



Spring 2008 Newsletter

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

Message from the President

Dear Friends of the Ocean,

Happy 2008! We hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you take a few minutes to learn about some of the exciting new happenings here at The Ocean Foundation so far this year. Here are some highlights:

Surfrider Foundation Europe's public service announcement, "The Glove," won the gold medal for an environmental PSA at the International Advertising Association Responsibility Award ceremony on April 6th, 2008. Due to my long association with Surfrider, I was honored to accept the award on their behalf. You can see "The Glove" [here](#).



I would also like to welcome baby Else Ranker, who was born on April 17, the beautiful new daughter of TOF Program Officer Kevin Ranker and his wife Tina, who make their home in the San Juan Islands of Washington state. The entire TOF family extends their warmest regards to the Ranker family.

In other news, TOF founder and board member Wolcott Henry was recently honored to have a new species of bamboo shark (*Hemiscyllium henryi*) named after him! The species was recently discovered in Western New Guinea. Congratulations to Wolcott! Also, congratulations to TOF Special Projects Director Jeremy Linneman for recently completing his PADI Rescue Diver certification!

Additionally, the new and improved TOF website (www.oceanfdn.org) was launched in April, so if you haven't visited us online in a while, please come and see all of the updated information on our programs and funds. In the meantime, please read on to learn about some of the exciting work being done under the TOF umbrella, recent site visits and other travels, and our new staff members. Thank you for your commitment to the ocean!

Mark J, Spalding
President, The Ocean Foundation

Alaska Conservation Solutions: Warming on the Rise by Deborah Williams

The purpose of TOF's fiscal sponsorship of Alaska Conservation Solutions is to educate the public about the dramatic and startling effects of global warming, as evidenced in Alaska. In March and April, the Alaska Conservation Solutions Fund (ACSF) sponsored an acclaimed two-state tour to the critical states of West Virginia and New Hampshire to present, to over 30 diverse audiences, the Alaska story and its implications for other states. During the week of June 2, the US Senate is expected to debate and vote on the comprehensive, historical Lieberman-Warner bill (America's Climate Security Act) to combat global warming. For more information on ACS, please visit:

www.alaskaconservationsolutions.com

Ocean Conservation Research: Bioacoustic Matters by Dr. Michael Stocker



Mass stranding of Bottlenose dolphins in Mozambique coincident to Naval exercises in the area. (Photo: Nick Raba)

To help address the dramatic rise in human-generated ocean noise pollution, TOF is acting as fiscal sponsor to Ocean Conservation Research, which is currently working on a "noise exposure metric" to quantify and express the impacts of human generated noise on marine animals. Recent high profile court cases like California Coastal Commission vs. the US Navy have helped to bring the issue of increased marine mammal strandings in conjunction with military sonar exercise to the forefront. But much greater understanding of the impacts of human-generated noise on the marine environment is still needed. For more information on marine bioacoustics, please visit: www.ocr.org

Tag-A-Giant Fund: Report from Gulf of Mexico Spawning Ground by Shana Miller

Tag-A-Giant scientists electronically tagged nineteen giant bluefin tuna of up to 1,000 pounds in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in October 2007. Two tags recently released from the fish on schedule and began transmitting their data to satellites, which in turn transmit the data back to scientists on earth. Both tags were recovered in the Gulf of Mexico, the only known spawning ground of the severely depleted western population of Atlantic bluefin tuna. The tags confirm that the Canadian foraging assemblage is comprised of some, or perhaps all, western Atlantic bluefin tuna. The data will also provide information on timing and route of spawning migrations, as well as breeding behavior and habitat requirements – knowledge that is critical to developing effective management strategies to protect spawning bluefin tuna. For more information, please visit:

www.tagagiant.org



The TAG team preparing to release a satellite-tagged giant bluefin tuna in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, October 2007. (Photo: Tag-A-Giant)

Coastal Ocean Values Center: The Economic and Market Value of Coasts and Estuaries

A new report funded by Restore America's Estuaries and edited by Linwood Pendleton, Senior Fellow at The Ocean Foundation, shows the high economic value of coasts and estuaries that are at jeopardy without restoration and protection. This report is the first step in a longer-term effort to make the economic value of restoration a more integral part of coastal planning and management. A formal

release on May 21, 2008 at the National Press Club will announce the results documenting that ecologically sensitive coastal areas of the United States generate an economic value in excess of hundreds of billions of dollars. For more information, see www.coastalvalues.org

