

soilash



Good News for the Gulf

Five years after the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster devastated the Gulf's natural resources and communities, a historic settlement this year brought significant good news—and a reminder that much work remains to be done.



It's a day that I won't forget.

On April 20, 2010, the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, taking the lives of eleven men and sinking into the ocean in a cloud of smoke and fire.

The BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster was the largest environmental catastrophe in U.S. history. Nearly five million barrels of crude oil were released into the Gulf, contaminating over 1,300 miles of beaches and wetlands from Florida to Texas and threatening our creatures and our coastal way of life.

With over two decades of history working in the Gulf, Ocean Conservancy responded immediately. The organization made a deeper commitment to the region and created the Gulf Restoration Program to track impacts of the disaster and help people understand what was happening in affected Gulf ecosystems—from coral reefs to salt marshes to the deep seafloor.

Along with most of the Gulf Restoration Program team, I live on the Gulf Coast and saw the BP oil disaster unfold firsthand, even getting access to the Incident Command Center

where the Coast Guard coordinated the response and cleanup effort. It's been very challenging—and at times quite painful—to see this place we love so damaged.

In the months and years that followed the BP oil disaster, our team worked diligently to hold BP and other parties accountable and make sure any penalties paid would be used for science-based restoration of Gulf waters, wildlife and communities.

We understood that once the well was capped and media attention ebbed, Gulf restoration would be a decades-long endeavor—and one of our biggest challenges to date.

We emphasized the importance of repairing the environmental damage that occurred far out in the ocean, where the oil impacted seabirds, whales, bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles and many other vulnerable species.

In 2012, we helped to get the RESTORE Act passed, which went a long way toward making sure that penalties paid for the BP oil disaster would be allocated fairly and responsibly.

Then, earlier this year, came the news that Ocean Conservancy and other advocates of the Gulf had long been waiting for. On July 2, 2015, the U.S. announced a settlement of all remaining claims against BP for a whopping \$20.8 billion, with \$1.24 billion dedicated to restoring the open ocean.

The settlement represented a huge victory for Ocean Conservancy. We had strongly advocated for a swift and fair resolution. Our approach has always been that comprehensive restoration—including both coastal and marine environments—is the only

way that the Gulf will ever be made whole.

Now that the funding is imminent, we have to ensure that any funded projects will truly restore the Gulf and create a healthier ecosystem for generations to come.

Soon after the settlement was announced, the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustees, who are charged with restoring the damage to our natural resources, released a sobering 635-page summary of oil impacts in the *Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental*

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BY BETHANY CARL KRAFT



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ANDREAS MERKL
Chief Executive Officer

From our bold campaign to keep plastics from fouling ocean waters, to our Arctic work to save that vital ecosystem from the ravages of climate change, to our strategies to ensure a future teeming with fish and wildlife in the California Current and beyond—these are just some aspects of Ocean Conservancy’s work that your support helped mobilize in 2015.



DAVID C. ALDRICH
Board Chair

You’ll read about our victories from the past year in our center section. You’ll see how we, with your help, have moved the dial forward to facilitate smart planning for our ocean and coastal development, guard against increasing acidity levels in the ocean and defend federal policies essential to a healthy ocean.

Dedicated supporters like you have played a major role in making these successes possible. Without the generous commitment of our members, our work would not be possible. Thank you, thank you.

The cover story focuses on our work to restore the Gulf of Mexico now five years after BP spilled millions of gallons of oil in the country’s worst offshore oil disaster. We are thrilled

that a portion of the fines levied against BP will go to help sea turtles, dolphins and other incredible sea life that reside in the Gulf.

Ocean Conservancy’s Board of Directors got “up close and personal” with our work to help guide Gulf restoration at our fall meeting in New Orleans. We applauded the work of our Gulf Restoration Director Bethany Kraft and her capable team on the achievements they’ve made—as we lamented the fact that, unchecked, the rising waters caused by climate change could put New Orleans and its environs under water in the years to come.

And so we pause to celebrate the great accomplishments of 2015 as we also implement bold and ambitious

campaigns to protect the ocean from a host of threats going forward—with climate change and what it will do to ocean life and coastal communities being front and center in the challenges.

Your continuing support is critical to our success. Thank you for your past generosity. Please join us in supporting the fights that lie ahead.

Kind regards,



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Our Mission
Ocean Conservancy educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.

