

splash



Grappling with the Earth's Toughest Foe: Ocean Trash



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“The clock starts now,” said JuJu Chan Szeto on a Lamma Island beach in Hong Kong in November. Wearing protective gloves and a #TeamSeas t-shirt, the Hong Kong-born martial artist and actress joined Ocean Conservancy and #TeamSeas to take on one of her toughest opponents yet: marine debris.

Juju’s announcement kicked off a friendly but lively beach competition near Sok Kwu Wan Pier to find out which teams could pick up the largest amount of trash, identify the most unusual items and demonstrate the greatest spirit. The final winner? Our ocean.

The beach cleanup was one of the latest collaborations between Ocean Conservancy and #TeamSeas, a global campaign founded by YouTube stars Mark Rober and MrBeast to raise awareness about ocean trash.

Just a short distance from Hong Kong Island by ferry, Lamma Island is

home to historic fishing villages with white sand beaches and lush green hills surrounded by sparkling blue waters. But months before the cleanup, the island’s beaches were strewn with debris after heavy rains washed a massive amount of trash onto Hong Kong shorelines.

The #TeamSeas tour stopped in Hong Kong not only to raise awareness about the perils of ocean trash but also to witness the incredible Hong Kong Cleanup team in action. For over 20 years, these Ocean Conservancy partners in our International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC) have been steadfast in their dedication to cleaning trash from

the shores of Hong Kong.

Since November 2021, Hong Kong Cleanup has hosted #TeamSeas volunteer cleanups every weekend. The group has also participated in the ICC since 2001, submitting data through our Clean Swell® app and the Hong Kong government to work on solutions that stop trash at the source.

The group’s work—resulting in more than 22 million pounds of debris collected by over one million volunteers—is sorely needed. Because of Hong Kong’s unique geographic location and an increase in typhoons and other natural occurrences due to climate change, hundreds of tons of waste wash up on beaches there each year.

The Hong Kong coastline has a vast number of beaches and rocky areas where rubbish can wash ashore. Because much of the shore is hard to access or even inaccessible, many areas of Hong Kong are not being cleaned up at all. The trash comes from mainland China, more distant places, or from Hong Kong itself, which generates six million tons of waste per year.

Per capita, Hong Kong throws away an average of 16,000 tons of waste per day—including an estimated 1,368,000 single-use plastic bottles, 1,000 tons of plastic bags and 3,200 tons of food waste. With only three landfills, all operating at maximum capacity, a vast amount of Hong Kong’s trash ends up in the ocean.

“There’s so much Hong Kong-ionic trash here. One type is styrofoam. As you can see, it’s everywhere. It’s nicknamed Hong Kong snow,” said Lisa Christensen as the #TeamSeas film crew captured crumbled bits of white Styrofoam mingled with sand.

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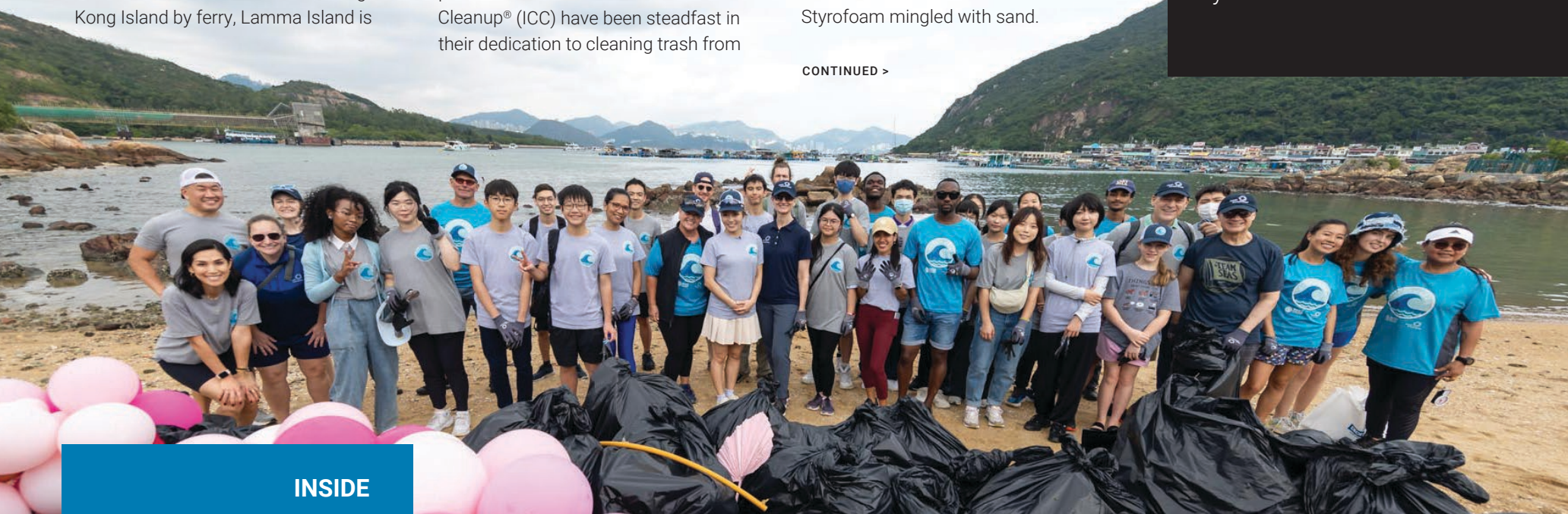
teamseas