***Ocean Revolution: Motivating New Young Leaders* by Tim Dykman**

Ocean Revolution continued its mission this year of engaging new young leaders from communities that are dependent on the oceans and whose practices can have an effect on the health of the oceans. **Native Oceans** provides a showcase for indigenous conservation strategies, based on traditional knowledge, for the purpose of integrating these strategies with the pure science. This theme served as the focus for the 2008 International Sea Turtle Society Symposium held in Loreto Mexico. The 2008 Native Oceans Council consisted of fifty-three indigenous people from Australia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, and Venezuela. The interaction between these community leaders and representatives of the world's leading marine research institutes, universities, large international NGO's and government policy makers framed the science and management strategizing at the Symposium. For more information, please visit: www.oceanrevolution.org



ISTS 2008 Meeting, Loreto, Mexico
(Photo: Mayra Estrella)

***The Ocean Project: Communicating More Effectively for Ocean Conservation* by Bill Mott**

The Ocean Project recently launched an exciting three-year national research project, underwritten by an ocean literacy program grant from NOAA, to find out how the ocean community can connect more effectively with the American public in order to build environmental literacy. While this project focuses on the United States, many of its findings and recommendations may be applicable to ocean literacy efforts in other nations around the world. The project's goal is to determine what must be communicated to increase public awareness and stimulate positive behavior change. This latest initiative will include a comprehensive review of existing literature, qualitative and quantitative research, analyses of the data, and publication and broad dissemination. It will also include recommendations for programs and content that build ocean literacy, help us create a more sustainable society, and conserve the ocean for future generations. For more information, see www.theoceanproject.org

OTHER NEWS

Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization

Steven Lutz, an ocean policy specialist and consultant for The Ocean Foundation, organized a large coalition of marine conservation and research groups to ask the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act during the International Year of the Reef 2008, a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and the threats to their sustainability. Letters were sent to the House and Senate from the leaders of fifty-four groups, including World Wildlife Fund, National Association of Marine Laboratories, Coastal States Organization, and the Snorkel Bob Foundation. This is part of an international effort to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs, the threats to their sustainability, and actions urgently needed to protect them. For more information, see the visit the special page in our website [here](#).

Once Upon a Tide

March saw the release of "Once Upon a Tide," a ten-minute film educating children and their families about the connection between human health and healthy oceans. The film was produced by Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment and will be distributed to schools, aquariums, and other venues, with support from The Ocean Foundation and other funders. For more information, see www.healthyocean.org

TOF TRIPS AND TRAVELS

To better support our conservation work and to keep staff informed of the latest in ocean research, ocean projects and 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. While we ensure that we stay connected to the people who work so hard on behalf of the oceans, we also try to minimize our carbon footprint by first reducing the number of trips and making each trip as efficient as possible. Then we try to offset our remaining impact by purchasing more carbon offsets than current formulas require. Some of the latest travels of TOF staff include:

November 11-14, 2007 – Site Visits to Santo Domingo, Boca Chica and Punta Cana

Counterpart International invited TOF Special Projects Director Jeremy Linneman to the Dominican Republic, in order to check out their Coral Gardening sites at some of the resort locations on the island. While there, Jeremy also met with staff from Reef Check's Dominican Republic office, as well as representatives from the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation. As the most populous island in all of the Caribbean, the need for sustainable tourism and economic development initiatives couldn't be greater. Following this trip, TOF was able to offer advice on the siting of a new coral restoration facility in the DR as part of a coral reef restoration program that, once properly funded, will create dozens of new jobs immediately, and many more indirectly, by supporting the country's vital yet struggling tourism industry.

December 10-14, 2007 – Future Leaders Forum, Brisbane, Australia

The Ocean Foundation (Jeremy Linneman) was given the opportunity to sponsor and participate in the Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management (CRTR) Program's Future Leaders Forum, a workshop hosted by the University of Queensland in

Brisbane, Australia. The Future Leaders Forum was the first time the CRTR Program brought together all of its graduate and post-doc students from around the world. This unprecedented opportunity allowed these 60 students to share their research and network with each other—and was purposely timed to coincide with the launch of the 2008 International Year of the Reef. In particular, the Forum gave participants a chance to get to know each other and understand the research projects, leading up to July's 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, the world's largest and most important conference for coral reef scientists and resource managers.