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Good News for the Gulf

CONTINUED

Impact Statement, detailing how the ongoing danger to the Gulf may be even greater than we thought.

The report, based on five years of government research, found staggering impacts. An area 20 times the size of Manhattan surrounding the now-plugged wellhead is polluted by oil. Slow-growing deep-water corals may take centuries to recover. Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, marine mammals and birds died.

The BP settlement isn’t the end of Gulf restoration. The oil disaster

broadly injured the entire northern Gulf ecosystem, and many of the long-term effects are still unknown. That’s why we need to stay committed to science and make every dollar of restoration funds count.

The BP oil disaster was a tragedy, but we are now faced with the opportunity to change the course of the Gulf of Mexico—using restoration as a catalyst to renew and repair the ocean, coastal communities and wildlife that we all love.



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OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



Engaged communities to take action on ocean acidification

Important species like oysters and crabs that fuel the nation's seafood industry are endangered by the increasing acidity of seawater. Ocean Conservancy led the drive to introduce two new bipartisan federal bills to tackle this serious challenge, and we garnered support for additional federal funds for research and monitoring. To raise awareness of this growing threat to coastal communities, we co-authored papers in several science journals and teamed up with Mote Marine Laboratory to host a roundtable in Florida to explore solutions. Having long advocated on this important issue, we are also pleased to see coastal states taking up the mantle to promote state-driven legislation and panels that we worked hard to champion.

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OCEAN PLANNING



Commemorated the 5th anniversary of the National Ocean Policy and progress on smart ocean planning

Our Ocean Planning program protects marine ecosystems while balancing ocean uses like shipping, fishing, and recreation. Five years ago, ocean planning in the U.S. was a long-sought dream; today we are months away from ocean plans for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. We also celebrated construction of the country's first offshore wind farm, made possible by Rhode Island's smart ocean plan that we have showcased as a gold standard of ocean planning. Thanks to the plan, this wind farm is a model of sustainable development, supported by fishermen and conservationists. We along with our industry and conservation partners are working to make smart ocean planning the new status quo for how our ocean is managed and preserved.

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GULF OF MEXICO

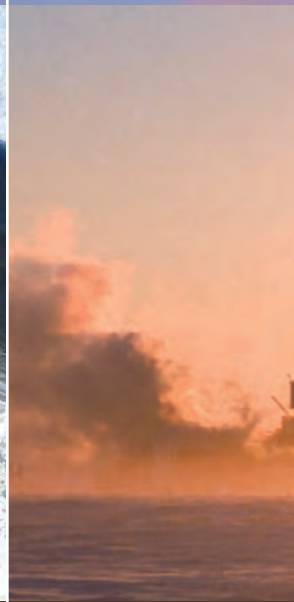


Redoubled our efforts to restore the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of historic \$20.8 billion settlement for BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster

Since the BP disaster polluted the Gulf with nearly five million barrels of oil, damage to fishing communities and marine wildlife continues to emerge. Roughly four to eight billion oysters were lost, and bottlenose dolphins are expected to take 40–50 years to recover. The settlement will help us address spill impacts and achieve long-term restoration goals. The inclusion of over \$1 billion for ocean restoration—as well as separate funds to monitor long-term spill effects—were major victories. Ocean Conservancy remains steadfast in ensuring that every dime of funding is directed as intended.

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U.S. ARCTIC



Helped keep offshore drilling out of the U.S. Arctic Ocean

This year, President Obama announced nearly 10 million acres of new habitat off Alaska's coast and retreated from offshore drilling in the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea, cancelling two Arctic oil leases and sales. These decisions were a victory for all the groups—in the U.S. and abroad—Ocean Conservancy—that called for protections from offshore development. Still, oil drilling is not dead. Although drilling is not allowed in the Arctic, Shell has signaled it is considering new leases in the region and the Arctic. We will continue our fight against offshore drilling and for a more resilient Arctic ecosystem.

