is quite simple: reduce plastic production and make plastic easier to recycle by standardizing its composition. We envision a global community that only uses plastics when they provide a necessary and essential benefit to society, and where plastics are made from simplified ingredients and formulations that can be as recyclable as aluminum and glass are today. In addition, by taking a green chemistry approach to change the way plastics are made, we can reduce concerns about toxicity to both humans and our environment. However, this transition to redesign is no easy feat. It requires engaging community members, retailers, and plastic manufacturers together so that we

can make a just transition — one that makes sense for each community — and educating and collaborating with policymakers and government officials to develop a practical framework that makes sense for our health, our planet, and our economy. We must push the scientific community toward innovation so that we can start asking the right questions about how we can change the way plastics are made and to re-engineer plastics to be simple, safe, and standardized.

We need to zero out the plastic getting into the environment, especially into the ocean, and we need a specific plan to meet such a goal. Legislators have the unique opportunity to lead the way in redesigning plastics through the development and introduction of a science-informed legislative and regulatory approach to the chemistry and design of polymers, mixtures of polymers, and other plastics ingredients (such as additives, colorants, and adhesives).

By championing green chemistry, legislators can reduce the concerns associated with toxicity, while also moving us towards a circular economy, with the simplification and standardization of plastic.

Over the last year, TOF has been engaging with lawmakers on the state, national, and international level to introduce science-informed legislation that establishes a hierarchy of plastics which identifies:

1

uses that are most **valuable, necessary, and beneficial** to society for which plastic represents the safest, most appropriate solution that has near-term and long term benefits

2

plastics that have **readily available (or readily designed or designable) alternatives** to replaceable or avoidable plastic

3

pointless or **unnecessary plastic** to be simply eliminated

WHAT TOF ACHIEVED THIS YEAR ON THE U.S. STATE LEVEL

- TOF drafted and delivered legislation to the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) to serve as a state-level Break Free From Plastic Act specifically for the State of New York. This state-level adaptation of the Break Free From Plastic Act can be modified for introduction in any state within the U.S. as a model for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging.
- TOF signed onto the open letter calling for non-food plastics sachets to be phased out. This letter calls for legislative frameworks which are phasing out unnecessary single-use plastics to include non-food plastics sachets and has been signed by corporate, political, and academic supporters. This call for action has also received cross-party political support from UK politicians and members of the European Parliament.

WHAT TOF ACHIEVED THIS YEAR ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

TOF undertook significant national and international research and analysis to deliver a comprehensive draft for national plastics legislation, the Break Free Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 introduced on March 25, 2021 for the U.S., and we are proud to report that the previously-delivered legislation is being adapted for Mexico as well.

Drawing on the best global examples of introduced policies at the national and sub-national level, TOF prepared draft language for the World Wildlife Fund and the American Bar Association, which included ten key elements:

- 1 Reducing truly unnecessary material through the implementation of a comprehensive phase out of single-use plastics
- 2 Creating a national beverage container deposit program and other recycling initiatives
- 3 Developing a comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility program
- 4 Suggesting a moratorium on bringing new production online
- 5 Clarifying the roles of local governments, including the discussion of possible tax incentives and increased tipping fees to increase private and local government investments in greater recycling capacity
- 6 Establishing an advisory body made up of key stakeholders to report back to Congress
- 7 Developing performance standards
- 8 Providing broad-based consumer education and engagement
- 9 Ensuring access and participation for all
- 10 Integrating into international frameworks

NEW REDESIGNING PLASTICS INITIATIVE PARTNERS



BOTTLE CONSORTIUM

BOTTLE Consortium (Bio-Optimized Technologies to keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment) is a group of laboratories and universities developing “new chemical upcycling strategies for today’s plastics and redesigning tomorrow’s plastics to be recyclable-by-design.” TOF is coordinating on their mutual objectives to advance the science and engineering of polymers to make them recyclable by design and thus reduce plastic pollution. TOF provides a nonprofit perspective as BOTTLE develops original applied science on polymer design to improve recyclability and make plastics Safer, Simpler, and more Standardized.



CONSERVATION X LABS

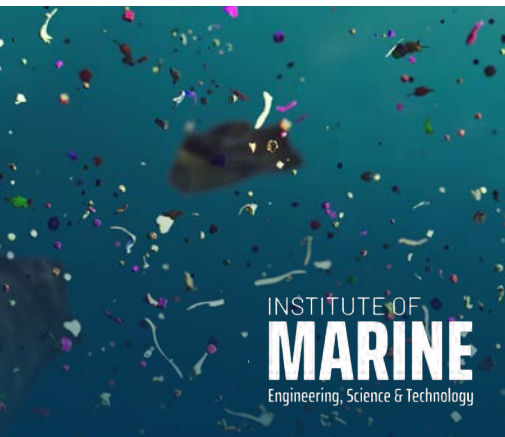
TOF has joined forces with Conservation X Labs to revolutionize conservation. Together we have launched the Microfiber Innovation Challenge and leveraged mutual networks to promote investment in market-ready innovations that address microfiber pollution.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON MARINE LITTER

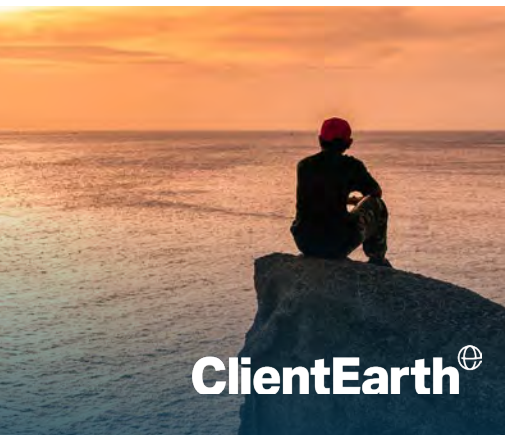
TOF is an active member of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). GPML’s goals are the following:

1. Providing a platform for cooperation and coordination; sharing ideas, knowledge, and experiences; identifying gaps and emerging issues
2. Harnessing the expertise, resources, and enthusiasm of all stakeholders
3. Making a significant contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution



MARINE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY'S (IMAREST) OCEAN PLASTICS AND MARINE LITTER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

This year TOF was invited to join IMarEST's Ocean Plastics and Marine Litter Special Interest Group (SIG). The focus of this SIG is ocean-based sources of marine debris from the maritime, fishery, and aquaculture industries. It was established to identify the right questions and how to address them, develop tools to share knowledge with industry and policy leaders, and support widespread change. The SIG expressed an interest in following up with TOF on policy.



CLIENTEARTH

TOF has entered a partnership with ClientEarth to explore the relationship of ocean plastic pollution to human health.



BLUE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE (BRI)



Investment in nature-based solutions provide invaluable ecosystem services that contribute to our ability to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. For TOF, that means investing in coastal communities, including restoring and protecting seagrass meadows, mangrove forests, and salt marshes that provide critical habitats for fisheries and storm protection that people depend upon. The Blue Resilience Initiative is also exploring the use of seaweed-derived compost and biochar for use in regenerative agriculture that stores carbon and prevents the degradation of coastal ecosystems, while providing greater food security and alternative livelihoods for coastal communities.



JOBOS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE, PUERTO RICO

In the summer of 2020, our partners successfully completed important work at our seagrass and mangrove restoration pilot sites in Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico. Sediment tubes and bird stakes were installed at the seagrass planting sites and one acre of mangroves was also restored. Towards the end of 2020, we finalized our seagrass pilot project in Jobos Bay (~4 acres) through the installation of seagrass planting units in the areas where we had previously installed biodegradable sediment tubes. Additional buoys were also installed to support safe navigation around the restoration areas, which will also protect the surrounding areas with significant blue carbon conservation benefits (~22 acres).

In addition, we finalized our large-scale feasibility assessment and mangrove restoration plan for the eastern part of Jobos Bay. This plan includes over 600 acres of potential area for mangrove restoration and rehabilitation. Unlike the pilot project that exclusively utilized direct mangrove planting, most of the effort for the large-scale project will be focused on hydrological restoration (i.e., improving flow/salinity of water with canal-

building and culvert-clearing among other interventions). In addition, we plan to create small mangrove “islands” that will increase seed propagation in surrounding areas and create structures to promote natural expansion. The permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers is complex and time-consuming for a project of this scale, but we hope to have our permit finalized by the end of 2021. We are actively exploring certification for this project under Verified Carbon Standard’s REDD+ methodological framework. TOF selected these restoration sites in Jobos Bay because it was one of the most damaged areas we surveyed in Puerto Rico in terms of seagrasses and mangroves following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. In addition to mangrove restoration, this project focuses on initially re-grading scars and blowholes in seagrass beds, followed by transplantation of fast-growing seagrass species to accelerate natural recovery of large areas. Restoration and conservation are necessary for all the marine organisms that depend on these critical habitats to survive, and will restore the local communities’ natural defense against hurricanes.



To date, here is what we have done in Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico:

2 governmental entities participated

4 acres of seagrass restored and expanded

22 acres of seagrass now with enhanced protections, signage, and NOAA navigation buoys

1 acre of mangroves restored

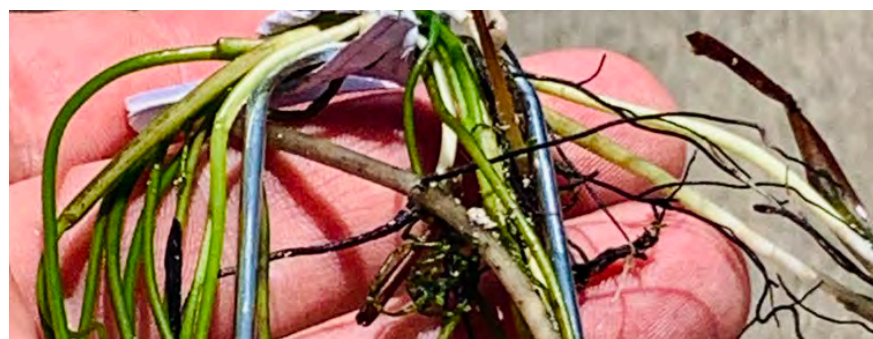
1 workshop held on long-term monitoring

40 participants for long-term monitoring workshop

45 participants/volunteers engaged in habitat restoration efforts

1 large-scale restoration design plan developed

1 permit amendment submitted for expanded seagrass restoration work



VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Mosquito Bay, located in Vieques, Puerto Rico, serves as a key environmental, economic, and cultural resource for its surrounding communities. It is considered the “brightest bioluminescent bay in the world” due to its ideal environmental conditions for high concentrations of bioluminescent dinoflagellates. During Hurricane Maria in 2017, an extensive number of protective mangroves and seagrasses were destroyed leaving large areas prone to ongoing erosion that threaten the bay’s ecosystem. Experts believe the resiliency of this unique ecosystem will be increasingly challenged by climate change bringing more frequent and powerful storm events that could, if unchecked, lead to extensive habitat destruction and potentially the permanent loss of bioluminescence resulting from changes in the environmental conditions that allow bioluminescent dinoflagellates to thrive. Through this new project, we intend to conduct large-scale mangrove restoration work (~47 acres) that builds on initial assessments and site prioritization conducted by our partner, the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust (VCHT).

We are honored to further our collaboration with 11th Hour Racing on seagrass and mangrove restoration on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. 11th Hour Racing has awarded two grants to TOF and VCHT to continue ongoing coastal habitat restoration at Mosquito Bay. Together with VCHT, we have begun to implement a pilot project at the mouth of the bay. VCHT hopes to finalize this pilot project, as well as an expansion of the mangrove nursery, by the end of the year. The mouth of the bay, which is eroding due to hurricane-related damages, is critical for maintaining the conditions necessary for the bioluminescent dinoflagellates to thrive. 11th Hour Racing works with the sailing community and maritime industries to advance solutions and practices that protect and restore the health of our ocean. The organization has long worked with TOF on finding ways to enhance climate resilience in coastal communities.





SARGASSUM INSETTING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The results are in from local farmers in Miches, Dominican Republic, who received sargassum-based organic compost last spring. On average, their crops were 78% longer in size, had less weed growth, and displayed stronger resistance to toxicity than control crops planted without the compost. These results demonstrate how regenerative agriculture with sargassum-based compost and bio-intensive techniques have a tremendous effect on the 14 farmers' healthy food production, especially because higher crop yields also means that the farmers have more to sell. The farmers, who are mostly women, also received new farming tools from Grogenics.

Since 2019, The Ocean Foundation has partnered with Grogenics, with support from Marriott International, to create a carbon insetting program (named "SeaGreen") that sustainably utilizes large-scale sargassum strandings to produce organic compost.

The project we are supporting in the Dominican Republic is considered a "carbon insetting" project, which is a method for sequestering and storing carbon in a way that offsets a company's carbon footprint while also enhancing its value chain. This contrasts with traditional carbon offsetting, which supports the sequestration and storage of greenhouse gas emissions outside of a company's direct or indirect operations. By working with tourist resorts to

harvest and transform sargassum into compost, we can use regenerative agricultural practices to build soils, which sequesters and stores large amounts of carbon that helps mitigate climate change. Not only does using organic compost increase local agricultural yields and improve food security, but it also creates new markets for high-value, organic produce increasingly in demand by resort guests (hence contributing to the company's value chain in addition to offsetting its carbon footprint).