Want to get involved and make a difference for the ocean? In Hong Kong, find Hong Kong Cleanup at hkcleanup.org and join their weekly cleanups.

Outside of Hong Kong, check out your local organization and visit teamseas.org and oceanconservancy.org.

You can also download the Clean Swell app and pick up trash on your own as you’re out in nature. Share your photos and videos on social media with the #TeamSeas hashtag and be part of the #TeamSeas movement.

“No matter where you are, you can get involved anytime. Do it!” says JuJu Chan Szeto.



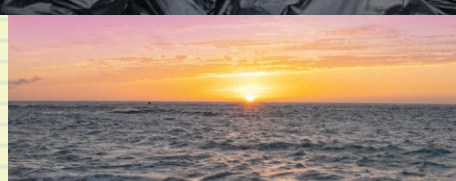
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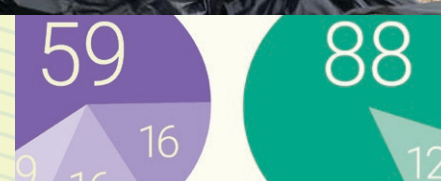
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We are grateful for these ocean stewards who support our work with annual gifts of \$1,000 and above.



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JOHN SARGENT

Chair

As the Board chair of Ocean Conservancy, I am pleased to report on our remarkable progress in 2023.

While the year was not without its challenges—record-breaking heat waves, turbulent floods, legislative setbacks and frustrating court decisions—we have many victories to celebrate with you. And they are our victories together, as you provide the moral support and essential funding for all of us to get the job done for our ocean.

You'll read in this issue's center section about our major accomplishments—from our success in pressuring the International Maritime Organization to decarbonize the shipping sector, to our work on the forefront of the first internationally binding agreement to curb the global plastic-pollution crisis, to our "What the Foam" campaign and the Farewell to Foam Act introduced in Congress, both of which highlight the dangers to the ocean caused by plastic foam generally used in food ware, packaging and single-use coolers.

And there are more victories to celebrate. Congress has introduced four bills in addition to the Farewell to Foam Act aimed at keeping plastics out of our ocean, a major focus of Ocean Conservancy's conservation agenda. With our leadership, Miami Beach banned smoking on its beaches, eliminating one of the most commonly found items of ocean trash from a popular tourist spot. Our Arctic program celebrated many victories—including a commitment to reduce underwater noise from ships, which threatens the communication and survival of whales and other animals, and federal legislation that requires the U.S. Coast Guard to develop new oil spill response regulations for the region.

Our Ocean Conservancy team was at the forefront of COP28, the recent meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change where the ocean received more attention than

ever before. And finally, three countries announced that they have joined Ocean Conservancy's Global Ghost Gear Initiative® (GGGI)—Germany, Costa Rica, and Trinidad and Tobago—bringing the current total of country members to 23. The GGGI is the world's only alliance dedicated to eradicating a major and deadly source of ocean plastic pollution—abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

Now we look forward to redoubling our efforts in 2024. Never has our mission been more critical nor our work more focused. With Ocean Conservancy's robust conservation agenda and your help, we will do our very best to ensure a healthy and productive ocean going forward.

