



Tell us what you want to do for the ocean; we will take care of the rest.

Summer 2008 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Dear Friends of the Ocean,

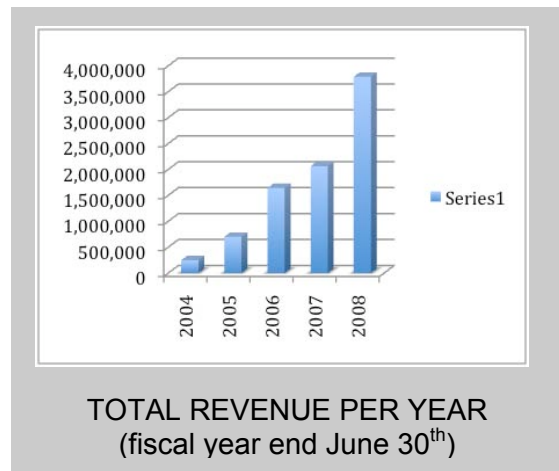
We hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you take a few minutes to learn about some of the exciting new happenings at The Ocean Foundation. Here in Washington DC, we are in the process of closing our books for the fiscal year (ended June 30th 2008) and preparing to have them independently audited. As you can see from the chart below, we had another year of remarkable growth.

We are pleased to offer marine conservation philanthropic services to so many individuals, corporations and fellow foundations. What is important is what this new money for marine conservation symbolizes in terms of meeting our mission to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. It is exciting, but hard work to build a new public foundation. We cannot do it alone and thank you all for helping us along our way.

A significant piece of this year's growth was the creation of a new Donor Advised Fund, which was started with a \$1 million stock contribution. Another part of our growth is our new Seagrass Fund, and the result of our efforts to raise funds to provide relief for Mexican flood victims of Hurricane Dolly in the states of San Luis Potosi and Tamaulipas.

As summer wraps up, we also say thanks to our fantastic summer interns: Campbell Howe and Alex Kats-Rubin who helped us with research, writing, and an improved online presence on numerous social networking sites. We are also preparing to say goodbye to the construction crews that our landlord brought in to update our suite through a process that assured more efficient lighting, low voc paint and building materials, and carpeting made from recycled materials. Come September, we will have an all new look here at 1990 M Street NW.

Mark J. Spalding
President, The Ocean Foundation



NEWS FROM THE FIELD: TOF FISCAL PROJECTS AND GRANTEES

New Cuba Marine Research & Conservation Fund Announced By David Guggenheim

The Ocean Foundation has recently established a new “Cuba Marine Research & Conservation Fund,” and is acting as fiscal sponsor to Dr. David E. Guggenheim (1planet1ocean), the U.S. project director of a landmark effort to study Cuba’s Gulf of Mexico waters, a region never previously comprehensively explored. The project is a collaborative effort with the University of Havana’s *Centro de Investigaciones Marinas* and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. A late-summer 2008 expedition will concentrate on the *Archeipiélago de Los Colorados*, the barrier reef that runs along Cuba’s northwest coast, an area with remarkably healthy coral reefs, despite the alarming decline in the health of coral reefs elsewhere in the Caribbean. This research is providing the most comprehensive biological picture yet of this little-explored region and Cuba’s healthy corals may offer important clues for protecting and restoring corals elsewhere. This research is also supporting the research of 16 graduate students, the next generation of Cuba’s marine scientists.



Cuban graduate students on expedition from the University of Havana’s *Centro de Investigaciones Marinas*. (Photo: D.Guggenheim)



Cuban and U.S. participants of the November 2007 Cancun meeting. (Photo: D.Guggenheim)

TOF is also supporting Dr. Guggenheim’s efforts to elevate U.S-Cuban collaboration in marine research and conservation to a higher, more effective level, in collaboration with the Center for International Policy and the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. A landmark meeting of Cuban and American scientists was held in Cancún, México in November 2007 and was covered by the *New York Times*. Collaboration has been exceedingly difficult because of the decades-old U.S. embargo, even though research is a permitted activity. The Cancún meeting brought together major institutions from both countries to establish research priorities and to chart a way forward toward stronger and more comprehensive collaborative activities. For more information, see: <http://1planet1ocean.org>

Deep Surface; An Interactive Multimedia Concert for the Ocean by Gabriel E. Pulido

Deep Surface recently became a fiscal sponsorship of TOF. It is a 45-minute concert and multimedia performance integrating video and dance movement in celebration of the sea. Inspired by European contemporary art performances, this project was intended to explore a new artistic view on the sea and raise awareness of the necessity of preserving it. The premiere will be held December 7-11, 2008 in Key Biscayne, FL. Additional U.S. based performances are planned between March and May 2009 with others scheduled in Europe next summer. For a flavor of the performance, videos and music demos are posted on the web: www.deep-surface.org.



Announcing New Economic Indicators of Ecosystem Health by Linwood Pendleton

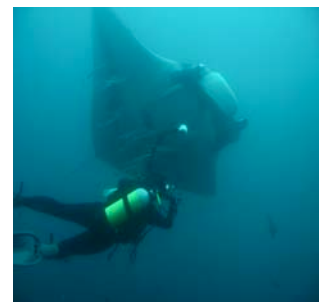


Linwood Pendleton presenting at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 2008. (Photo: RAE)

Dr. Linwood Pendleton, TOF Senior Fellow and Director of Economic Research, and Jeff Benoit (Restore America's Estuaries), recently announced the results of a new report detailing the significant economic importance of our coastal resources to the U.S. economy. To disseminate his research findings, Dr. Pendleton has undertaken a series of speaking engagements that includes a 1-hour interview with 'Outdoor Talk Network', America's largest outdoor radio talk show. He has also presented to U.S. congressional staff, members of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, attendees of The Coastal Society's biennial conference, students at Duke University, and staff at NOAA's Coastal Services Center. For more information, please see www.coastalvalues.org

Ocean Revolution Projects Make Discoveries by Tim Dykman

When Andrea Marshall, Ph.D candidate at the University of Queensland, began studying manta rays at the Manta Ray and Whale Shark Research Centre in Mozambique, she never expected to discover a new species. But that's exactly what she did. She may have even uncovered a second new species. Scientists at the Centre are applying a community-based conservation approach to conducting scientific research. As part of their approach, they work closely with local partners Bitonga Divers (founded by Ocean Revolution) and other international NGOs like the Save our Seas Foundation and Ocean Revolution. Andrea just presented her results in July at the 2008 American Elasmobranch Symposium in Montreal, Canada. Click [here](#) to watch a video trailer describing Andrea's research project. To learn more about Ocean Revolution, please see: [Ocean Revolution](#).



Andrea Marshall documents a new species of manta ray. (Photo: T. Dykman)

IN OTHER NEWS

New Restore-A-Scar Campaign

In late July TOF launched its Restore-A-Scar campaign as part of its new [Seagrass Fund](#). Working with the Seagrass Recovery Team, The Ocean Foundation is hoping to meet its goal of restoring 25,000 square feet of seagrass beds this year and raising \$250,000 for the fund. Scientists estimate that over 25 percent of seagrass coverage has been lost in just the last four decades. Major threats include physical damage from boat props, anchors, and vessel groundings that rip seagrass from the substrate leaving behind a "scar" that remains vulnerable to further erosion. If left unchecked, erosion can eventually destroy the entire seagrass bed. For information on how to contribute to the fund, please click [here](#).



GPS transmitter attachment by Gail Schofield
(Photo: Sheila Jack)

Boyd Lyon Sea Turtle Fund Scholarship Recipient

Announced! In May, The Ocean Foundation and Boyd Lyon Sea Turtle Fund proudly announced the first annual recipient of the Boyd Lyon Sea Turtle Fund Scholarship. The \$2,500 merit based award went to Gail Schofield, Ph.D candidate at Swansea University in Wales for her research on male loggerhead sea turtles in Zakynthos National Marine Park in Greece. For more information, please see: [Boyd Lyon Sea Turtle Fund](#).

Setting a Gold Standard for Sustainable Aquaculture

In a joint effort with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), The Ocean Foundation helped to produce a new report titled “Gold Standard for Sustainable Aquaculture Ecolabel Design.” This report establishes a definitive standard (the Gold Standard) for the institutional design of sustainable aquaculture ecolabels. The report addresses weaknesses in existing ecolabeling programs, and uses the best available science and state of the art institutional design to create and implement certification standards that ensure economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Click [here](#) for a free report summary.

Alternative Ocean Energy Technology

In June, President Mark J. Spalding gave a presentation titled: “*The Environmental Challenges for Alternative Ocean Energy Technology*” to a room of U.S. Congressional staff, agency officials, and NGO partners as part of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation’s annual Capitol Hill Oceans Week. You can see Mark’s presentation by clicking [here](#).

TOF TRIPS AND TRAVELS

To better support our conservation work and to keep staff informed of the latest in ocean research, projects and global conservation challenges, TOF staff travel the world to meet with our grant recipients, provide philanthropic advice and strategic support, as well as keep in close touch with on the ground realities. When we travel, we try to minimize our carbon footprint by reducing the number of staff per trip and then try to offset our remaining impact by purchasing carbon credits with the reputable firm Native Energy. Some of the latest travels of TOF staff include:

Submerged Under Sea, Redondo Beach, CA

In early May, while visiting Southern California to give a talk at UCSD, Mark had an unusual opportunity to test drive a personal submarine at Redondo Beach. The sub is going to be used for short expeditions by cinematographer, Mike Hoover. One such effort will be to check out whether a semi-truck tank trailer is leaking off British Columbia. The trailer with 9,000 gallons of diesel in the tanker - threatening marine life – fell off a ferry into Robson Bight earlier this year.



Mark J. Spalding, ever our fearless leader.
(Photo: Mike Hoover)

Private Sector Conservation, Bainbridge Island, WA

In June, TOF co-sponsored a 50-person workshop to discuss the role of "Private Sector Conservation Agreements in Support of Marine Protection." This three-day workshop of U.S. and international experts assessed how conservation agreements can contribute to protecting the world's oceans and

coasts. For centuries, private, for-profit entities have entered into agreements with government entities and acquired rights to marine areas and resources for a wide range of purposes such as marinas, utility lines, gravel mining, aquaculture, and oil extraction. Shouldn't similar rights be available for conservation purposes?

Conservation & Heritage Symposium, St. Kitts & Nevis

In July, TOF co-sponsored a Heritage Conservation Symposium focused on natural and built heritage on the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as undersea sites where an estimated 200 shipwrecks are located. Representing the [St. Kitts Foundation Fund](#), Mark met with representatives of the St. Kitts tourism authority to explore options for documenting and protecting this unique submerged heritage.



Sand Bank Bay, St. Kitts (Photo: K.Freeman)

11th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS), Fort Lauderdale, FL

This quadrennial meeting is the world's largest scientific conference for coral reef researchers, managers, NGOs, and policy makers. Special Projects Director, Jeremy Linneman attended ICRS on behalf of TOF's coral reef program. Sharon Khan of TOF's [Coastal Ocean Values Center](#) (COVC) also attended ICRS to promote COVC's Coral Reef Economics Community of Practice program. Following the symposium, Jeremy took part in a dive training field trip hosted by the [Reef Environmental Education Foundation](#) (REEF) in Key Largo, to learn more about the threats to the health of Florida's reefs and about REEF's roving diver surveys used to collect data on reef fish populations.

Want to Donate to The Ocean Foundation?

You can make a donation online at: <http://www.oceanfdn.org>. Click on the "Donate Now" button on the top right corner to make your contribution for the oceans through our secure site.

Or you can send a check to:
The Ocean Foundation
1990 M St., NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20036