January 19-26, 2008 – GTC and ISTS, Loreto Bay, Mexico

For 10 years running, the Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias A.C. (GTC) has fostered community-based sea turtle conservation efforts in fisher communities along the Baja California peninsula. For the last three years, TOF's Loreto Bay Foundation Fund has helped to underwrite the GTC's annual meeting that takes place in Loreto. The GTC's efforts focus on research, education and outreach, bycatch reduction and, more recently, developing ecotourism. The annual meeting in Loreto allows the GTC volunteers and staff share information and techniques used in each of their communities. To coincide with the 10th GTC meeting, Loreto also hosted the International Sea Turtle Society's 28th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium. The emphasis of the 2008 Symposium was on "Native Oceans," or indigenous conservation. TOF's Ocean Revolution played a significant role in making this theme meaningful for the meeting. Indigenous conservation is a key component of international conservation efforts, as native peoples have some of the deepest cultural ties to sea turtles and other species and have a direct need to coexist with animals such as sea turtles.

February 5-March 2, 2008 – Dominica, Eastern Caribbean



Soufriere Scotts Heads Marine Reserve, Dominica (Photo: Monika Thiele)

Before taking up her duties at TOF, new program officer, Monika Thiele, traveled to Dominica to learn more about opportunities and challenges faced by local marine and coastal tourism practitioners. Monika interviewed representatives from government agencies, dive shops, tour operators, resort owners, tourists, community associations, marine park managers, researchers and local fishermen. From this experience, Monika is working on a strategic plan to help mobilize additional resources and possible resort partnerships for

Dominica, where development pressures are significant and marine reserve enforcement at risk.

April 22-24, 2008 – The Nature Conservancy’s Reef Resilience Conference, Key Largo, FL

Jeremy Linneman recently attended a TNC workshop designed to bring together stakeholders from the government, the nonprofit community, recreational and commercial user groups, and the general public to talk about the effects climate change and other human activities are having on Florida’s coral reefs, particularly the fragile Florida Keys reef systems. By compiling GIS satellite maps, reef monitoring data, and local stakeholder knowledge, the participants worked to identify key pockets in the Florida reef systems that have the right combination of variables to better withstand bleaching events and other climate related impacts. TNC hopes to use this information to create a strategic campaign to better protect the parts of the Keys that stand the best chance of surviving the coming decades as climate change intensifies.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW? NEW STAFF!

Jackie Morgan, Executive Assistant & Operations Manager, came to TOF in December. She has been instrumental in working to streamline the systems that keep TOF running smoothly as it grows. Her responsibilities expand across numerous fronts including operations, grant management, administration, board and donor relations and general record tracking. Previously Jackie worked in the spirit & wine distribution industry in the greater DC area and was drawn to the energy and commitment shared by our team.



Jackie hard at work. (Photo: Monika Thiele)



Whale watching in Soufriere Bay, Dominica (Photo: Monika Thiele)

Monika Thiele, Program Officer,

started with TOF in March. She previously worked for NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program on strategic planning, partnership development and outreach opportunities. Monika especially enjoyed working with the NGO constituent community, as well as the dive and marine tourism industries to help promote improved ocean stewardship and conservation. At TOF, Monika will continue partnership-building efforts with the tourism community while also managing several funds, including the Boyd N. Lyon Sea

Turtle Scholarship Fund and the Oceans & Climate Change Fund. She has also been helping the U.S. State Department and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) develop a 2-day workshop on “Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean” to be hosted by ICRI in July, just after the International Coral Reef Symposium.

COMING UP . . .

Capitol Hill Oceans Week – June 3-5, 2008 – Washington, DC

This year’s symposium will focus on the effects of climate change on the oceans. TOF provides support to CHOW each year. Panelists include Members of Congress, as well as representatives of the federal and state government, industry, academia, and nonprofits. TOF President, Mark Spalding, has been invited as a guest speaker on the topic of ocean energy. To register, please see:

<http://www.nmsfocean.org/chow2008/>

World Oceans Day – June 8, 2008

Have you planned your World Ocean Day event yet? If not, head to the World Oceans Day website (<http://www.theoceanproject.org/wod/>) where you'll find plenty of ideas to inspire you and a global event map listing activities including ocean excursions and watershed cleanups to community projects.

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 send a check to:
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