While large sargassum rafts form an important ecosystem in the open ocean, the recent inundation of the beaches and coastal zone by sargassum in the Caribbean is severely disrupting coastal tourism and the fishing industry, and endangering coastal ecosystems. According to a recent Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) survey, the Caribbean has already experienced a 35% decrease in regional tourism (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). As it approaches the shore, sargassum also smothers coral reefs and seagrass beds and depletes oxygen levels in the surrounding water column, leading to significant die-offs and the loss of blue carbon sinks. TOF is excited to partner with Grogenics as we continue our work in the Dominican Republic and expand our project to St. Kitts and Nevis this year.





ACCENTURE ECO INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Accenture provides opportunities for people to collaborate with innovation partners and tackle critical issues affecting our environment. This year, TOF was honored to have Program Officer Ben Scheelk serve as a judge for Accenture's Eco Innovation Challenge, a competition aimed at finding solutions for our biggest environmental challenges. More than 2,300 Accenture social innovators from 38 countries stepped up and put together teams, generating over 1,200 new ideas. Ultimately, 100 finalists from 11 countries pitched their ideas to Accenture leaders and judges representing 40 innovation partners.



CHESAPEAKE BAY BOATER BEHAVIOR CHANGE PROGRAM

In 2021, TOF and its partners worked to build upon our successful pilot-tested social marketing campaign with support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The goal is to work in Chesapeake Bay tributaries throughout Maryland to improve recreational boating practices in the presence of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), which includes seagrasses. By partnering with and training local organizations on how to implement the campaign and assess boater behavior change, we will reach a large audience, spread the ability to conduct this social marketing campaign to other groups, and reduce damaging boating behaviors throughout the Bay.

After postponing our latest social marketing campaign, “For a healthy Bay, let grasses stay,” in April of 2020 due to COVID-19, we started ramping up for implementation in 2021, including reconnecting with four partners that had participated in a one-day virtual training the year before. Despite the challenges of the past year, we are moving forward with implementation in partnership with the Arundel Rivers Federation, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Magothy River Association, and Severn River Association. We look forward to sharing more about the launch of the campaign in next year’s report!





OFFSET YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT WITH TOF'S **SEAGRASS GROW**



TOF has been involved in coastal restoration since 2008. We released our first-ever Blue Carbon Offset Calculator in 2012 to provide charitable carbon offsets for individual donors, foundations, corporations, and events through the restoration and conservation of important coastal habitats that sequester and store carbon, including seagrass meadows, mangrove forests, and salt marshes.

The increasingly severe effects of climate change on coastal communities result in recurring and widespread loss of property and human lives. The devastation inflicted by strengthening storm events and routine flooding has rippling effects throughout the economy and society – especially when support for recovery following a disaster is uneven and unjust.

It is estimated that healthy coastal ecosystems can store up to 10 times the amount of carbon per hectare (“blue carbon”) relative to terrestrial forest ecosystems. In addition, healthy coastal ecosystems play a critical role in filtering water to remove excess nutrients and sediment, thereby significantly improving water quality. Coastal habitats like seagrass beds also mitigate stressors on the environment, like ocean acidification, which threaten our livelihoods and marine biodiversity.



“Our sustainability journey began with a few recycling bins in the office back in 2003 and has since grown into a multi-curriculum program that is now focused on aggressive action to protect our planet, and this includes the ocean.”

NORMAN VOSSSCHULTE
DIRECTOR OF FAN EXPERIENCE |
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES BECOME FIRST U.S. PRO SPORTS TEAM TO OFFSET TEAM TRAVEL WITH TOF'S SEAGRASS GROW PROGRAM!

The Philadelphia Eagles entered into a landmark, first-of-its-kind partnership with TOF and Ocean Conservancy to offset all team travel from 2020 through TOF's seagrass and mangrove restoration efforts in Puerto Rico, building upon the Eagle's robust "Go Green" program. This makes the Eagles the first U.S.-based professional sports franchise to offset their travel.

"Our sustainability journey began with a few recycling bins in the office back in 2003 and has since grown into a multi-curriculum program that is now focused on aggressive action to protect our planet, and this includes the ocean," said Norman Vosschulte, Director of Fan Experience, Philadelphia Eagles.

The Eagles' Go Green program has been internationally recognized for its commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly measures. In recent years, the team has earned LEED Gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council, an ISO 20121 international certification, and a GBAC (Global Biorisk Advisory Council) STAR accreditation. As part of this progressive approach to serve as proud environmental stewards in Philadelphia and beyond, the team's award-winning Go Green program has contributed to the Eagles running a zero-waste operation fueled by 100% clean energy.

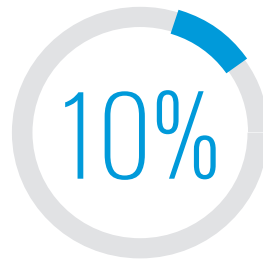


TOF, a partner organization of Ocean Conservancy, will handle the planning and implementation of seagrass and mangrove restoration in The Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (JBNERR), a federally protected estuary located in the municipalities of Salinas and Guayama in Puerto Rico.

The Eagles offset their carbon footprint in 2020, which included air and bus travel to eight road games. The calculations were made by TOF using the travel details from the Eagles' 2020 itinerary. The funding for this project is broken down the following way:



Labor and supply restoration efforts



Public education
(workshops and trainings to build local scientific capacity)



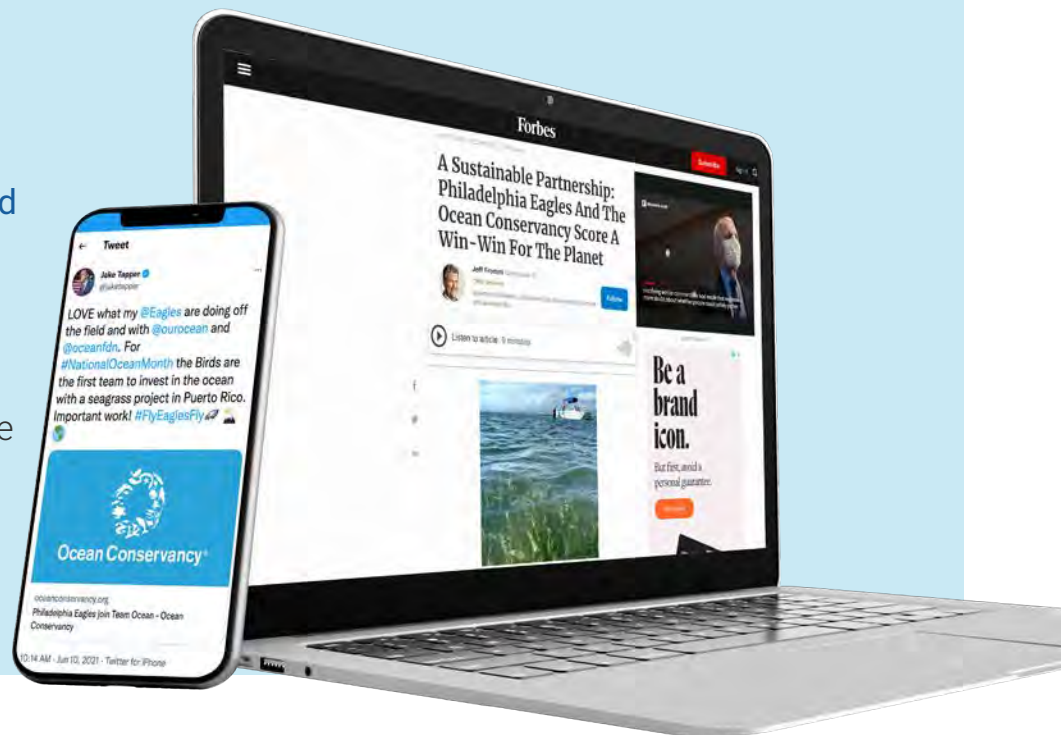
Administration and infrastructure

15 MEDIA HITS from June 8-17

NATIONAL COVERAGE from [Forbes](#), [BBC World News](#), and [NFL Network's Good Morning Football](#) (ran twice)

TWEETS from [Jake Tapper](#), [Darren Rovell](#), [Forbes' Jeff Fromm](#), [Beyond Sport](#), and more

AN ESTIMATED 16.5M+ READERS/VIEWERS reached nationally



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH PADI TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS

TOF is proud to kick-off our new partnership with PADI by helping divers reduce their carbon footprint through contributions to SeaGrass Grow. SeaGrass Grow is included under Community Goal 4 as part of PADI's **AWARE Week**. PADI has partnered with The Ocean Foundation to offer the PADI Community a means of engaging with seagrass, mangrove, and salt marsh conservation and restoration to reduce PADI's carbon footprint and support the foundations of life in the ocean. Together, PADI and Project AWARE are inspiring a powerful community of Torchbearers, committed to exploring and protecting the ocean, shining a light on what's possible, and leading communities towards a sustainable future. Under the theme – Carry The Torch For Ocean Protection – PADI's global dive community was invited to join the growing movement of **PADI® Torchbearers** during the annual AWARE Week to take action for the ocean, above and below the surface.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how TOF's SeaGrass Grow is working with PADI.



SEA GOING GREEN FOR CO₂ OFFSETTING

TOF is proud to announce that we have officially partnered with Sea Going Green, a sustainable tourism consultancy based in The Netherlands. Sea Going Green helps companies to capitalize on the economic, social, and environmental benefits associated with sustainable tourism development; and to determine their priorities regarding investments towards sustainability.


Sea Going Green's work supports several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14: Life Below Water. [Click here](#) to read their blog interview with Ben Scheelk, Program Officer at TOF.



BLUE IS THE NEW GREEN, PUBLICATION IN TRADE ONLY MAGAZINE

This year TOF partnered with Yacht Carbon Offset, a company aimed at reducing the overall footprint in the yachting industry. Through this partnership, TOF identified individual yacht owners looking to offset their carbon footprint, including Dave Mallach and The Fog Warning, his New York-based brokerage. This year, The Fog Warning began offering carbon-neutral yacht ownership through TOF's SeaGrass Grow Program. Mallach says he's sold two boats so far under the arrangement, in which owners submit fuel receipts annually so he can calculate and offset their carbon emissions, throughout all their years of ownership. The offsets include investing in TOF's SeaGrass Grow in Puerto Rico.

"It's such a win-win thing," Mallach says. "The average boater is putting 12,000 to 18,000 pounds of carbon a year into the air. The good news is that offsetting the damage is not a dollar-per-dollar investment."

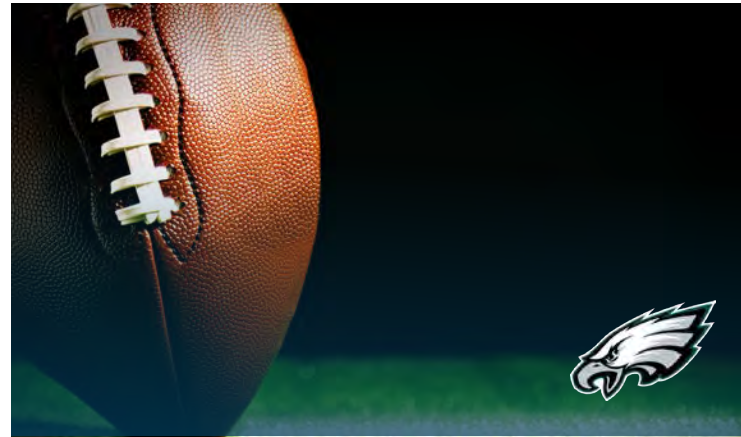


“It’s such a win-win thing. The average boater is putting 12,000 to 18,000 pounds of carbon a year into the air. The good news is that offsetting the damage is not a dollar-per-dollar investment.

DAVE MALLACH THE FOG WARNING

To read the full *Trade Only* interview with Jason Donofrio, External Relations Officer at TOF, [click here](#).

OUR SEAGRASS GROW PARTNERS





CARIBBEAN MARINE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CARIMAR)



TOF's Caribbean Team focuses on strengthening regional cooperation and technical and financial capacity in all aspects of marine and coastal sciences, including socio-economic sciences, while supporting sustainable policy and management of the unique cultural and ecological resources of the Caribbean region. TOF's multi-national coordination mechanism serves to build a healthy, productive, and climate-resilient Caribbean eco-region, sustaining rich biodiversity and coastal communities with high standards of living where innovative blue economy activities are competitive and sustainable. TOF uniquely benefits from two decades of collaboration with Caribbean institutions, successfully developed through the CariMar project.



UNEP CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (CEP) CONSULTANCY

In February 2021, we wrapped up the year-long consultancy and submitted our final report “Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution Reduction in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Pre-Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment” to our clients at the United Nations Caribbean Environment Program. In Part I of the report, we describe the methodology for habitat restoration and pollution reduction site prioritization in Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) we designed with our team of experts. Our methodology for large-scale habitat restoration and pollution reduction projects utilizes a four-part scorecard that starts at the country-level and narrows its focus down to specific large-scale habitat restoration sites. Through this process, we produced a total of 17 scorecards for 16 countries in the CLME+ region. A total of 48 unique large-scale habitat restoration sites were identified through this process – all of which present compelling reasons for investment in the coming years. In Part II, we apply blended finance models to three large-scale habitat restoration and pollution reduction projects in the CLME+ selected through our restoration site prioritization methodology. For each site, we estimate the total cost of restoration efforts, provide examples of blended finance model elements, and describe potential benefits from restoration activities.

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

SITE PRIORITIZATION SCORECARD

1 COUNTRY RESTORATION POTENTIAL

Review and score the criteria below to provide a quantitative/qualitative analysis on the level of need and restoration potential for a specific target country.