Thank you for your help, and looking forward to further success,
John Sargent



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Our Mission

Ocean Conservancy is working with you to protect the ocean from today's greatest global challenges. Together, we create evidence-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.

Ocean Conservancy
1300 19th Street NW, 8th Floor
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Grappling with the Earth's Toughest Foe: Ocean Trash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An award-winning conservationist and Hong Kong Medal of Honor recipient, Christensen founded Hong Kong Cleanup in 2000 as the first organization dedicated to cleaning up Hong Kong's coastal environment.

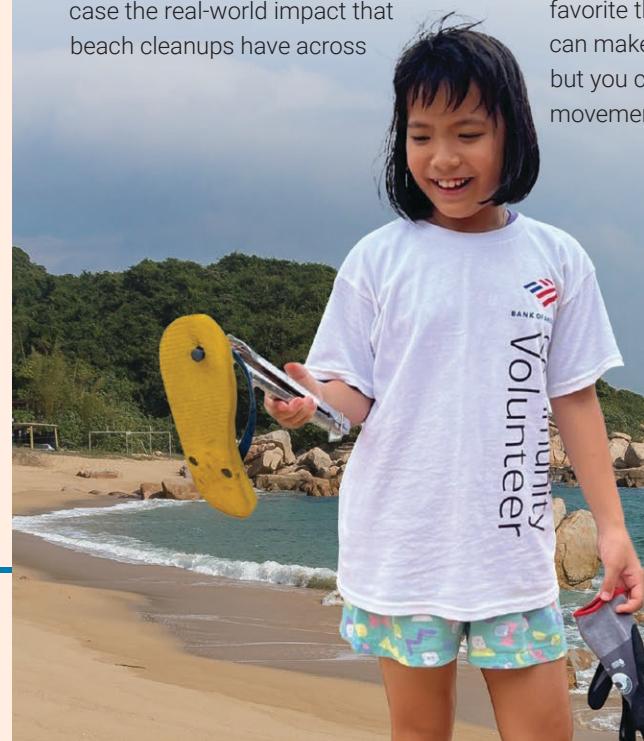
"We also get a lot of single-use plastic items. Unfortunately the amount of debris is continuing to increase," Lisa added as volunteers plucked pieces of plastic from driftwood and gathered 120 plastic water bottles that they had collected in black trash bags.

Ocean Conservancy also hosted #TeamSeas tour stops to Alaska, California, Malaysia, Jamaica and the British Virgin Islands in 2023 to showcase the real-world impact that beach cleanups have across

the planet. Each tour stop invites local journalists and filmmakers to participate and tell the stories of ICC volunteers and coordinators who make the successes possible.

"It is really all the volunteers who make a difference for the world," said Ocean Conservancy CEO Janis Searles Jones on the Lamma Island beach as she placed bundles of stray rope in a collection bag.

"I'm just pleased to be a part of this global movement and to be on the beach with people who care about the ocean, who care about their communities, and who care about contributing on a global scale," Janis added. "That's my favorite thing about the cleanup. You can make a difference on your beach, but you contribute to this global movement that matters for the ocean."



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Ocean Conservancy values all of the dedicated supporters, volunteers and activists who believe in our mission and make our work possible. We want to thank all of our supporters for their generous financial support of our ocean conservation efforts. Ocean Conservancy is especially grateful for our Champions for Sea Change, an elite group of ocean stewards.

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HUMPBACK WHALES AND CALF, FRENCH POLYNESIA
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are among our most loyal supporters who help protect the ocean from today's greatest global challenges. With a one-time annual donation of \$1,000 or more, you will enjoy exclusive benefits that connect you to the impact of your generosity.

To learn more about this program:

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REFLECTING ON 2023

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Ocean Conservancy envisions a healthier ocean protected by a more just world.

Our agenda is guided by a strategic framework focused on:

- 1) Preventing too much from going into the ocean, such as carbon, plastics and other pollutants; and
- 2) Ensuring too much is not taken out of the ocean, including fish, marine life and other natural resources.

Below are highlights of our successes in 2023 towards cutting carbon emissions, advancing clean-ocean energy, preventing pollution in the ocean, protecting ocean life and preserving biodiversity.



