

Welcome to the quarterly electronic newsletter of The Ocean Foundation (TOF)! If you want to be certain you are on our mailing list, please sign up on the website or send your email address to us at [bgranados@oceanfdn.org](mailto:bgranados@oceanfdn.org).

The Ocean Foundation is the first community foundation for the oceans. Our **mission** is to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. Our community includes the donors and other committed people who are engaged in ocean conservation anywhere in the world.

At last year's marine funders meeting, one of our co-chairs asked, "What gets you up in the morning to keep doing the work you do?" One by one, the fifty people in the room shared their responses — "To turn bad news into good news," "The legacy for my children," "The hard work and steadfast belief of our grantees," "To do nothing is unthinkable," and "The opportunity to invest in trying to make a difference," and so on around the room. Finally, one of the local resource people, a Belizean who works to save the oceans at the most elemental level every single day, said, "I get up in the morning because the ocean is beautiful and the life is precious."

In my job, I am fortunate to get to see the beauty of the ocean and work to support the coastal communities who depend on it all over the world. Wherever I travel, even on the subway here in Washington D.C., I meet people who believe that the ocean is beautiful and that life is precious and are willing to commit to its stewardship. And that keeps all of us getting up in the morning.

All the best,

Mark J. Spalding, President

### Collaborative Conservation: 2007 Coral Reef Funders Meeting and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting



Bleached coral (Marine Photobank: <http://www.marinephotobank.org/home.php>)

On February 28, The Ocean Foundation hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coral Reef Funders Meeting, in Washington, D.C. This meeting of Coral Reef Funders coincided with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF at <http://www.coralreef.gov>) meeting, serving as an important opportunity to learn more about collaborative opportunities with the U.S. government and its partners. Attendees included more than two dozen representatives of private foundations and government agencies



(including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceans & Atmospheric Administration, and the US Agency for International Development).

Coral reefs are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems and one of the most threatened. Healthy coral reef systems are critical to tropical coastal communities around the globe. While global climate change represents the single overarching threat to the long-term survival of coral reef ecosystems, many are locally threatened by the impact of various human activities. These threats to coral reefs include: suffocation from erosion and excessive nutrient runoff from land, overfishing, the use of damaging fishing methods, the destruction of reefs for building materials, and the international trade in coral reef products.

The meeting was intended to increase engagement among the coral reef funders' community and government agencies. In this, the meeting turned out to be a great success. Key issues related to coral reefs were discussed, such as climate change, market pressure, policy development and legal strategies. Next steps include addressing some of the more harmful fishing methods, trade irregularities, and strategies to better identify and manage healthy coral ecosystems.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting followed the Coral Reef Funders meeting. The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force was created by President Bill Clinton to ensure greater cooperation among all U.S. government agencies and departments in protecting and promoting the conservation of coral reefs in the U.S. and abroad. This year's meeting included a mini-summit regarding the upcoming 2008 International Year of the Reef (<http://www.iyor.org/home.htm>). There were also panels that explained how the coral reef challenges are being addressed through the CRTF Local Action Strategies (LAS). These strategies are locally-driven roadmaps for collaborative and cooperative action among federal, state, territory and non-governmental partners, which identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats to valuable coral reef resources. Such actions might include educating the adjacent communities about the value of their coral reefs and ways they might reduce their impact on these important resources.

We look forward to many more collaborative discussions about how we can all work together to support projects and programs to address the threats that face coral reefs and the communities that depend on them.

## 2007 Consultative Group of Biological Diversity Marine Funders Meeting



Once again, The Ocean Foundation played a role in the annual Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD) Marine Funders Working Group Meeting, entitled, “*Continuing the Celebration of Creation: Maintaining the Momentum in Implementation & Enforcement*”, which took place March 26-29, 2007 in Portland, Oregon. TOF was actively involved in the planning process, administering the annual funders’ survey, and preparing the background reader for the event. TOF President Mark J. Spalding presented the results of the annual marine funders survey at the beginning of the meeting. He also facilitated panels on Alaska’s oceans, Loreto Bay National Marine Park, and on the potential for aquaculture standards.

The objective of this year’s meeting was to develop a shared understanding of what it is going to take to implement and enforce the marine protection frameworks that already exist (not as exciting as passing a new law or creating a new park) and the gaps that remain in our toolbox to promote healthy oceans and the communities that depend on them. Special sessions addressed individual topics with an afternoon devoted to several panels on open ocean aquaculture, a morning devoted to the Northwestern Coasts of North America (Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska). The final panel was on the Arctic and the challenges that climate change presents for the people who live there, the ice-dependent marine mammals, and the fisheries that thrive in the northern reaches of the ocean.