NEED AND FEASIBILITY CRITERIA
Score the following as **Highest (5)**, **High (4)**, **Moderate (3)**, **Low (2)**, **Unknown (1)**; highest possible combined score is 40.

Country Name: _____	
Level of Need	Score
Seascapes (containing multiple coastal habitat types in close proximity) are present including both functioning reference and impaired sites in need of restoration	
Impaired seascape condition/intervention needed	
Several important areas (e.g., protected areas) will benefit from seascape restoration	
Numerous communities will benefit from seascape restoration	
Feasibility Potential	Score
High support and motivation for restoration likely	
Legislative frameworks or policies in place	
Sufficient funding and capacity available	
Scalability of restoration approach to other areas	
Total Score: _____	



COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE MEXICAN CARIBBEAN

In May 2021, TOF received funding from The Oak Hill Fund to initiate a project in Tulum National Park and Xcalak Reefs National Park on the Mexican Caribbean coast. The idea for this project was hatched from conversations with our partners at Mexico's National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) who manage these two protected areas. Our partners expressed a clear need to identify where mangrove, dune, and coral restoration should be conducted, and to train community members to participate in restoration efforts. For this project, we will bring together a group of habitat restoration ecologists over two weeks to conduct a baseline assessment of mangrove habitats at Xcalak to determine

the relative health of these habitats and detect perceived physical damage. With this information, we will produce a map of these habitats and their condition, which will help inform a pilot restoration plan. As a second phase, we will conduct a community-based workshop at Xcalak with local stakeholders to train stakeholders on mangrove and coral restoration, habitat monitoring, and the identification of stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). Xcalak is unique in that it is an indigenous Mayan fishing community that is the last on the Mayan Riviera littoral zone yet to be affected by large scale tourism. These workshops will help CONANP update management plans for the two protected areas.

FIRST NATIONS-LED MARINE FINANCE STRATEGY

In November 2020, TOF was awarded funding by MakeWay Charitable Society (formerly Tides Canada and affiliated with The Nature Conservancy) to develop a financial strategy to fund a First Nations-led marine protected area network in the Northern Shelf Bioregion in British Columbia, Canada. TOF worked with Innovations4Conservation (I4C) and a group of 17 First Nations to design this financial strategy

by determining funding goals, priorities, and opportunities. The project also provided a road map to further advance the development and implementation of a preferred financial strategy. TOF and I4C organized eight virtual workshops with representatives of the First Nations to design the strategy, which was finalized in May 2021.

STUDYING CORALS REEFS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on almost every imaginable human activity. Marine research has been curtailed more than any other, as underwater science requires travel, planning, and proximity in research vessels to get to study sites. In January 2021, our partners at Center for Marine Research of the University of Havana (CIM-UH) defied all odds by kick-starting their two-decade effort to study elkhorn coral at two sites off the coast of Havana: Rincón de Guanabo and Baracoa. This most recent expedition was done through will and ingenuity, and a focus on land-based departures to coral research sites, which can be done deliberately and while ensuring proper spacing of scientists.

This project evaluates the health and density of corals, substrate coverage, and presence of fish and predator communities. Reef ridges are valuable habitats within coral reefs. These ridges are responsible for the three-dimensionality of the reef, provide shelter for all organisms of commercial value, such as fish and lobsters, and protect the coasts from extreme weather events such as cyclones and hurricanes. Knowing the state of health of the ridges and their ecological values will make it possible to recommend management and conservation measures that will contribute to their future protection. The project is supported by TOF with funds from Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.



SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN CUBA

TOF has collaborated on the Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Project since 1999 to study an important population of endangered green and loggerhead turtles in western Cuba and improve the livelihoods of remote fishing communities. Due to travel limitations imposed by COVID-19, citizen scientists from Havana monitored the beaches for only 21 days between July 19 and August 8, 2020 (compared to 96 days in 2019). In the 2020 nesting season, 202 turtles came to nest on the beaches, all of which were green sea turtles. Of these, a total of 152 nests were registered and volunteers tagged 95 females. Volunteers were unable to analyze the nests after hatching, but estimated that there were 49,095 hatchlings during the 2020 season. Due to the presence of volunteers and through community outreach, the project has reduced poaching of nesting female turtles by 80%.

SAWFISH CONSERVATION IN CUBA

TOF and two other Fiscally Sponsored Projects, Shark Advocates International and Havenworth Coastal Conservation, worked together to document and protect sawfish in Cuba and the Bahamas, while setting the stage for a future phase of conservation in other parts of the Caribbean where they have been seen.

In July 2019, we conducted interviews with over 30 fishing communities around the Cuban coastline to document historical sightings of sawfish in the country. The data from these interviews, as well as data from previous interviews conducted in 2011, point to potential areas in Cuba where sawfish can be found. This research is pointing to Cayo Confites, a key in north central Cuba, as an ideal site for what will be the first attempt to scientifically tag sawfish in Cuba. TOF has begun planning this expedition for late 2021.

In 2020, TOF's partner, the Center for Fisheries Research, submitted a proposal in August 2020 to the Cuban government to consider sawfish as protected through fisheries regulations (i.e., fines).

“Taking action for ocean health should be enjoyable and uplifting. As the ocean is so vast, it will take billions of small actions to make a difference. But the ocean is resilient and responsive.

FERNANDO BRETOS PROGRAM OFFICER | THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



TOF MEXICO





In February 2021, TOF met with Josefa González Blanco Ortiz-Mena, head of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) – which identifies common strategies to deal with OA and protect marine areas in Mexico. TOF also met with Chairman Murat Hinojosa of the Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change, who invited TOF to conduct an OA workshop for their members.

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Martín Hernández Ayón | Investigador del Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

María Alejandra Navarrete Hernández | Government and Multinationals Liaison Officer, The Ocean Foundation

Mark J. Spalding | President, The Ocean Foundation

[READ MORE](#)

TOF WORKS WITH THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

TOF supports the Mexican government’s work to fulfill their U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). TOF advises Mexico regarding its participation as one of 14 heads of State in the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. At Mexico’s request, the topic

of travel and tourism was included in the final High Level Panel report issued in December 2020. This inclusion led to the formation of an action coalition – TACSO or the Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean- which is co-chaired by TOF and Iberostar as the private sector partner.

A NATIONAL DATA HUB FOR MEXICO

In 2020, TOF worked with multiple agencies in Mexico to advance a national framework for understanding and responding to ocean acidification. One such partnership is with the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and Mexico’s National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) to initiate

a new nationwide ocean data hub and data standardization program.

TOF worked with INEGI to: (1) develop a suite of ocean indicators that the data hub will focus on, (2) conduct stakeholder outreach to universities and NGOs in order to identify monitoring

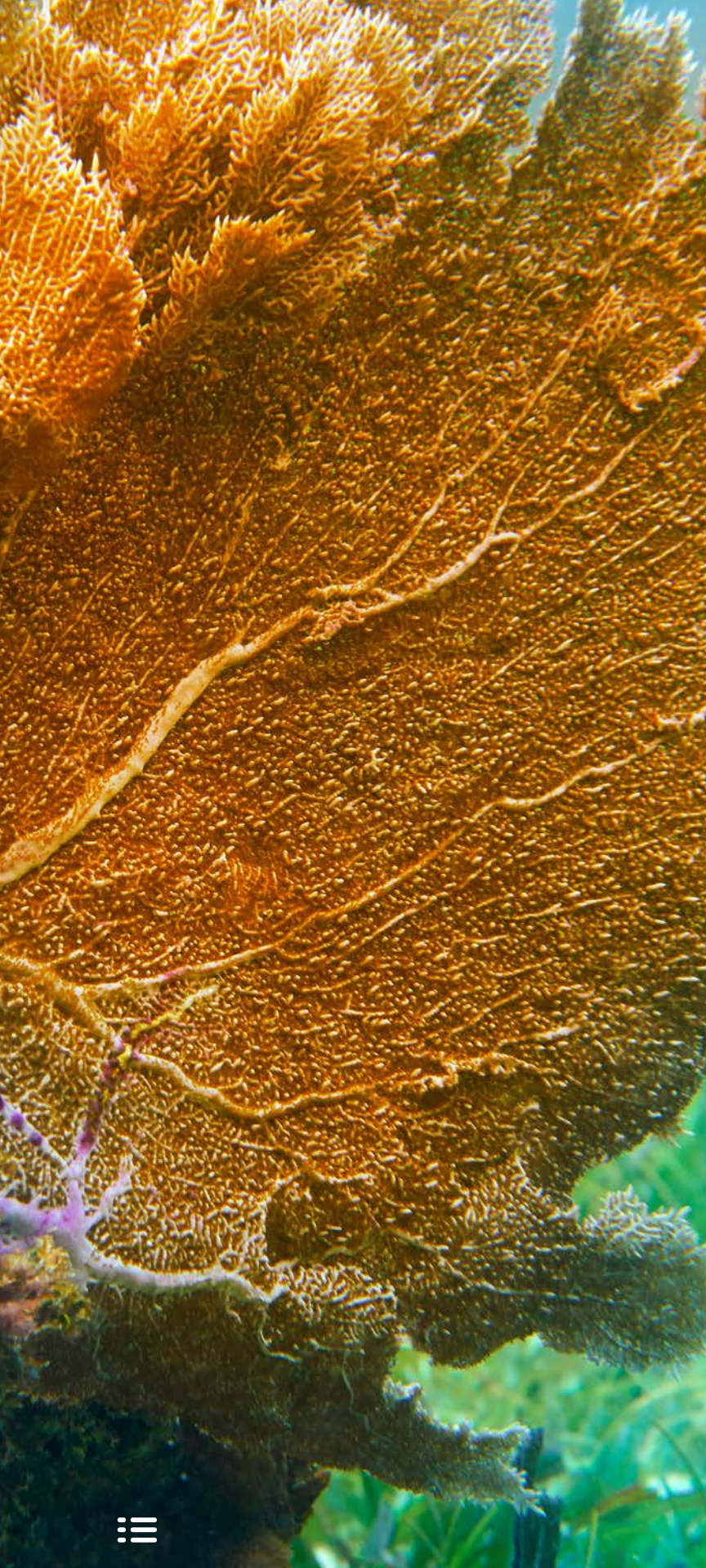
partners and existing infrastructure, and (3) liaise with the international High Level Panel for the Sustainable Ocean Economy. The Mexican Navy has also joined as an official partner. The data hub was officially launched by the Mexican government in December 2020 as a formal outcome of Mexico's participation in the High Level Panel. This data hub is part of a larger effort by TOF to update Mexico's national ocean policy and ensure both the scientific and policy instruments are sufficient to address emerging ocean threats such as OA.

The partnership has eight specific objectives which support joint policies toward a sustainable blue ocean economy, respond to international commitments, and allow continuous monitoring of ocean and coastal ecosystem health. Initial surveys on 51 ongoing projects in Mexico have informed the development of the data hub as an effective tool for transforming ocean science. The hub will deliver data and information in open formats, to allow free access and promote interactions between data providers and data users from government, academic, civil society, and private sectors.

MEXICO NATIONAL POLICY

TOF is also advising the Mexican Senate's Commission on the Environment on how to address plastic pollution through bans on single-use products, increase in recycling requirements, and examination of biodegradable plastic, among other controls. TOF has provided collections of example model legislation, and has answered questions as they have developed national legislation to recommend pragmatic approaches to dealing with plastic pollution and recycling. TOF also operates under a MoU with the National Convention of Industrialists in Mexico (CANACINTRA).





ECONOMIC VALUATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF THE MESOAMERICAN REEF

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS or MAR) is the largest reef ecosystem in America and the second largest in the world, measuring almost 1,000 km from the extreme north of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to the Caribbean coasts of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. On January 19, 2021, TOF, in partnership with Metroeconomica and World Resources Institute of Mexico (WRI) hosted a workshop to present the results of their study [Evaluation of the Mesoamerican Reef System](#). The study was financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and aimed to estimate the economic value of the ecosystem services of coral reefs in the MAR as well as to explain the importance of the conservation of MAR in order to better inform decision makers. Stakeholders from the four countries that constitute the MAR—Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras—were consulted throughout the process of conducting the valuation study.

During the final workshop, researchers shared the results of the study. There were more than 100 attendees from all four countries. Among the attendees were academics, NGOs, and decisionmakers. Participants were divided into breakout groups by country where they expressed the value of studies like this one to contribute to the improvement of public policies for the protection and conservation of terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems. Participants also stated the need to empower local communities with the dissemination of the results and establish synergies with other sectors such as tourism and service providers.

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021-2030):

THE SCIENCE WE NEED FOR THE OCEAN WE WANT



2021
2030

United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



The United Nations (U.N.) has proclaimed the next ten years the **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)**.

The goal over the next ten years is for governments, NGOs, and the private sector to work in a coalition at every level, from the local, state, national, subnational, regional, and global stage to concentrate their time, attention and resources to ocean science and sustainable development.

The U.N. Agenda 2030 asks all nations to be better stewards of our planet and our people and identifies a series of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to serve as benchmarks for fulfilling that agenda. **SDG 14** is dedicated to our global ocean on which all life on earth depends. The recently launched U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Decade) represents a commitment to ensuring that nations invest in the science we need to make informed decisions to fulfill SDG 14.

As mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO will coordinate the Decade's preparatory process, inviting the global ocean community to plan for the next ten years in ocean science and technology.

WHAT IS OCEAN SCIENCE?