OCEAN CLIMATE

Advancing Ocean-Climate Solutions

- Accomplished a major victory for the ocean: the International Maritime Organization will require the shipping industry to be emissions-free by 2050—doubling its initial ambition and putting into place interim targets key to begin immediate greenhouse gas reductions.
- Launched a Ports Community Grants Program to create sustainable partnerships with organizations led by and serving Black, Indigenous and other people of color in front-line port communities that are disproportionately impacted by the pollution from the shipping industry.
- Ocean Conservancy experts shaped and informed the Biden administration's Ocean Climate Action Plan, a first-of-its-kind national-level plan. This led to domestic policies for zero-emission vessels, ports and offshore wind, helping fisheries become climate ready and speeding our transition to clean ocean energy.
- Developed guidelines for responsible ("ocean first") offshore wind development. These guidelines will protect ocean animals, biodiversity and critical marine habitat when used by governments and industry to speed the transition to clean ocean energy.
- Presented TEDx talk as part of broader efforts to spotlight how plastics are missing from the climate fight despite their being derived from fossil fuels and a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Ocean Conservancy is leading the charge to create transparency and accountability around the impacts of plastics and efforts to ramp down plastics production.
- After working to secure billions for the ocean in the largest climate and infrastructure bills in history, we helped to ensure that funds were rapidly deployed for projects that clean up ports, deploy offshore wind and restore coastal habitats to help both people and wildlife in the face of climate change.



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Defending the Integrity of Our Nation's Fisheries

- Put red snapper fish populations on the road to recovery by helping improve the data used to set catch limits in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Played a leading role in new federal policy guiding the management of recreational fishing in marine waters that prioritizes helping fisheries adapt to withstand climate-related stressors.
- Helped establish an equity and environmental justice subcommittee at the U.S. West Coast Pacific Fisheries Management Council to improve access to decision-making for Tribes, underrepresented communities and other diverse voices.



FEDERAL ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Protecting the Ocean in the Halls of Power

- Worked to secure \$3 billion for greener ports and shipping, \$2.6 billion for coastal restoration and other major funding for offshore wind and renewable energy in the Inflation Reduction Act. This legislation is the largest climate investment ever made by the United States.
- Successfully advanced federal legislation in Congress that would implement much-needed reforms to the federal law that promotes healthy and resilient fish populations, fisheries and fishing communities.



FLORIDA CONSERVATION

Building an Ocean Groundswell

- Helped secure \$100 million in funding for the Indian River Lagoon in Florida, the most biodiverse estuary in North America, to improve water quality and help save Florida's declining manatee population.
- Conducted first-of-its-kind assessment of plastics in the headwaters of the Everglades to inform ocean pollution prevention efforts in partnership with the City of Orlando.
- Launched sea-level-rise tool that allows communities and decision-makers to visualize and plan for sea-level-rise impacts in Florida, initially focusing on the Tampa Bay region.
- Kicked off our innovative Nutrient Fingerprinting project in Tampa Bay, helping us pinpoint nutrient pollution for removal before it can worsen harmful algal blooms like red tide.



ARCTIC CONSERVATION

Protecting Northern Seas and Wildlife with Arctic Peoples

- Protected Arctic animals like beluga whales, narwhals and polar bears by securing a commitment from the International Maritime Organization to reduce underwater noise from ships. This type of noise can impede animals' abilities to communicate and hear environmental cues that are vital for their survival.
- Secured new, first-of-its-kind federal legislation that requires the Coast Guard to develop oil spill response regulations specifically tailored to Arctic and Western Alaska waters and that explicitly mandates consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native organizations.
- Advanced Indigenous-led conservation in the Arctic by becoming the first NGO partner of the 16-community Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network and by working alongside Tribes, Alaska Native organizations and coalitions representing hundreds of Native coastal communities to forward their conservation goals.
- Launched an ambitious new campaign to protect the Central Arctic Ocean—one of the last pristine, intact ocean ecosystems—from shipping and deep-sea mining. This builds on previous protections recently won to prevent industrial fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean.