The meeting also represented an important opportunity to interact with experts from the marine conservation field to improve our understanding of marine conservation challenges. More than 52 funders and nearly two dozen experts attended the meeting—the biggest such gathering ever—perhaps a very good sign for the future of ocean conservation. This annual meeting often provides the starting point for new collaborations among both funders and grantee organizations even though the agenda does not always focus on concrete next steps.

### **Oceans in the News and Our Work at TOF** **International Year of the Reef**

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008) in recognition of the urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems. The last IYOR was in 1997. This IYOR coincides with the International Coral Reef Symposium, a quadrennial event that is finally coming back to the U.S. and will be



held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in July, 2008. TOF Board of Advisors member John Ogden is chair of the host committee for this event, which is attended by a wide array of scientists, marine managers, and other interested individuals from all over the world. TOF looks forward to participating in IYOR, in helping to facilitate attendance at the Fort Lauderdale meeting by scientists from developing nations, and is working hard to increase resources for coral reef protection through the TOF Coral Reef Field of Interest Fund (FIF). (**For More See:** <http://www.iyor.org/home.htm>)

### **International Polar Year**

The International Polar Year is a large scientific program focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. Given the intense impacts of climate change already being felt in this region of the world, and the vital global linkages, the polar region is a critical region to understand and take action on – from an ecological, social and economic perspective. TOF is very involved in this part of the world through its Alaska Oceans Fund, the Oceans and Climate Change Field of Interest Fund, and via collaboration with a group of funders interested in the Arctic. (**For More See:** <http://www.ipy.org>)

### **Depletion of Sharks Hurt Ecosystems**

A recent study in the journal *Science* used long-term data to assess the impacts of overfishing large shark species on ecosystems. Dr. Ransom (Ram) Myers (Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia) and Dr. Charles H. Petersen (University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Scientists). Nearly 60 million sharks a year are killed as a result of unintended catch in fishing efforts for other species, for the harvest of their fins, and for the manufacture of alternative cancer treatments. This take is reflected in the staggering declines of more than 97% of scalloped hammerhead and tiger sharks, and more than 99% for bull, dusky and smooth hammerhead sharks. This study was the first to answer the question: **Why do sharks (and other top predators) matter?**

It turns out that the loss of top predators affects entire ecosystems, increasing the population of so-called mid-level trophic species (ray, skate, and small sharks) and thus in turn, reducing, even eliminating, important shellfish fisheries. In Chesapeake Bay alone, it is estimated that the number of cownose rays is nearing 40 million. Cownose rays have epicurean tastes—preferring the Chesapeake Bay oyster to other foods. It now seems possible, even likely, that the exploding population of cownose rays is adversely affecting the effort to restore the oyster population with the creation of new oyster beds. The rapidly increasing ray population has already wiped out a valuable scallop fishery in coastal North Carolina. Sadly, Ram Myers, a top fisheries expert, died at the end of March—mourned by all who knew him—but his many contributions to fisheries science live on. TOF is interested in enhanced protection efforts for large shark species, and is currently evaluating how to strategically expand its grantmaking in this arena. Please contact us to learn more. (**For More See:** <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/528526>).

### **Ocean Acidification Threatens Marine Life**

The United Nations Climate Panel recently released a report on climate change impacts, stating that the increasing carbon dioxide emissions are making the oceans more acidic, threatening a large array of interdependent marine species. The polar ocean species are even more



vulnerable as cold waters absorb more carbon than warmer waters. The increasing acidity of the oceans inhibits calcium carbonate formation. Many planktonic species, corals and mollusks rely on calcium carbonate for the development of their shells and skeletons, and those species' availability for food are, in turn, critical to the survival of many larger species. TOF views the impact of climate change as a priority for integration into the design of all of its marine conservation grantmaking programs, including the Coral Reef FIF, the Marine Mammal FIF, the Oceans and Climate Change FIF, and coastal community partnerships.

(For More See: <http://www.enn.com/globe.html?id=1565>)

### TOF News

- The St. Kitts Foundation website is now live, you can learn more about this new TOF Foundation Fund at [www.stkittsfdn.org](http://www.stkittsfdn.org), and our next newsletter will feature highlights of the first marine resource survey undertaken by TOF staff, grantees, and local officials!
- TOF Board of Advisors member and renowned fisheries scientist Dr. Daniel Pauly was one of three laureates awarded the Volvo Environment Prize in this past fall. This award recognizes his pioneering work in assessing and responding to the impact fisheries have on the world's marine ecosystems.
- TOF welcomes new staff! Deborah Williams is our new Senior Program Officer of the Alaska Oceans Fund.
- FY 06 Annual report available <http://www.oceanfdn.org/index.php?tq=articles&topics=50>. You can also request a copy.
- TOF recently became a fiscal sponsor of the Coastal Ocean Values Expedition (C.O.V.E.), a first-of-its-kind expedition to raise awareness about and collect policy relevant economic indicator data on the economic value of our estuaries, bays, and oceans.
- TOF recently became a fiscal sponsor of Mexiconservación (<http://www.mexiconservacion.org>), an organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and executing environmental protection, conservation and restoration programs, integrated natural resource management and sustainable development in Mexico.
- Up-to-date information about the Surfrider Foundation Scholarship, a program administered by TOF, is now available at (<http://www.oceanfdn.org/index.php?tq=articles&topics=82>).
- Tag-A-Giant Foundation (<http://www.tagagiant.org>), a fiscal agency of TOF committed to reversing the decline of northern bluefin tuna populations, recently held a successful outreach event with a lecture by Dr. Barbara Block at The Anglers Club in New York, in the hope of engaging more anglers in this critical research project.
- TOF President, Mark J. Spalding discussed ways in which sailing schools and ocean conservation might intersect as a keynote speaker at the 2007 National Sailing Programs Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana. Click here to download the presentation.
- TOF President, Mark J. Spalding, was a panelist at the Environmental Law Institute/D.C. Bar Seminar "Catch the Next Wave of Ocean Energy Development". The Oceans and Climate Change Presentation is now posted at: <http://www.climate.org/green-energy/ocean-energy.shtml>.
- In February TOF completed the first full draft for public review of our Coastal Sustainable Development Standards – available in English and in Spanish.

- TOF was asked by the Environmental Grantmakers Association to facilitate the oceans section of its annual federal policy briefing in February
- TOF President, Mark J. Spalding, learned just how seriously the private sector is taking the potential effects of climate change when he attended the American Law Institute/American Bar Association “Climate Change and the Law” conference in DC March 22-23, where more than 400 attorney spent two full days listening to presentations from a variety of experts in the field.

### How We Pick Our Investments

We begin by searching the globe for compelling projects. The factors which may make a project compelling include strong science, strong legal basis, strong socio-economic argument, a clear threat, clear benefits, and a strong/logical project strategy. Then, much like any investment advisor, we use a 21-point due diligence checklist, which looks at the project’s management, financing, legal filings and other reports. And, whenever possible we also conduct in person interviews with the key staff on site.

Obviously there are no more certainties in philanthropic investing than in financial investing. Therefore, *The Ocean Foundation Research Newsletter* presents both facts and investment opinions. But, as a result of *nearly 12 years of experience* in philanthropic investing as well as our due diligence on the selected featured projects, we are comfortable with making recommendations for projects that make a difference to ocean conservation.

### New Investment Opportunities

TOF closely monitors the forefront of ocean conservation work, searching for breakthrough solutions in need of funding and support, and communicating interesting new projects to you. This quarter we are featuring the work of The Ocean Foundation’s Communication and Outreach Fund and the World Ocean Observatory (W2O). “Telling the story and telling it well” is perhaps the most important component of any strategy to engage the public, specific constituencies, and decision makers in improving our collective stewardship of the oceans. Staying up to date with the vast array of developments in the field is challenging—but W2O is one organization working to help all of us do just that.



**Who:** World Ocean Observatory (W2O - <http://www.thew2o.net>)

**Where:** Online

**What:** Support of W2O outreach and communication projects, to include a daily posted news service, monthly letter on ocean issues, monthly interactive educational events linking experts in the field with classrooms worldwide, on-line exhibits, radio interviews, and a public forum.

**Why:** Provide an online place of exchange for information and public service about the ocean defined as an integrated, global, social system, thereby relating the ocean to such issues as



fresh water, food, energy, trade, transportation, medicine and public health, science and technology, governance, culture, and other aspects of human survival through education and innovative communications.

**How:** Your contribution to The Ocean Foundation’s Communication and Outreach Field of Interest Fund can help support the World Ocean Observatory. Communicating information about our ocean environment is a vital part of addressing the challenges that confront us. This organization has done an excellent job of creating a place for exchange, discourse and education regarding ocean issues.

**Some Final Words**

The experts at The Ocean Foundation offer you the tools to help turn the tide for marine conservation.

The Ocean Foundation has grown rapidly, expanding its core areas to include marine mammals, other threatened species, habitat protection, climate change and sustainable coastal communities. In fiscal year 2005-6, The Ocean Foundation raised \$1.9 million, gave away \$1.2 million in grants, spent \$272,000 on programs, and spent less than 8% on administrative and fundraising costs. Most important to us, 77% of The Ocean Foundation grant dollars went to projects and organizations outside the USA, where small grants can make a big difference in improving the health of ocean resources and the communities that depend on them. A complete list of our recent investments is below.

We sincerely appreciate your support, guidance and friendship as The Ocean Foundation continues to grow in a way that most effectively leverages resources and positively impacts marine conservation. As we like to say, “Tell us what you would like to do for the oceans, and we’ll take care of the rest.”

<p>Make a donation on line at: <a href="http://www.oceanfdn.org">http://www.oceanfdn.org</a> click on “Donate Now” in the top right corner to donate through our secure site.</p>	<p>Send a check to: The Ocean Foundation 1990 M Street NW Suite 250 Washington, DC 20036 Telephone: 202-887-8992</p>	<p>Please e-mail us for wire instructions: <a href="mailto:mspalding@oceanfdn.org">mspalding@oceanfdn.org</a></p>
---	--	---

**Recent Investments by The Ocean Foundation**

During the winter of 2006-2007, The Ocean Foundation made grants to support the following projects. We look for opportunities to help an organization move forward on its ocean conservation goals in ways that may reach beyond its specific programs.

Title	Grantee	Amount
<b>Coral Field of Interest Fund Grants</b>		
Support conservation of the coral reef	Amigos Para La Conservación	\$5,000



within Cabo Pulmo National Park, with activities including monitoring, vigilance, education and outreach	de Cabo Pulmo (ACCP)	
Create six no fishing zones over coral reefs in El Nido, Palawan	El Nido, Palawan	\$5,000
Support coral protection project	Center for Biological Diversity	\$3,000
Support general operations to develop focused public education media programs	EarthEcho International	\$5,000
Support Phase 2 of the "Sustainable Management of Ornamental Fisheries" Project at the Lampung Collection Area	TERANGI Foundation	\$5,110
<b>Climate Change Field of Interest Fund Grants</b>		
Support the establishment of a water-quality monitoring program in the Prince William Sound. This initial water quality program that targets water temperature is especially relevant due to the impact of global warming in this part of the world	Prince William Soundkeeper	\$6,300
<b>Fisheries Field of Interest Fund</b>		
To support a nanosilver research project - testing fish for nanosilver and testing of nanosilver on stem cells.	Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology	\$10,000
<b>Marine Mammal Fund Grants</b>		
Support the annual gray whale monitoring study	Urban/Swartz Gray Whale Research Project	\$32,200
A two year grant for general support (2007 & 2008)	Ocean Alliance	\$47,500
Support marine mammal protection and Okinawa Dugong Conference projects	Center for Biological Diversity	\$4,500
<b>Loreto Bay Foundation Fund Grants</b>		
Support the purchase of a pick up truck to transport supplies and in some cases students	San Javier Internado	\$6,500
Support the Albergue High School and students	Asistencia Education Superior en Ligue-Ensenada Blanca	\$5,000
Support collaboration with the Grupo Tortuguero team to organize, facilitate, and follow up on the 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Grupo Tortuguero which was held from Jan. 26-28, 2007 in Loreto, BCS	Pro-Peninsula	\$5,000



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER (SPRING 2007)

<b>St. Kitts Foundation Fund</b>		
Assist in providing books, uniforms, equipment, and other needs of students in the BSHS-90 programs	BSHS ROC-90	\$7,491
<b>Education and Outreach</b>		
Support local broadcast of Journey to Planet Earth "State of the Ocean's Animals"	WETA	\$5,000
Support its "Sea-Legs Groton, 2007" program, a collaboration between the town of Groton and Virtual Voyages, Inc., designed to build leadership capability and maritime competence in young people	Sea-Legs	\$1,000
Support the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival (SFOFF), which provides the public with valuable exposure and education about our oceans	San Francisco Ocean Film Festival (SFOFF)	\$1,750
Seed money for the establishment of the Antilles Institute of Marine Studies (AIMS)	Antilles Institute of Marine Studies	\$1,000
Support the interactive AAAS Symposium on Marine Conservation Technology entitled, "Tinkerers and Tipping Points: Invention and Diffusion of Marine Conservation Technology" in San Francisco, CA on February 15-19	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	\$2,500
Assist in supporting the 2007 US CRTF evening reception in Washington, DC	Marine Conservation Biology Institute	\$1,744
Support the 2007 National Sailing Programs Symposium	U.S. Sailing Association	\$1,000