Ocean science combines a variety of disciplines from physical, geographical, and chemical oceanography as well as marine biology to study and provide data on the global marine environment. According to the U.N. Decade,

“Ocean Science can support business operations, such as the shipping industry, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as conservation and management activities or coastal communities by predicting Ocean hazards, preventing and mitigating disaster risks.



Ocean observations and detailed scientific research are the cornerstone of predicting the consequences of change, which is then used to design mitigation and adaptation strategies. **According to the United Nations, The U.N. Decade will promote a more targeted and effective information flow as well as innovative ways of conducting and using ocean science by:**

Encouraging more inclusive and participatory approaches in designing and executing the science.

Citizens and scientific NGOs will be encouraged to collect and share data, and the business potential for ocean data collection, sharing and management will be explored.

Building reinforced dialogues. Science-policy interface, multidisciplinary approaches, and integration of natural, social, and engineering sciences. Giving value to traditional/ indigenous knowledge.

Promoting knowledge and information that is equitably shared around the world.

Closing knowledge gaps among countries, balancing knowledge systems, and considering the needs of coastal communities and those most vulnerable, such as Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.

Giving value to the ocean services and sciences.

The Decade will be aimed at shifting people's values and articulating what the economic, cultural or security values of the ocean are.

Developing innovative ways to communicate ocean science by simplifying the language. Offering open, comprehensible, and wide access to sound knowledge. Raising awareness within ocean communities and also beyond the ocean sphere by promoting ocean literacy.

Seeking alternative funding systems. Promoting public/private partnerships, new investments, and alignment of Decade priorities with the philanthropic sector priorities, or crowdfunding.

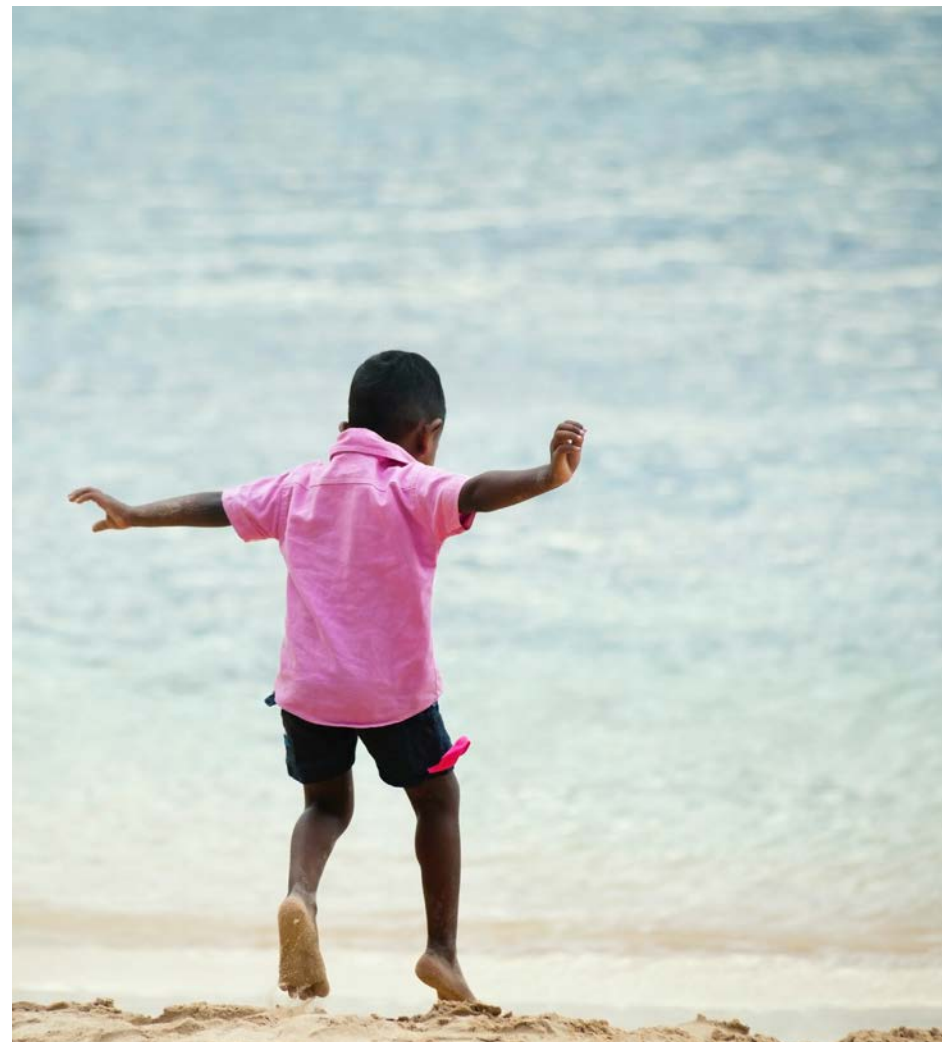
SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION OF THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TOF is proud to support the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science. We have worked with the UNESCO IOC to engage the philanthropic community and have helped organize in-person meetings with philanthropists in early 2020 in New York, California, and Copenhagen. Since then, we have joined several coordinating calls and have conducted research to map philanthropic foundations' interest in the Decade's 10 scientific challenges.

TOF President Mark J. Spalding is a member of the "U.S. National Committee for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" that is intended to "encourage participation and serve as a communication channel for the U.S. ocean science community throughout this international effort" as the focal point for U.S. participation in the Decade. In addition, NOAA has asked TOF to assist in outreach, partnership development, and coordination to create support for the Decade from philanthropic, civil society, and individual actors.

The Decade is an unparalleled opportunity for the U.S. to leverage its ongoing leadership in ocean science and advance priorities related to the blue economy, resilient coastal communities, and R&D infrastructure, with the full strength of global attention on related Decade outcomes. While the Ocean Decade has received phenomenal engagement from the ocean science community as an impetus to pursue transformative research, there remains the need to ensure these efforts are fulfilling the

complete vision of the Decade. While NOAA is leading the efforts to catalyze U.S. engagement by the federal government, TOF is poised to take the lead to build U.S. philanthropic and civil society support for the Decade to ensure that scientific efforts advance progress towards the often-dropped end of the Decade's title: *Sustainable Development*.



The Decade, with its keen focus not only on monitoring changing ocean conditions but addressing socioeconomic impacts, is a key opportunity to build the public's awareness of the ocean-climate nexus and leverage the existing interest of select philanthropies on this topic.

TOF has established a funding platform, "Friends of the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development," that harnesses TOF's capabilities as the only community foundation for the ocean. The Friends of the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Friends of the Decade) is a funding platform that harnesses the capabilities of TOF to deliver on the goals of the Decade.

The Friends of the Decade will be complementary to the Alliance for the Decade as hosted by IOC, The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy as hosted by WRI

and will be apart from the traditional donor nations that support the U.N. agencies. The Friends of the Decade will specifically focus on operationalizing and implementing the goals of the Decade by mobilizing funds to support academic, NGO, and other groups on the ground.

Current ocean science capacity is unequally distributed across ocean basins, and is especially limited in coastal regions in lesser developed countries. Achieving sustainable blue economic development requires an equitable distribution of ocean science capacity and coordinated efforts from the scale of international conveners to national governments to individual institutions and NGOs. The Executive Planning Group of the Decade has created a robust and inclusionary framework via a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process.

“At this point, ocean science capacity is unequally distributed across ocean basins, and is especially limited in coastal regions in lesser developed countries. Achieving sustainable blue economic development requires an equitable distribution of ocean science capacity and coordinated efforts from the scale of international conveners to national governments to individual institutions and NGOs.”

MARK J. SPALDING PRESIDENT | THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



In order to operationalize this framework, multiple groups need to be engaged, and significant funding needs to be mobilized. The IOC and the Alliance for the Decade play a crucial role in engaging governments and large entities and setting the scientific and programmatic goals of the Decade. Initiatives such as the High Level Panel of WRI further engage world leaders and governments.

There is a gap, however, in providing support directly to groups on the water in lesser resourced areas – regions where expansion of ocean science capacity is critical to achieving sustainable blue economic development. Many institutions in such regions lack the infrastructure to engage directly in formal U.N. processes and thus may not be able to access the support that is channeled directly through IOC or other agencies. Flexible, rapid support will be required for these types of institutions to support the Decade, and the Decade cannot succeed if such groups are not engaged.

The Ocean Foundation is the *only* community foundation for the ocean and is dedicated to supporting and strengthening partners around the world, and has a particular focus on mobilizing resources and providing administrative support for ocean science and blue economy activities in lesser developed regions. TOF is thus able to fill the existing gap by providing a proven platform – a community foundation – to mobilize and distribute resources.

The Friends of the Decade will:

- Establish a working group to advance the Friends of the Decade Fund
 - This working group will include leadership from the Executive Planning Group of the Decade, philanthropic partners, and other key stakeholders
- Establish a funding and administrative account at TOF in support of the Decade
 - Multiple sub-accounts can be created for administrative control per the needs and requirements of each donor or account purpose. A preliminary list of sub-accounts includes:
 - A general pooled fund that all donors can contribute to
 - A fund specifically focused on enhancing equitable distribution of ocean science capacity
- Mobilize funding in support of the Decade through donor engagement activities
 - Working group members will convene regular dialogues with key partners and create pathways for financial support
- Distribute funding to projects implementing the goals of the Decade
 - Funding priorities will be advised by donors and working group members
 - Funding calls will be designed to ensure accessibility to actors in lesser resourced countries (e.g., allowing proposals to be submitted in native language)
 - All outgoing grants will go through a rigorous due diligence process
 - The Friends of the Decade will handle reporting and tracking of effectiveness of grantmaking
- Engage with potential funders and projects regularly
 - The working group will hold regular convenings of key philanthropic and other supporters
 - The working group will ensure strong communication with on-the-ground groups who can help implement the goals of the Decade

This platform will coordinate funding activities in support of the Decade, including the new “EquiSea: The Ocean Science Fund for All.” EquiSea aims to improve equity in ocean science through a philanthropic fund providing direct financial support to projects, coordinating capacity development activities, and fostering collaboration and co-financing of ocean science among academic, government, NGO, and private sector actors. EquiSea will support the development of low-cost and easy-to-maintain ocean science technologies permitting high quality data collection and monitoring.

[READ MORE](#)



SPECIAL PROJECTS AT THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



THE BLUE SHIFT

COVID-19 has given us a pause to ensure we can take care of ourselves, our loved ones, and those suffering the adverse outcomes of the pandemic. It is a time to express empathy and compassion to those who need it most. The planet is no exception – when our economic activity is ready to resume, how can we make sure business reopens without the same destructive practices that will ultimately hurt humans and the environment alike? Rebuilding our economy to allow for a transition into new and healthy jobs is the best option for all of us. It is important, now more than ever, to focus on ocean health and to use this pause in global activity as an opportunity for raising awareness, taking individual responsibility, and promoting solutions to invigorate economic growth that is responsible. The **Blue Shift** is a global call to action focusing on how society can restore economies, post COVID-19, in a way that focuses on ocean health and sustainably, and by ensuring the ocean is available for future generations. To conduct ourselves better in the future, we need bold actions to set the ocean on a course of recovery and to support the priorities of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science.

In March, 2021, in response to the growing Blue Economy, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published *Turning the Tide: How to Finance a Sustainable Ocean Recovery*, a practical guide for financial institutions to lead a sustainable ocean recovery. You can read the guide [here](#).

“The Blue Shift is a global call to action focusing on how society can restore economies, post COVID-19, in a way that focuses on ocean health and sustainably, and by ensuring the ocean is available for future generations. To conduct ourselves better in the future, we need bold actions to set the ocean on a course of recovery and to support the priorities of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science.

MARK J. SPALDING PRESIDENT |
THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

ROCKEFELLER CLIMATE FUND & CREDIT SUISSE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

In 2020, TOF collaborated with Credit Suisse and Rockefeller Asset Management (RAM), a division of Rockefeller Capital Management, on the launch of the Ocean Engagement Fund, meeting the increasing demand from institutional and private investors to invest in the Blue Economy. This thematic equity fund focuses on company engagement to drive alpha (the excess return of an investment relative to the return of a benchmark index) and ocean health on three ocean-related themes: Pollution Prevention, Carbon Transition and Ocean Conservation. As the investment manager, RAM provides top down advice on the investments and strategic positioning of the fund, while TOF, in its capacity as advisor to the fund, helps to define the investment universe of company targets.

This partnership builds upon the existing relationship between RAM and TOF established over nine years with the launch of the Rockefeller Ocean Strategy (now called the Rockefeller Climate Solutions Fund), which was founded on the belief that climate change will transform economies and markets through changing regulation, shifting buying preferences from next-generation consumers, and technological advancements. This global strategy deploys a high conviction, bottom-up approach to investing in companies with meaningful revenue exposure to key environmental sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, water, waste management, pollution control, food & sustainable agriculture, healthcare mitigation, and climate support services.

The economic value of global ocean assets is around USD \$24 trillion, making it the seventh-largest economy in the world. A sustainable blue economy is not just crucial for planetary and human health, it also makes good business sense. Yet, with the acceleration of climate change, plastic pollution, and overfishing, the ocean's condition is deteriorating. Active investor engagement can help to turn this crisis around. According to research carried out by Credit Suisse and Responsible Investor, over a third of large institutional investors see the sustainable Blue Economy as one of the most important sustainable investment topics in 2020, yet it remains one of the least invested themes across impact investors.