TRASH FREE SEAS®

Leading the Fight Against Ocean Plastic Debris

- Exceeded our goal of removing at least 15 million pounds of trash from beaches and the ocean as part of #TeamSeas campaign. YouTube creators MrBeast and Mark Rober chose Ocean Conservancy as one of the cleanup partners to create a social movement to confront ocean trash. Content creators from 145 countries with more than 1 billion followers combined supported the project, with a new generation of ocean advocates mobilized.
- Helped win passage of a ban on plastics foam in Oregon and launched the "What The Foam" campaign calling for a U.S. ban on plastic foam food ware, which ranks among the top ten most common items collected by the International Coastal Cleanup.
- Helped defeat an Illinois chemical recycling bill to prevent expansion of waste-to-energy technologies that run counter to much needed efforts to reduce production of single-use plastics.
- Successfully included microplastics, ghost gear and goals for plastics reduction in the draft text of Global Plastics Treaty—all critical to ending ocean plastic pollution.
- Recycled more than 70 tons of end-of-life fishing gear amassed at our Ensenada, Mexico, collection hub in partnership with Bureo, a member of our Global Ghost Gear Initiative. These efforts prevented discarded gear from reaching the ocean where it could threaten vulnerable marine animals like the vaquita porpoise, the most endangered marine mammal in the world.

FOR ALL YOU DO TO HELP US SECURE A HEALTHY OCEAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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Karen Zaugg
Anonymous (12)

Foundations, Corporations and Government Agencies

JANUARY 1–DECEMBER 31, 2023

Ocean Conservancy is grateful to the following foundations, corporations and government agencies for their generous support of our ocean conservation work.

11th Hour Racing/
The Schmidt Family Foundation
3M Foundation
Aldi Stores Ltd
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Express Foundation
Aquaculture Stewardship Council
AS by DF
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
Austral Fisheries Pty Ltd
Australian Marine Conservation Society
AXIS Capital
Backen & Backen Architects
Bank of America
bareMinerals
Beecher's Handmade Cheese
Benioff Ocean Initiative
Beyond Plastic Med
Biosfera
Breitling
The Brunswick Foundation
The Builders Initiative
Bumble Bee Seafoods
Canopus Insurance
The Church & Dwight Philanthropic Foundation
Citizens
Closed Loop Partners
Coastal Restoration Society
The Coca-Cola Foundation
Color the World LLC
Columbia Sportswear
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Co-op UK
CSR GeoSurveys Ltd.
Danaher Foundation
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Fauna & Flora International
Felt Right
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
The Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation

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Frabelle PNG Limited
Fraunheimer Meat
Frost Investments LLC
Garnier
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Morning Brew
MRAG Ltd
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Nestle
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Nomad Foods Europe Limited
Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund (Handelens Miljøfond)
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Ocean Legacy
Ocean Network Express North America
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Oceans 5
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Thai Union Group
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Triad Foundation
Tunacons
U.S. Department of State
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Walton Family Foundation
WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation
World Wildlife Fund
Anonymous (3)



HARBOR SEAL, GLENEDEN BEACH, OREGON
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A Gift in Your Will Is a Gift for a Healthy Ocean

A healthy ocean future is crucial for all life on earth. At Ocean Conservancy, all of our work is underpinned by our commitment to promoting a healthy ocean, abundant wildlife and thriving coastal communities. This long-term vision won't be achieved overnight—it takes years, ongoing collaboration and unwavering determination. A gift in your will allows you to build on the work you make possible at Ocean Conservancy today.

Creating this clean ocean future is our responsibility. When you include a gift to Ocean Conservancy in your will or trust, or by a beneficiary designation of a financial account such as an IRA, donor advised fund or life insurance policy, you make an investment in our future work to create long-term solutions for reducing ocean plastics, tackling climate change, protecting wildlife and ending overfishing.

To include a gift to Ocean Conservancy in your will or trust or by beneficiary designation, please use the information below:

Legal name: Ocean Conservancy, Inc.
Address: 1300 19th Street NW, 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036
Federal Tax ID number: 23-7245152

These gifts allow you to change your mind at any time if your circumstances change, so you won't be locked into a decision you make today. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and encouraged—no gift is too small because every gift matters. Leaving just 1% to Ocean Conservancy will have an impact.

If you have already included a gift to Ocean Conservancy in your will or other estate plans, we hope you will let us know so we can welcome you into our Ocean Legacy Society. To notify us of your gift, or if you have questions and would like to discuss your options, contact (800) 519-1541 or oceanlegacy@oceanconservancy.org and a member of our planned giving team will be happy to help.



PUAKO, HAWAII
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Ocean Legacy Society

We want to thank the following people who, over the past year, have joined the more than 1,800 members of the Ocean Legacy Society by naming Ocean Conservancy in their estate plans or by establishing a charitable gift annuity.