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THANK YOU

for all you do to help us
for future generations. Here
we accomplished this year
they would not have

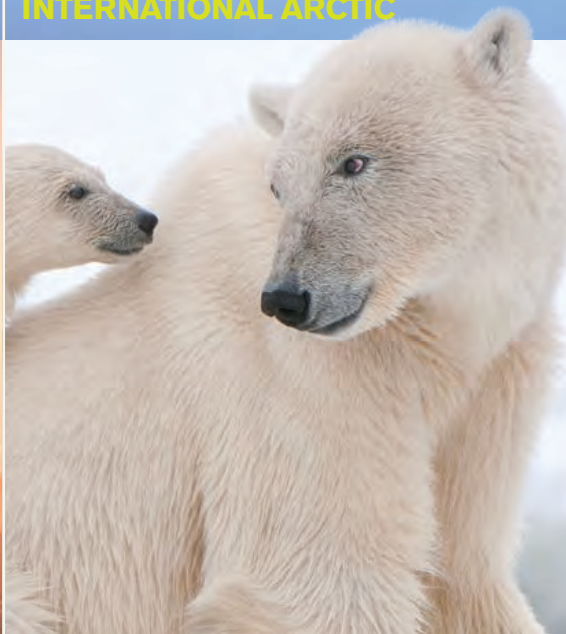
REPORTING ON 2015

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Ocean Conservancy



INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC



Stop risky drilling out Arctic

Obama protected miles of important coast, Shell more oil exploration in and the Administration offshore lease bans are huge victories including Ocean continually pressed irresponsible our work is not done. no longer imminent, continued interest in Administration is still ses. Hence, we will against future drilling ent Arctic marine

Protected Arctic wildlife

In May, when the U.S. assumed the Chair of the multinational Arctic Council, Ocean Conservancy capitalized on this historic opportunity by launching a push for priority actions to protect Arctic wildlife and important ocean habitats. We also started working at the United Nations' International Maritime Organization, where we successfully finalized new shipping measures to reduce vessel traffic and potential oil spills near the coast of Alaska's wildlife rich Aleutian Islands. These new measures, which take effect in 2016, protect the region's fragile ecosystem, which also supports robust fisheries and Alaska Native communities engaged in the traditional subsistence way-of-life.

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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



Promoted healthy fisheries and resilient fishing communities

Nationally, overfishing is at an all-time low, in great part thanks to Ocean Conservancy's decades-long effort to secure sustainable U.S. fisheries. In April, the National Marine Fisheries Service released its 2014 Status of Stocks report showing important signs of recovery for ocean ecosystems and fishing communities. Part of our advocacy effort involved rallying support for the West Coast's Fishery Ecosystem Plan, resulting in a new effort to move management beyond a focus on single species and to one that considers the health of the whole ecosystem. In addition, in the face of changing ocean conditions, brought on in part by climate change, we are developing a new tool with international experts that considers a broader and more complex set of variables to help fisheries better adapt. Together with partners, we are building a state-of-the-art "flight simulator" that will allow fishery managers to better factor ecological, social and economic dynamics into their decision-making and policy development. Once completed we plan to apply this tool to fisheries around the world.

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TRASH FREE SEAS



Celebrated 30th anniversary of the International Coastal Cleanup® and led Trash Free Seas Alliance® in tackling ocean plastics

Thanks to millions of volunteers, over the past 30 years we have protected marine wildlife by removing more than 200 million pounds of trash from beaches and waterways. We are also leading a growing coalition of influential partners through the Trash Free Seas Alliance to keep trash and plastics from entering the ocean in the first place. With our Alliance partners we released a first-of-its-kind report, *Stemming the Tide*, that outlines specific solutions to address waste management and stop the outflow of plastic waste into the ocean in the five priority countries that account for over half of the plastic in the ocean (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand).

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to help secure a healthy ocean. Here are some examples of what we've achieved—without your support, none of this would have been possible.

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JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2015

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Ann Tretter
Scot Trinklein
Catherine Jeri Truesdell
Cindy Truran
Bill Tucker
Theo Tucker
Lisa Turrini
Kassandra Tuten
Frances M. Ujhazy
Nancy Umphrey
Linda Unrue
J. R. Usher
Michelle Uting
Peter Van Blokland
Marge Van Lente
Dora Van Loggem
Suzanne Van Sickle
Kristina VandenBerg
Rose B. Vanderslice
Shelley Varga
Fred J. Veltri
Dharmendra T. Verma
John C. Vermillion
Dr. Seeske D. Versluys
Robert Victor
Claire Virga
Sally Vogel
Jerry and Carolyn Voight
James Wade
Carol Wagner
Lyn Wagner-Ditzhazy
Peter Walker
Susannah L. Walker
Rosemary Walsh
Betty M. Walters
Jane Walters
Kathe Walton
William Warburton
Roxanne Warren
Linda J. Watson
Pat Watson
Jane Webb
Sandra M. Webber

Thomas R. Webber
Karen M. Weber
Rachel Weed
Damaris E. Welles
Darlene Wenner
Lisa Wersal
Suzanne Westgaard
William Wheatland
Patchur White
Diane Whitmore
Frederic Whitson
Leslie Wildrick
Roxanne Wiley
Deborah L. Wilker
Deborah Wilkinson
H. C. Willeboordse
Lisa and Paul Williams
Rebecca M. Williams
Stephen A. Williams
Vikki L. Williams
Allan R. Willis
Arlene Wilson
Betty B. Wilson
Dora Van Loggem
Elizabeth C. Winter
Anita Wintner
Patricia J. Wolff
Michael N. Wood
Fay Woodruff
Wayne Wright
Stanley A. Wtulich
Patricia C. Wyse
Ernest Yagel
Mary Yazel-Muska
Dr. Lynne Yeannakis
Kent Yee
Gail Yenny
Susan York
Brian D. Young
Ina Young
David and Judi Zaches
Christine Zahm
Alan Zaslowski
Scott Zelenski
Kendra Zell
Lilly Zhang
Arlene C. Zimmer
Jill Zimmerman
Roger L. Zinnecker
Anonymous (54)

Revenue and Expense Summary

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

REVENUES

Contributions, grants and bequests	\$31,502,875
List rental income	42,033
Royalties and other	79,502
Total revenues	31,624,410

EXPENSES

Gulf of Mexico restoration	3,299,568
Ocean policy, science and governance	3,853,688
Trash free seas	3,247,722
Marine wildlife and ecosystem protection	1,830,273
Communications and outreach	3,627,318
Total program expenses	15,858,569

Fundraising and membership development	3,685,596
General and administration	2,097,408
Total supporting service expenses	5,783,004

Total expenses	21,641,573
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GAINS AND LOSSES

Investment gains and interest income, net	481,386
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Change in net assets	10,464,223
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Net assets, beginning of the year	23,609,143
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NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	\$34,073,366
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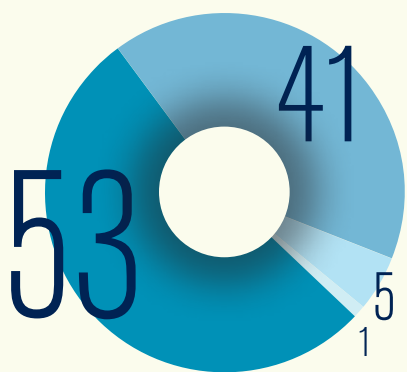
Financial Summary

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 and corporations who understand the critical importance of protecting and preserving the ocean.

Ocean Conservancy's 2015 revenue totaled \$31.6 million. Investment income and gains totaled \$0.4 million and expenses totaled \$21.6 million. Eighty-three percent of expenses were for ocean conservation programmatic activities and administrative services, and 17 percent of expenses were for fundraising.

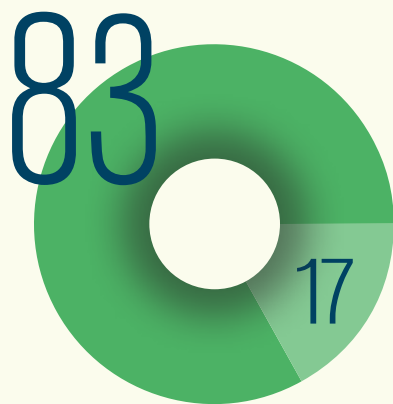
Ocean Conservancy meets all 20 standards for charitable organizations established by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, and is proud of its reputation as a good steward of the resources entrusted to it by its supporters. The financial results depicted are derived from Ocean Conservancy's June 30, 2015 audited financial statements. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request or on the Ocean Conservancy website—www.oceanconservancy.org.

REVENUES



Individuals **53%**
Foundations **41%**
Corporations **5%**
Other **1%**

EXPENSES



Program and Administrative Services **83%**
Fundraising and Membership Development **17%**



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MEETS ALL 20 BBB CHARITY STANDARDS

E-NEWSLETTER

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2015 Annual Report