The overall strategy builds on the premise of active shareholder engagement as an Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy. Engagement is the most direct way to create an impact within listed equities. Influencing corporate behavior through a proactive engagement approach can produce a virtuous cycle, leading to positive social, environmental, and financial results, and reducing risks to both our ocean and to businesses. For details visit [Credit Suisse Research Institute's Global investment yearbook 2020](#). You can read the full story in [Business Wire](#).

ROCKEFELLER
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

CREDIT SUISSE 

HIGHLIGHTING EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL SHAREHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA

Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK), based in Japan, is one of the largest marine transportation and logistics companies in the world, with a fleet of nearly 800 vessels. From an ocean health standpoint, its biggest material issues are greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its ships and improper ship disposal, which leads to marine pollution.

The long-term engagement goal is to encourage Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) to reduce its carbon emissions through innovations in fuel and equipment. In the short term, there is a real opportunity to improve shipbreaking practices, which often include not just ocean pollution but also disturbing human rights violations. TOF undertook multiple conversations with NYK about improving its shipbreaking and recycling practices and learned the company was indeed committed to improving these practices. To support these commitments, further described below, TOF worked with Maersk, a leader in responsible shipbreaking practices and founder of the Ship Recycling Transparency Initiative (SBTI), which focuses on engaging companies

to decrease chemical pollution while increasing safety measures at shipyards.

In November 2020, RAM and TOF wrote a letter suggesting NYK publicly communicate its support for forthcoming shipping regulations, disclose the actions the company is taking to support compliance on their website, and join the SBTI, all actions that would improve ocean health. In January 2021, NYK responded, indicating that the company would publicly support the Hong Kong Convention, which includes publishing a statement of support for new regulations on its website. Alongside the Japanese government, the Hong Kong Convention partners with private companies to help reach higher social and environmental standards defined under international conventions. In February 2021, NYK published its support for these shipping standards on its website, along with a commitment to visit shipyards to ensure compliance, and plans to conduct a formal inventory of hazardous materials used in ship production.

In April 2021, NYK published a comprehensive



report on its Social, Environmental and Governance (ESG) portfolio. In this report, Hitoshi Nagasawa, President and CEO states, “I have a sense of crisis stemming from the realization that if we cannot set out a clear road map for addressing environmental issues, the continuation of our business will become more challenging.”

This new report also includes a Science-Based Target certified commitment to phase out greenhouse gas emissions, including a 30% reduction in energy intensity by 2030 and a 50%

reduction in energy intensity by 2050, with an action plan of how this will be achieved. This follows up on NYK’s 2020 initiative to collect microplastics from the ocean along its shipping routes. In May 2021, NYK announced it is officially joining the SBTI, a major achievement as the first Japanese shipping company to join the initiative to date.

THE NATIONAL MARITIME FOUNDATION SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

In October 2020, a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) between TOF and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) was signed on behalf of the NMF by its Director-General, Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, (Retd), and, by Mark J. Spalding, President of The Ocean Foundation (TOF). This institutional collaboration aims to establish complementary programmatic and technical roles of TOF and NMF working toward a sustainable Blue

Economy and building climate resilience. The work will focus on reducing threats to the marine environment whether those threats are manmade or natural. Other areas for cooperation include ocean and marine-based renewable energy, and sustainable shipping and blue carbon and restoration, sustainable port facilities, international maritime law and policy, and building capacity.



TOF AUTHORS KEY LITERATURE ON CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL (CDR)

This year, TOF Intern Amelia M. Meyer and President Mark J. Spalding co-authored an important white paper providing insights into carbon dioxide removal technology, its effectiveness in addressing climate change and the implications for human safety. This paper was part of a formal submission to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) for consideration in the public access file for NASEM's ocean CDR study.

PUBLICATION:

A Critical Analysis of the Ocean Effects of Carbon Dioxide Removal via Direct Air and Ocean Capture – Is it a Safe and Sustainable Solution?

BACKGROUND:

Catalyzed by the 2015 Paris Agreement, there are numerous initiatives for policies and science based solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve net-zero emissions internationally. We must respond quickly, yet carefully, to the considerable pressure to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere even as we transition away from burning fossil fuels and other anthropogenic CO₂-emitting activities. There are several emerging technologies based on direct air capture (DAC) and direct ocean capture (DOC) which use machines to extract CO₂ directly from the atmosphere or the ocean and move the CO₂ underground to storage facilities or utilize the CO₂ to enhance oil recovery from commercially-depleted wells. These technological interventions contrast with nature-based solutions. These include restoring mangroves and other coastal and marine ecosystems, regenerative agriculture, and reforestation to remove and store carbon dioxide in plants and soils. These nature-based strategies can offer multiple community benefits, biodiversity benefits, and long-term carbon storage, a global benefit.

AUTHORS:

Amelia M. Meyer | Intern, The Ocean Foundation

Mark J. Spalding | President, The Ocean Foundation

[READ PUBLICATION](#)





TOF AUTHORS KEY LITERATURE ON MARITIME SUSTAINABILITY

Mark J. Spalding, Angelica E. Braestrup, and Alexandra Refosco authored an important book chapter providing insights into the Blue Economy and solutions to reduce greenhouse gases, and exploring what needs to be done to meet the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

PUBLICATION:

Sustainability in the Maritime Domain – Towards Ocean Governance and Beyond | 1st ed. 2021, IV, 440 p. 38 illus.

Chapter 2 - Greening the Blue Economy: A Transdisciplinary Analysis

BACKGROUND:

A healthy ocean generates oxygen and precipitation to support all life on earth, even as it generates trillions of U.S. dollars in global economic activity. The ocean economy is commonly defined as all economic activities related to the ocean, including those that are harmful to the ocean and marine life. The subset of economic activities that are actively good for the ocean is the foundation of the sustainable blue economy. Incorporating sustainable actions into the maritime transportation sector is necessary to preserve the life support system, restore abundance in our global ocean, and help nations achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 14: Life Below Water. Achieving these and climate change mitigation goals requires integrated actions across disciplines and sectors that transform every element of maritime transportation. Such actions include standardizing inspection and enforcement, reducing greenhouse gases, designing greener ships, treating ballast water with low (or no) impact technology, installing safer onboard water treatment systems, greening port facilities, improving ship safety and emergency responses, making shipping quieter for fish, avoiding whale strikes, and expanding maritime transportation sector engagement in data collection and monitoring.

AUTHORS:

Mark J. Spalding | President, The Ocean Foundation

Alexandra Refosco | Program Associate, The Ocean Foundation

Angelica E. Braestrup | Executive Director, Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation

2021 SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DECAMERON — RESEARCH, INTERPRETATION, AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

In the middle of the 14th century, as Europe was in the grip of bubonic plague, the Italian author **Giovanni Boccaccio** (1313–1375) wrote his masterpiece, *The Decameron*. The book is framed as a collection of stories told by a group of 10 young people who had fled Florence to escape the Black Death. Socially distanced in a villa outside the city, they told each other tales to pass the time and to provide a distraction from the pandemic. In 2020, as a different pandemic circled the globe, the Board of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), with the health and safety of its members, staff, and the archaeological community in mind, made the difficult decision to alter the form of the 2021 annual conference, planned for Lisbon,

Portugal. Rather than cancel altogether, an untenable and agonizing thought, the Board decided to take the SHA conference virtual.

Presentations included TOF's President, Mark J. Spalding and Program Associate, Alexandra Refosco on the threat to Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) from seabed mining, an overview by Phillip J. Turner on the Middle Passage under the Atlantic and seabed mining and a presentation from TOF Senior Fellow, Ole Varmer, on work to increase the Ocean Literacy of UCH Law on the TOF website and the Nautical Archaeology Digital Library led by Filipe Castro.

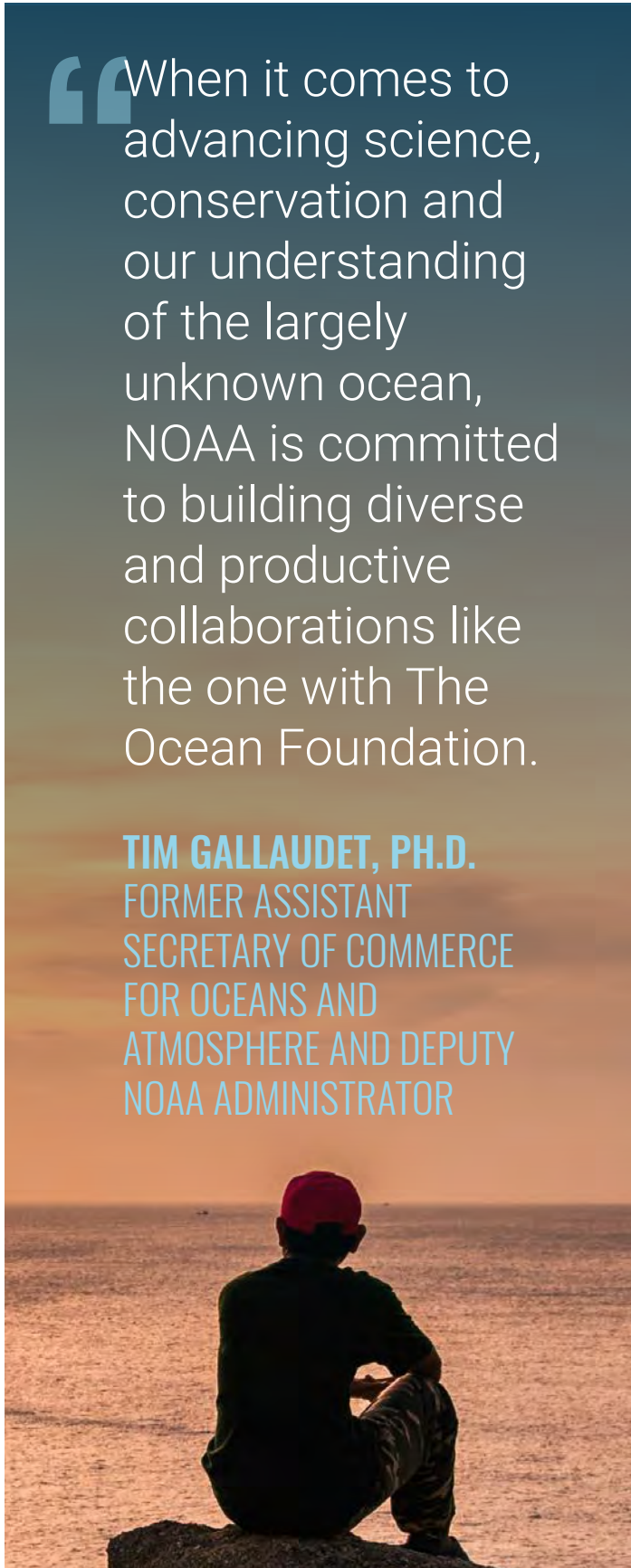
THE OCEAN FOUNDATION AND NOAA TEAM UP TO ADVANCE OCEAN SCIENCE

This January, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a partnership with TOF to cooperate on international and national scientific efforts to advance research, conservation, and our understanding of the global ocean.

"When it comes to advancing science, conservation and our understanding of the largely unknown ocean, NOAA is committed to building diverse and productive collaborations like the one with The Ocean Foundation," said retired Navy rear admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., who was assistant secretary of commerce for

oceans and atmosphere and deputy NOAA administrator at the time of partnership signing. "These partnerships help accelerate NOAA's mission to predict changes in climate, weather, the ocean and coasts, share that knowledge with communities, strengthen the Blue Economy, and conserve and manage healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and resources."

NOAA and TOF signed a memorandum of agreement to provide a framework for cooperation on international and other activities of mutual interest.



“When it comes to advancing science, conservation and our understanding of the largely unknown ocean, NOAA is committed to building diverse and productive collaborations like the one with The Ocean Foundation.

TIM GALLAUDET, PH.D.
FORMER ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
FOR OCEANS AND
ATMOSPHERE AND DEPUTY
NOAA ADMINISTRATOR

The new agreement highlights several priorities for cooperation including:

- Understanding climate change and ocean acidification and their effects on the coasts and ocean
- Increasing coastal resilience and strengthening capacity for climate and acidification adaptation and mitigation
- Protecting and managing natural and cultural heritage in special marine areas, including the National Marine Sanctuary system and the National Marine Monuments
- Fostering research in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- Fostering the development of sustainable U.S. marine aquaculture to support healthy, productive coastal ecosystems and local economies

The agreement builds on an existing collaboration between NOAA and TOF, to expand scientific capacity in developing nations to research, monitor and address the challenges of ocean acidification. The [NOAA Ocean Acidification Program](#) and TOF currently co-manage a quarterly scholarship fund, which is a part of the [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network](#) (GOA-ON). These scholarships support collaborative ocean acidification research, training and travel needs, so early career scientists from developing countries can gain skills and experience from more senior researchers. TOF and NOAA have partnered in recent years on eight training workshops for more than 150 scientists in Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and Caribbean. The workshops have helped prepare researchers to establish some of the first long-term ocean acidification monitoring in their countries. Over the course of 2020-2023, TOF and NOAA will work together with GOA-ON and other partners to implement a program building capacity for ocean acidification research across the Pacific Islands region, funded by the U.S. Department of State.