Catherine M. Cook	Trudie Joubert	Kerry O'Donnell
Leanne Cook	Warren Kahn	Susan O'Neil
Marthe Cumming	Stan Kamin	Richard Oprzadek
Elizabeth Cushman	Richard B. Karel	Kathleen M. Otter, In memory of Dr. Fred A. Otter
Lynn Davidson	Beverly J. Kaveney	Kathy P. Pedrizzetti
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Carol Dulaney	Susan Smith Knoblauch	Christine Rice
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Martha and Gordon Glenn	Marilyn Lisowski	Patricia Simrell
Margaret Goettelmann	Susan M. Ludington	Catherine A. St. Onge
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Judith Hendin	Robin Mower	Marylyn Wouda
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Nancy and Bob Hoell	Sayan D. Mukherjee	John and Lavinia
Carol Hosmer	Rosemary Neff	Carol Young
Bill and Peggy Huddleston	Christin Nelson	Anonymous (6)
Hillsman S. Jackson	Mary Carol Nelson	
Jennifer A. Jinot	Mark and Sandy Newton	
Deborah Johnson		

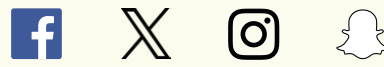
Revenue and Expense Summary

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

REVENUES	
Contributions, grants and bequests	\$47,086,530
List rental income	65,245
Royalties and other	791,637
In-kind contributions	471,290
Other income	32,626
Total revenues	48,447,328
EXPENSES	
Science, policy and outreach	15,130,698
Trash free seas	13,607,430
Marine ecosystem protection	5,047,476
Climate	6,632,341
Total program expenses	40,417,945
Fundraising and membership development	6,413,195
Management and administration	5,360,807
Total supporting service expenses	11,774,002
Total expenses	52,191,947
GAINS AND LOSSES	
Investment income, net	3,966,177
Change in net assets	221,558
Net assets, beginning of the year	80,749,273
NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	\$80,970,831



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MEETS ALL 20 BBB CHARITY STANDARDS

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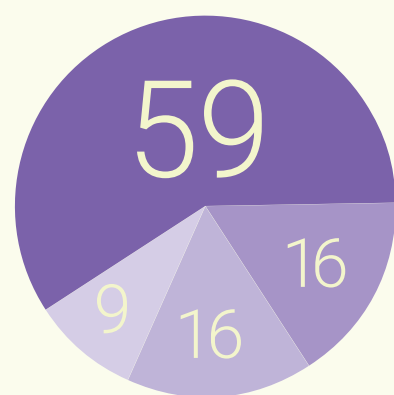
Financial Summary

Ocean Conservancy continues to deliver high-impact programmatic results in an operationally efficient and cost-effective manner. This impact is made possible through the ongoing commitment, involvement and financial contributions of individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies who understand the critical importance of protecting and preserving the ocean.

Ocean Conservancy's 2023 revenue totaled \$48.45 million. Net investment income totaled \$3.97 million and total expenses were \$52.19 million. Eighty-eight percent of expenses were for ocean conservation programmatic activities and administrative services, and twelve percent of expenses were for fundraising.

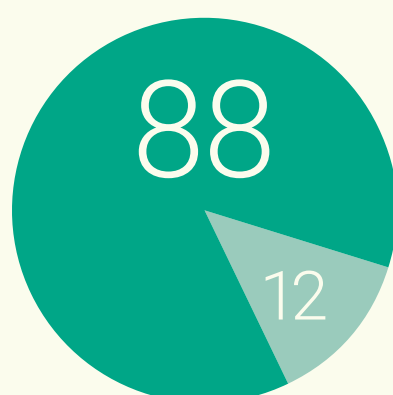
Ocean Conservancy meets all 20 standards for charitable organizations established by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance and is proud of its reputation as a good steward of the resources entrusted to it by its supporters. The financial results depicted are derived from Ocean Conservancy's June 30, 2023, audited financial statements. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request or on the Ocean Conservancy website—oceanconservancy.org.

REVENUES



Individuals **59%**
Foundations **16%**
Corporate **16%**
Other **9%**

EXPENSES



Program and Administrative Services **88%**
Fundraising and Membership Development **12%**

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT