



February 2010

Dear Friends of The Ocean Foundation:

As I write, Washington is AGAIN buried in snow. The blizzard of February 6<sup>th</sup> dumped 18-30 inches of snow on our nation's capital.

Our 2008-2009 annual report is available! To save paper, printing, and postage costs, we are publishing only an electronic version of our report this year. So, please visit our website to download a copy of our FY2009 Annual Report. <http://www.oceanfdn.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/393/pid/393>

On December 31, we received the formal monitoring report for our first SeaGrass Grow project, which showed good progress in our project to restore areas of seagrass meadows damaged by propeller scars and vessel groundings. This first restoration project occurred at Knights Key Bank in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The project is restoring 4,000 square feet and was funded with a gift from Absolut Vodka. <http://www.seagrassgrow.org>

On January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, our Pacific Life Marine Mammal Research Donor Advised Fund sponsored The Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop in Newport Beach. This workshop was an opportunity to connect with researchers working across a broad spectrum of marine mammal science in the Southern California and Northern Baja regions. The speakers reviewed population estimates and ecology of marine mammals, as well as a review of the critical threats in the region (bioaccumulation of toxins, noise pollution, ship strikes etc.). The workshop included poster sessions on the latest research findings, as well as the beginnings of a strategy to improve collaboration and data sharing, and thus make the most of limited financial resources.

I have just come off of three weeks on the road, making one of the last flights into DC before the blizzard shut down our airports. Most recently, I was in Minneapolis to participate in an advisory roundtable for the new Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, which is in the design stage of its environmental grantmaking program. The week before, I visited our projects in Loreto, Mexico.

Since we began the Loreto Bay Foundation program in 2004, we have sought to protect the natural resources upon which the beauty and quality of life in Loreto is based. We made a grant for creation, printing and distribution of a comic book to educate about overfishing and sharks. We have provided support so that the Loreto Bay National Marine Park could add two extra patrol and enforcement staff. To create a great sense of stewardship within the community, we gave a gift to RARE to undertake a Pride Campaign in Loreto. While we made this grant some time ago, it took time to find the right person to lead the campaign and then train them. But now the effort has begun and is producing wonderful results. Selecting the Chocolate Clam as its symbol, the national park and the campaign leader have infused the park staff with pride in their jobs, and the community of Loreto with pride of place. The community has celebrated hosting the park through special events and an entry in the annual parade for the commemoration of the Mexican Revolution. The symbol of the campaign is seen on bumper stickers, caps, and t-shirts all around town. In short, the park staff feels welcome and part of the community in a way they never have before.

Because, the sea turtle guardians of Baja California meet in Loreto each January, we have supported for their 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> annual meetings, provided them with support for a mobile education vehicle, and

have undertaken some funding of research regarding sea turtles in the national park. For more information about the Loreto Bay Foundation and its community and natural resource programs, please visit the website: [www.loreto bay foundation.org](http://www.loreto bay foundation.org)

I started my new year's journey at Stanford University, as a participant in the Innovators in Coastal Tourism Symposium. My panel was on Community Engagement, which covered positive and negative lessons learned from:

- Direct community engagement
  - + Asking the community for advice in the design and planning of the resort or tourism activity
  - + Employment
  - + Service/training programs
  - + Art, health and other education programs
- Indirect community engagement
  - + Social equity for existing communities when a resort comes to town
  - + Protection of culture and heritage
  - + Protection of natural resources upon which the community depends
- Engaging the community in voluntourism (as volunteers or as recipients of services)

I am sorry to report that TOF Advisory Board member, tenured professor Dr. Rick Steiner is no longer with the University of Alaska after it stripped him of a NOAA grant because of his long-standing outspoken opposition to offshore oil development in the Bristol Bay region. Rick has been critical to The Ocean Foundation's work to improve shipping safety, especially in the stormy waters and vulnerable coastal areas of the northern Pacific routes.

On the good news side, in January, state legislators from across the country announced the formation of the Caucus of Coastal State Legislators (CCSL) to address pressing economic, resource and environmental issues facing US coastal states. TOF's Senior Fellow Kevin Ranker (a Washington State Senator) was elected caucus chair at a December meeting in San Diego.

For the Oceans!  
And  
Gung Hay Fat Choy!



Mark Spalding  
President