OCEAN-CLIMATE ALLIANCE (OCA)

TOF is an active member of the Ocean-Climate Alliance which brings leading ocean-climate organizations together to advance an ocean-climate restoration agenda. This differs from the current climate agenda in that it includes a large focus on ocean-based CO₂ drawdown and the development of ways to mitigate dangerous state shifts in key parts of the ocean-cryosphere systems. The OCA is working on building social and political license for this expanded agenda; developing the roadmaps necessary to test, develop, deploy, and scale Ocean Carbon Dioxide Removal. TOF's primary interest in carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is as it relates to restoring the health and abundance of the ocean via nature-based solutions. In addition, TOF's active participation is focusing on making sure this initiative avoids unintended consequences from geoengineering technology that isn't ready for global development, technology that certainly can't be developed and deployed quickly enough to prevent dire harm to the environment, and which is expensive and energy hungry. We also note that the removed carbon waste from geoengineering

tech must go somewhere, and we do not have a meaningful solution for that yet either -- and we especially question dumping it into the ocean where it could interfere with marine life struggling to adapt, and damage it further. After all, the ocean is already suffering from multiple and cumulating harms including plastic loading, noise pollution and over extraction of natural resources. Thus, we need to examine the cradle-to-grave costs of geoengineering CDR technologies. We are also concerned that geoengineering avoids accountability for CO₂ emissions, and that it may be inequitable to vulnerable communities who won't be able to afford it to protect their material and natural assets. Right now, blue carbon restoration and protection appears to be one of the carbon removal approaches with the fewest downsides. Regardless, we must effectively weigh the harm to the ocean from human disruption of the climate against introducing additional unintended ecological, equity or justice consequences from CDR (nature-based solutions or geoengineering). As a result, some CDR will be fine, some will not.



PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

PROTECTING ANTARCTICA'S SOUTHERN OCEAN

The Southern Ocean encompasses 10% of the world's ocean and is home to thousands of species, but climate change and industrial fishing threaten this fragile and important region. Antarctica's Southern Ocean is one of the world's last great wilderness areas, surrounding the coldest, driest, windiest, and least altered continent. The ocean's frigid waters bustle with thousands of species found nowhere else, from brilliantly hued starfish and bioluminescent worms to pastel octopuses. Nutrients that well up from the icy depths ride currents great distances to nourish wildlife in faraway seas. Since 2019, TOF has supported the Pew Charitable Trust's efforts to build support for marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean including outreach in Europe, Russia, and Chile.

NORTHEAST U.S./EASTERN CANADA FISHERIES

North Atlantic right whales are caught in a dramatic downward spiral that began in 2010, having lost more than 100 animals from a population of only around 500. Even with recent births, scientists put the number of whales at only about 350 at the end of 2019, the most recent year for which an estimate is available. The primary cause of death? Entanglement in fishing gear—specifically, the lines that descend vertically in the water, attaching lobster pots on the seafloor to buoys on the surface. Since 2019, TOF has supported the Pew Charitable Trusts' initiative on protecting the North Atlantic right whale and finding innovative solutions to reduce entanglement in fishing gear. This work includes protecting important marine habitat areas, rebuilding depleted fisheries, and protecting critical forage fish species. TOF supports efforts related to policy analysis and strategy, new research, on-the-water gear innovation, and strategic communications.

HIGH SEAS AGREEMENT

Beyond the horizon, more than 200 nautical miles from shore, lies an area of the ocean known as the high seas. These waters, beyond the jurisdiction of any nation, make up roughly two-thirds of the ocean and cover nearly half of the planet's surface. Negotiations are under way at the United Nations to finalize a new high seas treaty focused on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction. The treaty could allow nations to establish comprehensive, cross-sector marine protected areas (MPAs) on the high seas. Since 2014, TOF has supported the Pew Charitable Trusts' efforts to provide science and policy technical support to government representatives and engage with widespread nongovernmental organizations to encourage government and stakeholder support for negotiations at the United Nations (U.N.) in order to develop a new international legal instrument enabling the establishment of marine protected areas and reserves on the high seas. TOF also provides support for the effort to increase commitments by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to protect at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030, through strongly protected marine protected areas.



FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AT THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



Fiscal sponsorship refers to the practice of nonprofit institutions offering their legal and tax-exempt status, together with all applicable administrative services, to individuals or groups engaged in research, projects, and activities relating to and furthering the mission of the sponsoring nonprofit organization. As a registered 501(c)(3) entity, TOF offers appropriate legal incorporation, IRS exemption and charitable registration, in addition to financial oversight, business administration, human resources, grant management, capacity building, legal compliance and risk management. TOF provides two types of fiscal sponsorship; comprehensive sponsorship and pre-approved grant relationships.

As a fiscal sponsor, TOF helps reduce the complexity of operating a successful project or organization by providing the critical infrastructure, proficiency, and expertise of a large NGO so that projects can focus on program development, fundraising, and outreach.

Through its fiscal sponsorship program, TOF creates space for innovation and unique approaches to marine conservation where people with big ideas – social entrepreneurs, grassroots advocates, and cutting-edge researchers – can take risks, experiment with new methods, and think outside the box.

In FY21, TOF hosted a total of

53 PROJECTS
around the world.



THE DEEP SEA MINING CAMPAIGN

The Deep Sea Mining Campaign (DSMC) is an association of NGOs and citizens concerned about the likely impacts of DSM on marine and coastal ecosystems and the human communities who depend on them. Our overall goal is to prevent the development of deep sea mining as an industry, with a focus on the Pacific region. To that end, the DSMC collaborates across the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA and Europe.

Our vision is for healthy Pacific and world oceans in which human and ecological communities thrive.

We are a hosted project of The Ocean Foundation, supported by Mining Watch Canada, a partner of Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance and a member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

Our advocacy work is informed by rigorous research and strengthened by our collaboration with community based organizations. Our repertoire of strategies includes legal remedies and finance advocacy.

DSMC ORIGINS

With two of our small team based in Australia our campaign began in 2011 in response to the granting of an operational license by our near neighbor, the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to what threatened to be the world's first commercial deep sea mine. The **Solwara 1 mine** was planned to mine the sulphidic mineral deposits surrounding hydrothermal vents in the Bismarck Sea in PNG national waters. Fortunately, Nautilus Minerals, the Canadian company driving the project were sufficiently arrogant as to site their proposed mine only 30 kilometres from the nearest coastal communities.



HYDROTHERMAL VENTS PROVIDE HABITAT FOR THRIVING, ABUNDANT, EVER CHANGING COMMUNITIES OF ORGANISMS. IMAGE OF EAST PACIFIC VENT WITH FISH, GIANT TUBEWORMS AND CRABS. © STEPHEN LOW PRODUCTION

MARINE COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS WIN A REPRIEVE IN PNG

Years of campaigning by local communities and the **Alliance of Solwara Warriors** in collaboration with DSMC paid dividends. Nautilus entered into liquidation in early 2019: finance institutions having been warned of the environmental, socio-economic, financial and reputational risks of being associated with the company. Multinational miner, Anglo American was also **persuaded to divest**, sending a very clear message to other potential investors.

Our partners in PNG continue to call for the PNG Government to cancel the licenses that were granted to Nautilus and we maintain a watching brief. A legal case requesting information relating to the licenses is pending in the PNG courts.

A WIDER PACIFIC FOCUS

The frenzy of seabed exploration in the South Pacific has seen upward of 1.5 million square kilometers of Pacific Ocean Floor being held under exploration license by private and national government companies and consortium within both territorial and international waters. The company most aggressively pursuing DSM is The Metals Company (TMC – formerly Deep Green). In collaboration with Pacific regional and national NGOs, our campaign is ensuring TMC will encounter a very bumpy ride. Established in 2021 via a merger between DeepGreen and a dubious publicly listed company, our shareholder activism (with TOF's help) has contributed to over 90% of that company's shareholders walking away from TMC with their funds. At the same time the IUCN has called for a moratorium on Deep Sea Mining and reform of the International Seabed Authority, the opaque body issuing DSM licenses in international waters.

We will continue to build on that momentum by collaborating with allies in the Pacific and worldwide. Our finance advocacy aims to alert banks and insurers to the risks of investing in DSM. To date five banks have developed policies excluding finance to DSM activities.



JONATHAN MESULAM CO-FOUNDER OF THE ALLIANCE OF SOLWARA WARRIORS (ASW) IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA WITH HIS SON WILLIAM HOLDING THE LETTER TO THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER FROM ASW, CHURCHES AND CIVIL SOCIETY CALLING FOR ALL SEABED LICENCES TO BE CANCELLED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA WATERS AND FOR A BAN TO PLACE ON THE INDUSTRY. © ALLIANCE OF SOLWARA WARRIORS



Science confirms the impacts of deep sea mining will be severe and essentially irreversible in human timescales.

Not only would deep sea mining directly destroy seabed species and habitats, pollution from mine waste, light, sound and sediment plumes would have significant consequences on many other species.

Science is just starting to shed light on the interconnections between deep, mid- and surface waters through the movement of species, currents, nutrients, and carbon. Mining the seabed will have negative consequences for the rest of the ocean and the people who depend on its health. And isn't that all of us?

Visit www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/report/ for a comprehensive overview of the DSM Campaign's published reports.

CONSERVACIÓN CONCIENCIA

The mission of Conservación ConCiencia is to implement effective, science-based conservation actions that move our society towards sustainability. Conservación ConCiencia is a hosted project of The Ocean Foundation and a registered (U.S. and Puerto Rico) non-profit organization dedicated to environmental research and conservation that promotes sustainable development by working in collaboration with communities, NGOs, governments, academia, and the private sector.

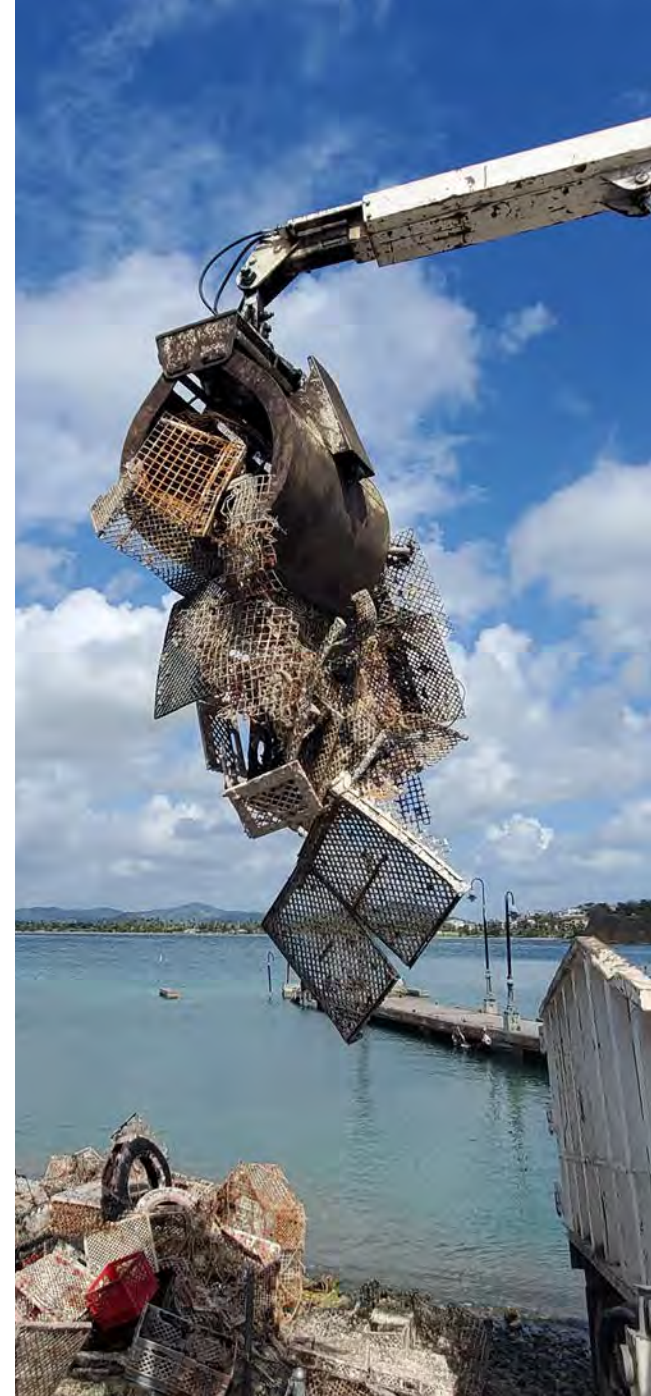
By utilizing an interdisciplinary toolbox that integrates life sciences, societal welfare, and economic security into a problem-solving approach, Conservación ConCiencia is working to solve today's most pressing environmental issues in concert with the local community of Puerto Rico.



Raimundo Espinoza is the founder and the Executive Director for Conservación ConCiencia. Previously he's served as The Nature Conservancy's founding Cuba Program Director and went on to facilitate the historic first government-to-government action between the U.S. and Cuba at The Everglades National Park. Mr. Espinoza served as an advising delegate to the Puerto Rican government at The Caribbean Challenge Initiative and has closely collaborated with commercial fishers, local NGOs, and governments across the Caribbean and Latin America to create unique opportunities to further conservation actions on the ground and sea. He also served on The U.S. Caribbean Fisheries Management Council's Outreach and Education Advisory Panel and the Puerto Rico District Advisory Panel and is currently on The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) which advises the U.S. Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of The Department of Commerce.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has posed over the last year, Raimundo and his team continue to diligently work to serve their community of Puerto Rico. Specifically, Conservación ConCiencia has expanded upon their many years of work with the local fishing community in an emergency effort to remove derelict fishing gear in the region. With the support from The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Ocean Foundation and Conservación ConCiencia were able to partner with commercial and local fishers across Puerto Rico to remove derelict fishing gear caused by Hurricane Maria in September, 2017. Derelict fishing gear is often referred to as "ghost gear" but is generally defined by any discarded, lost, or abandoned fishing gear found in the marine environment. Items such as nets, traps, or pots, are one of the main types of debris impacting the marine environment today. Once lost, derelict fishing gear can continue to capture and kill marine life. At the same time that this harmful gear is removed from the waters, the program generates much needed alternative income to artisanal fishers in the community.

For more information please contact Raimundo Espinoza at rai@conservacionconciencia.org or visit their website at www.conservacionconciencia.org.





OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,775,334
Investments	\$530,399
Receivables	\$3,275,164
Prepaid expenses	\$38,532
	\$6,619,429

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment & software	\$115,325
Vehicles	\$17,895
	\$133,220
Less: accumulated depreciation	(\$133,220)

OTHER ASSETS

Investment (interest in undeveloped land)	\$9,300,000
Receivables (net of current)	\$430,320
Intangible assets (net)	\$31,920
Security deposits	\$11,161
	\$9,773,401

TOTAL ASSETS: \$16,392,830

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$658,546
Tenant security deposit	\$3,100
Passthru grant	\$35,542
Refundable advance	\$80,533
Charitable gift annuity (current portion)	\$620
	\$778,341

OTHER LIABILITIES

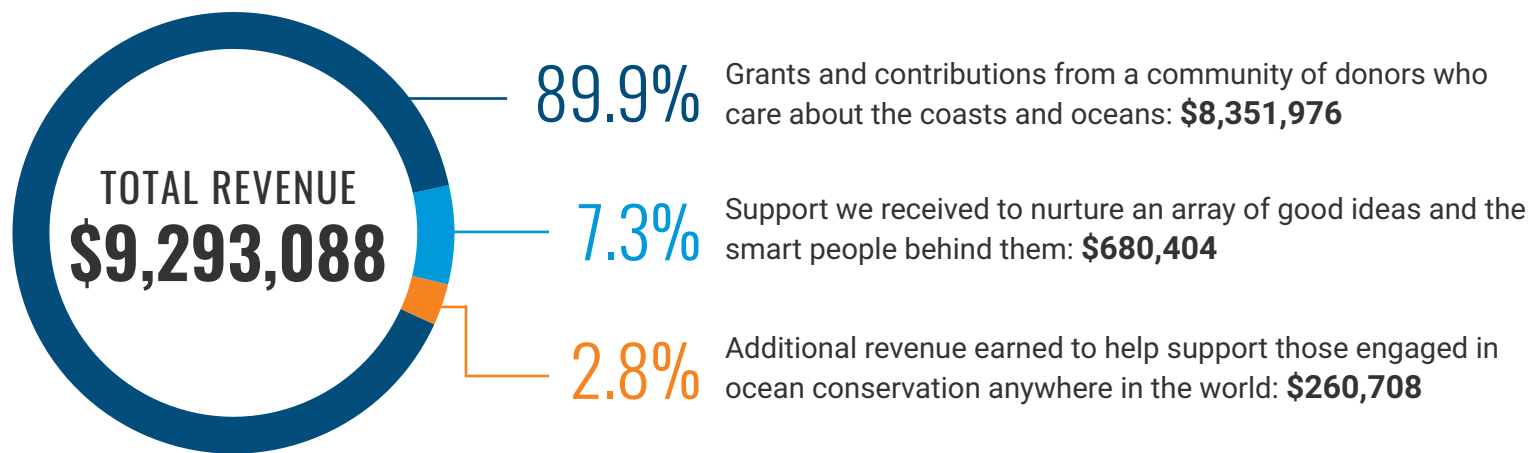
Deferred rent liability (net of current)	\$26,905
Charitable gift annuity (net of current)	\$2,535
	\$29,440

NET ASSETS

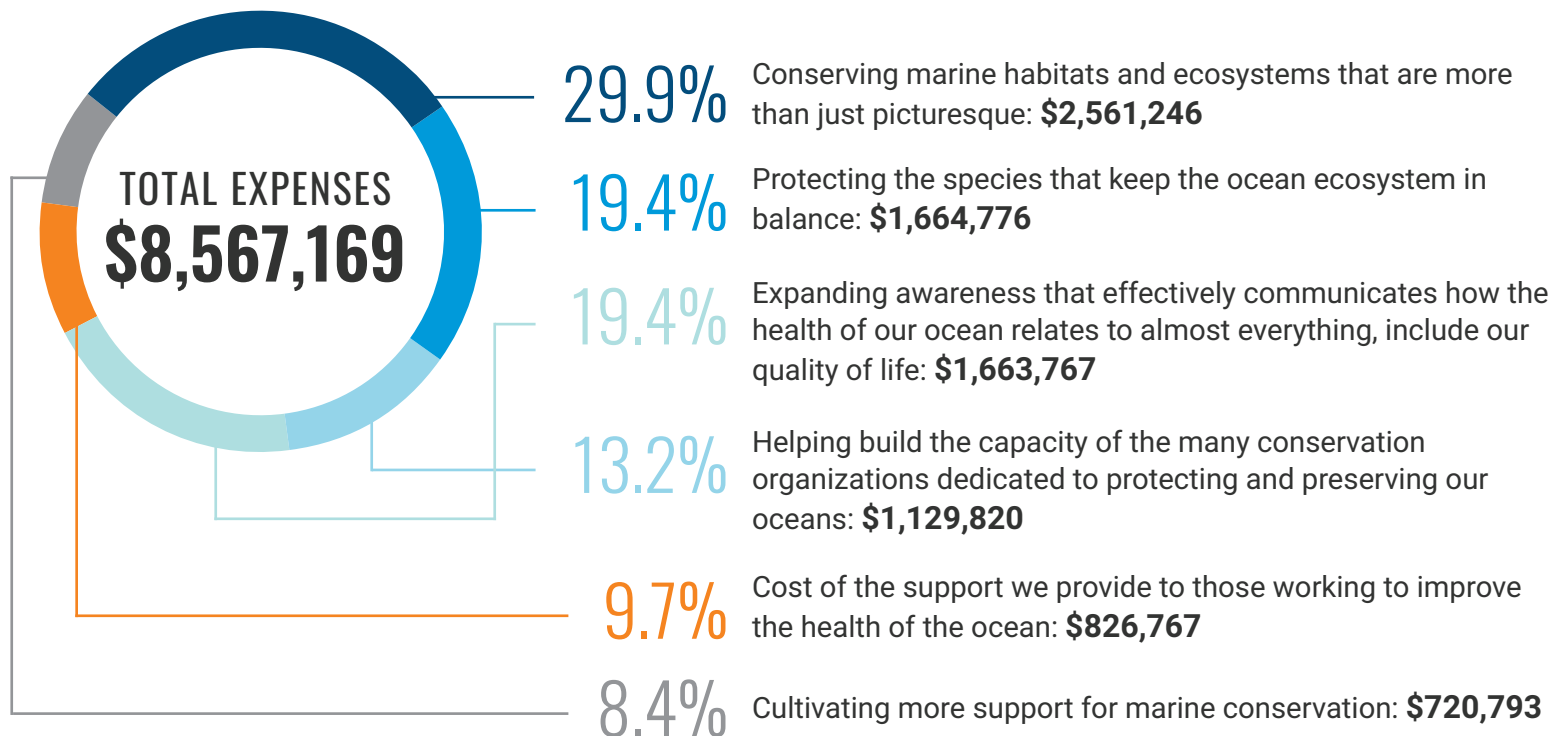
Without Donor Restriction	\$12,279,151
Undesignated	\$35,339
Designated by Board	\$12,243,812
With Donor Restriction	\$3,305,898
	\$15,585,049

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$16,392,830

REVENUE TO SUPPORT MARINE CONSERVATION



SPENDING BY FUNCTION

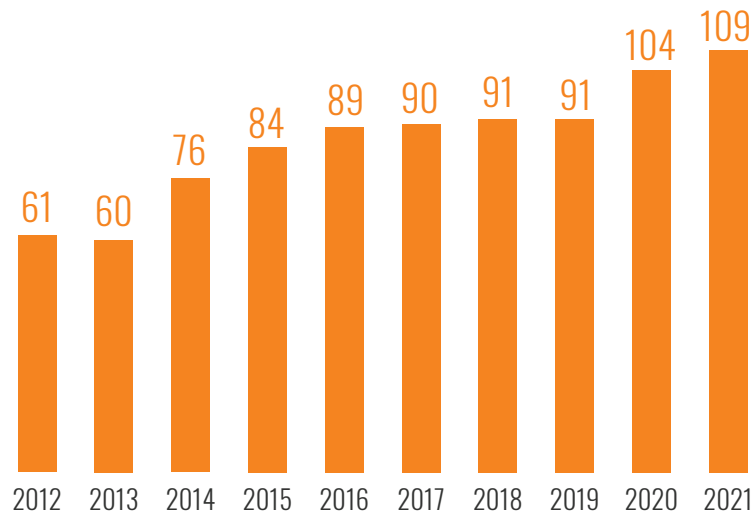


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	TOTAL
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Grants & contributions	\$171,390	\$8,153,810	\$8,325,201
Program service revenue	\$718,825		\$718,825
Rental income	\$38,340		\$38,340
Investment income - net realized and unrealized gain/(loss)	\$96,255		\$96,255
Investment income - other	\$2,274		\$2,274
Other income	\$112,194		\$112,194
Net assets released from restriction:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	\$7,517,679	(\$7,517,679)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:	\$8,656,957	\$636,131	\$9,293,088
EXPENSES			
Program Services:			
Protecting Marine Habitats	\$2,561,246	-	\$2,561,246
Protecting Species of Concern	\$1,664,776	-	\$1,664,776
Building Marine Community Capacity	\$1,129,820	-	\$1,129,820
Ocean Literacy	\$1,663,767	-	\$1,663,767
			\$7,019,609
Support Services:			
Management & general	\$826,767	-	\$826,767
Fundraising	\$720,793	-	\$720,793
			\$1,547,560
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$8,567,169	-	\$8,567,169
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	\$89,788	\$636,131	\$725,919
Beginning net assets	\$12,181,363	\$2,677,767	\$14,859,130
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$12,271,151	\$3,313,898	\$15,585,049

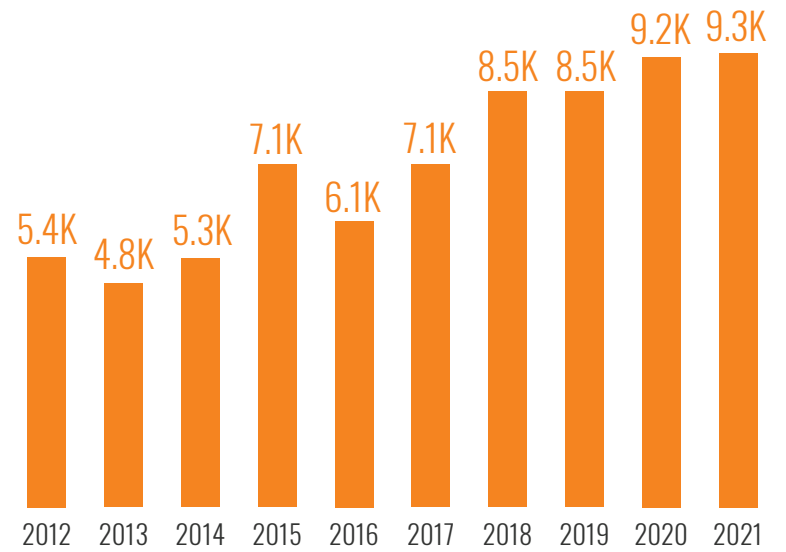
PROJECT GROWTH

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS AT FISCAL YEAR END



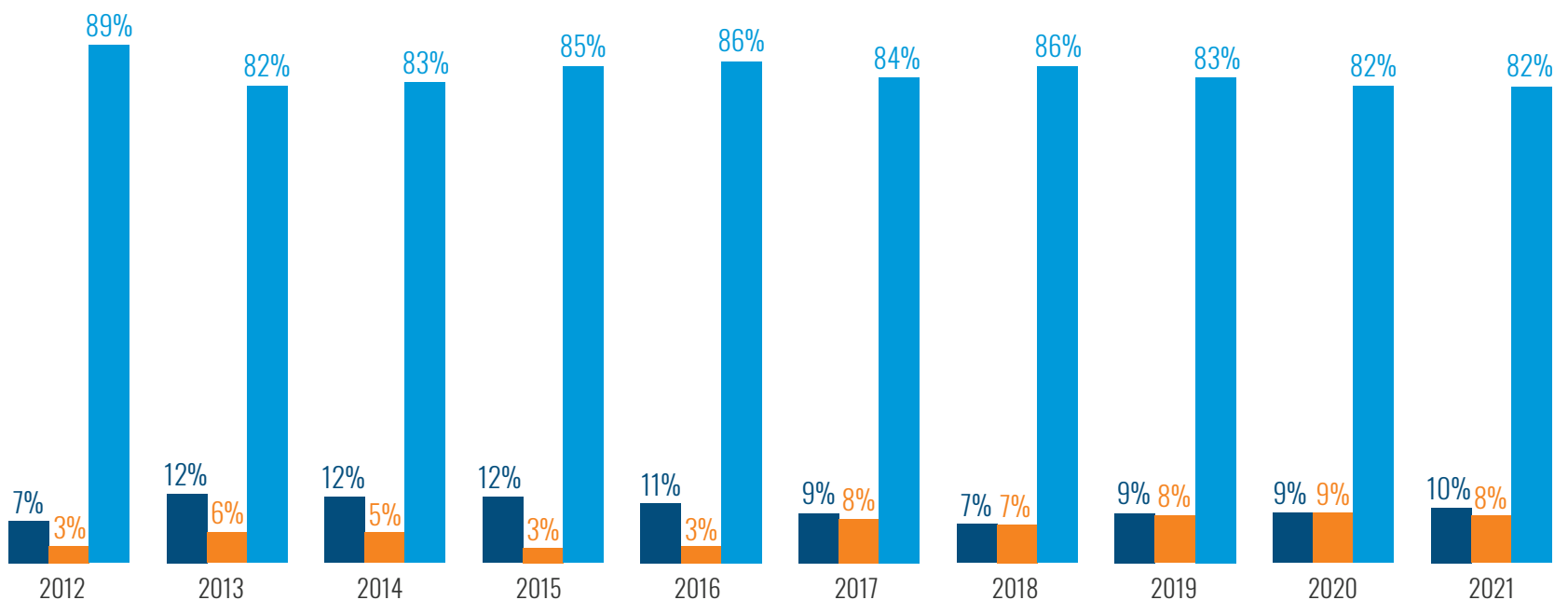
REVENUE GROWTH

TOTAL TOF REVENUE AT FISCAL YEAR END (IN MILLIONS)

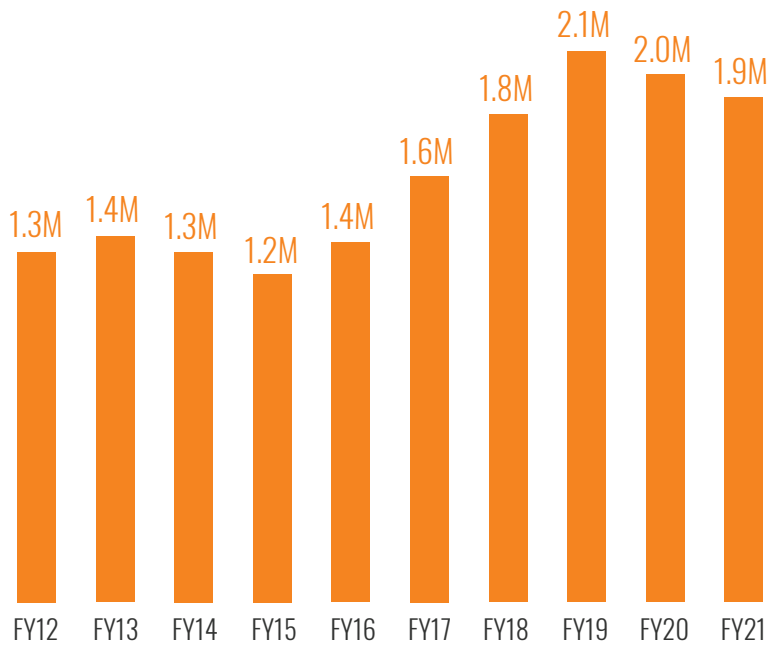


A VIEW OF HOW WE'VE BEEN SPENDING EVERY DOLLAR DONATED

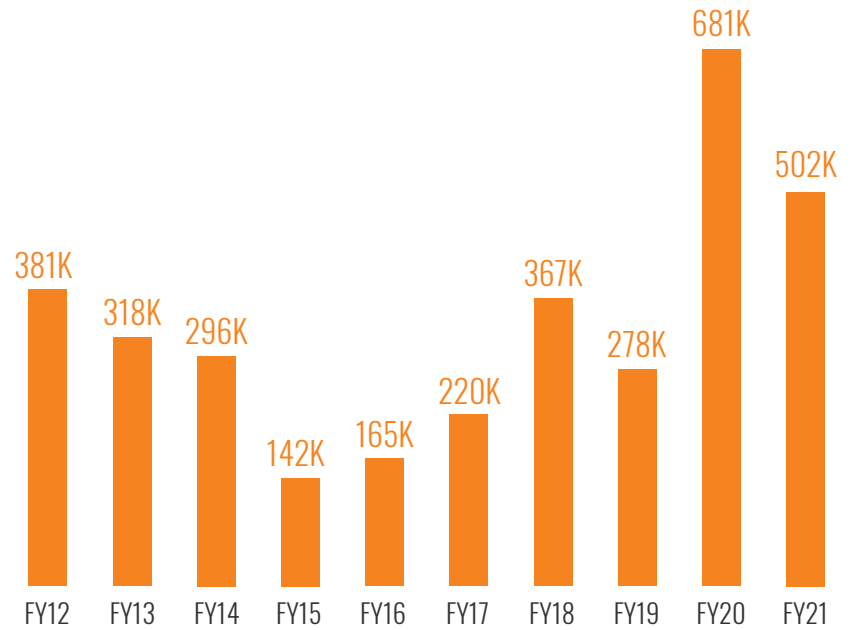
- Management and general
- Fundraising
- Program services



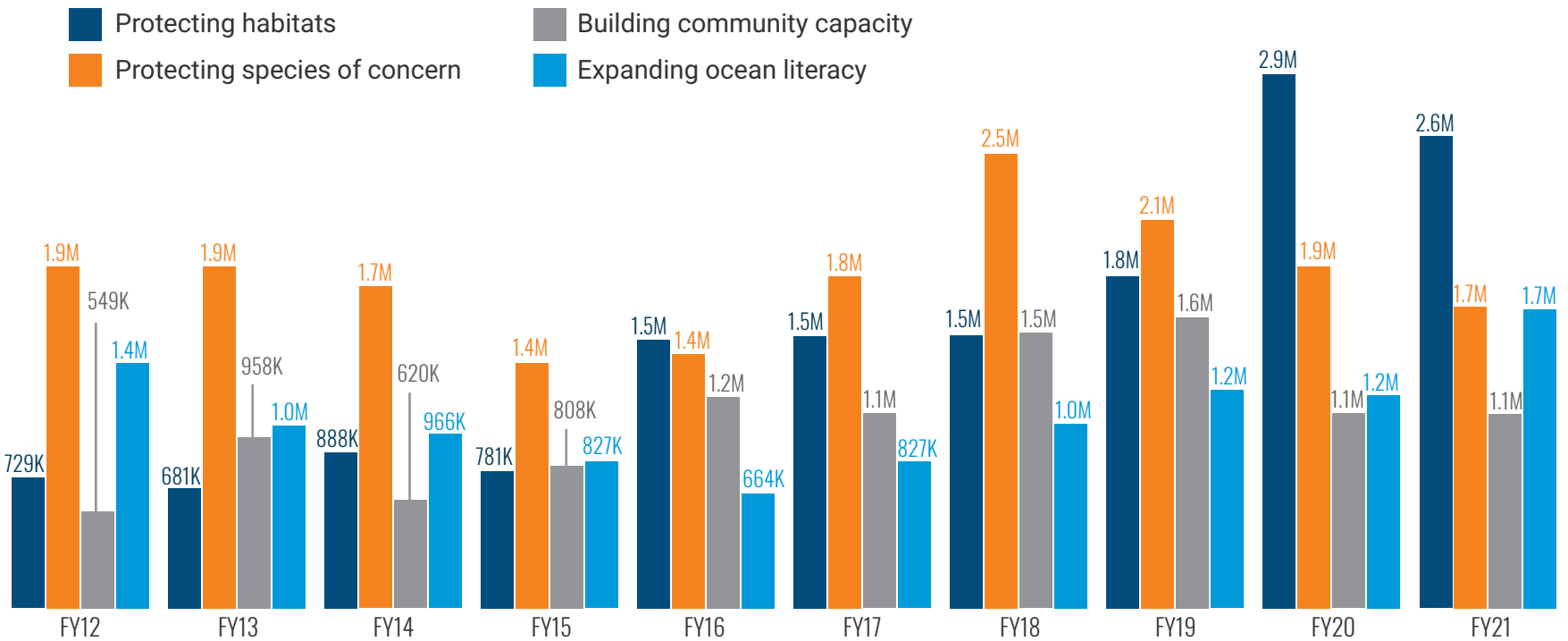
FUNDS SPENT INTERNATIONALLY



FUNDS RAISED FOR "71 PERCENT"



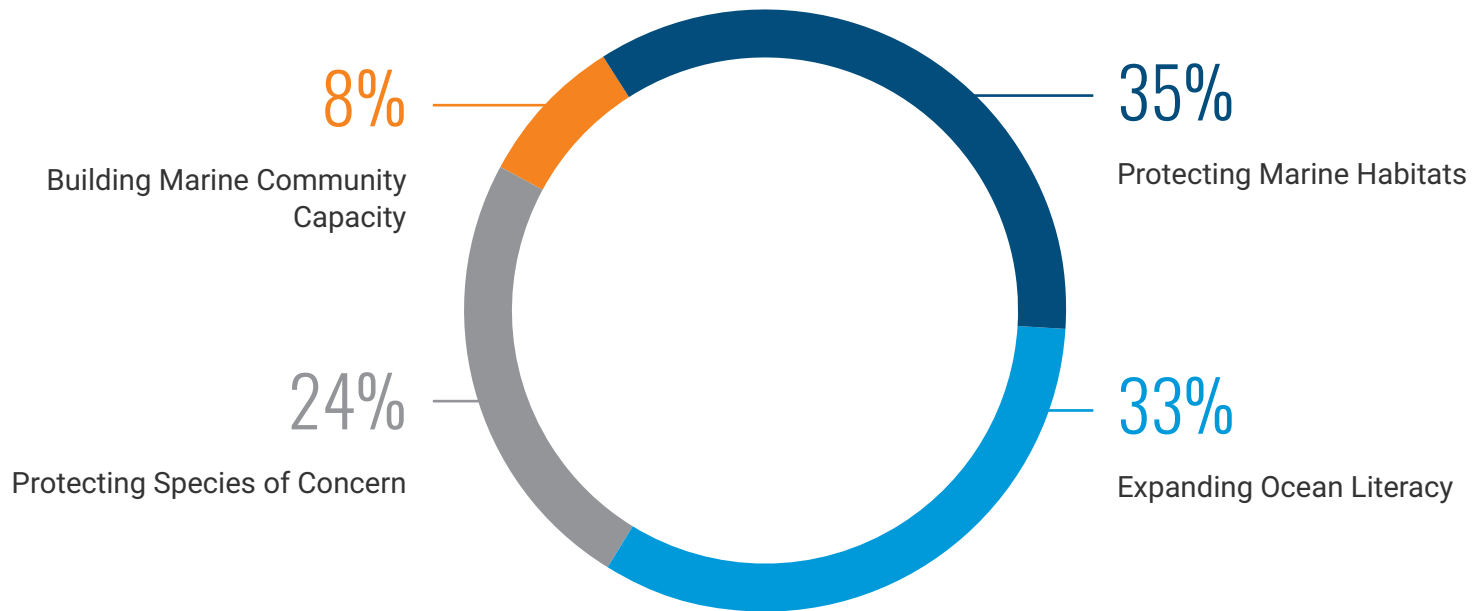
FUNDS SPENT



CASH VS. PAYABLES



MAJOR PROGRAM REVENUE





OUR COMMUNITY

FISCALLY HOSTED PROJECTS

- Alabama River Diversity Network
- Anchor Coalition Project
- Big Ocean
- Blue Climate Solutions
- Coastal Coordination
- Deep Sea Mining Campaign
- earthDECKS.org Ocean Network
- Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative (ICAPO)
- Friends of Sustainable Travel International
- High Seas Alliance
- Inland Ocean Coalition
- International Fisheries Conservation Project
- Inuit Initiatives
- Laguna San Ignacio Ecosystem Science Program (LSIESP)
- LiVBLUE
- Navigating Our Way to Solutions in Marine Conservation
- Ocean Connectors
- Ocean Conservation Research
- Ocean Revolution
- Ocean State of Mind
- Redfish Rocks Community Team
- San Basilio Sanctuary
- Saving Ocean Wildlife
- SEVENSEAS
- Shark Advocates International
- SmartFish International
- St. Croix Leatherbacks - Sea Turtle Census
- Superfish Tracking Research Partnership
- SURMAR
- Tag-A-Giant
- The Ocean Project
- The Science Exchange
- Tracking Turtles Thru Time
- Trezco Systems
- Uncharted Blue
- Who Saved the Whale Lagoon
- Wise Laboratory Field Research Program
- Yogacology

FRIENDS OF FUNDS

- Conservación ConCiencia
- Deep Green Wilderness
- Friends of Sustainable Travel International
- Friends of the Don Hanson Foundation
- Fundación Tropicalia
- Game Genius
- Georgia Strait Alliance
- Havenworth Coastal Conservation
- IEMANYA Oceanica
- La Tortuga Viva
- Pro Esteros
- Save The North Pacific Right Whale
- Sawfish Conservation Society
- Song Saa
- Trezco Systems

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- 11th Hour Racing
- AlgaeNova
- Barrell Craft Spirits
- Columbia Sportswear
- EcoBee/BeeSure
- Full Circle
- Grogenics
- Huckabuy
- JetBlue
- MamaP
- Marriott International
- Maya Luxe
- Montraville Farms
- NuKrew
- Onora Global
- PADI
- Peak Design
- Philadelphia Eagles
- Roffé Accessories
- SOS Carbon
- SKYY Vodka
- Unifimoney
- Yacht Carbon Offset
- Yachting Pages Magazine



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