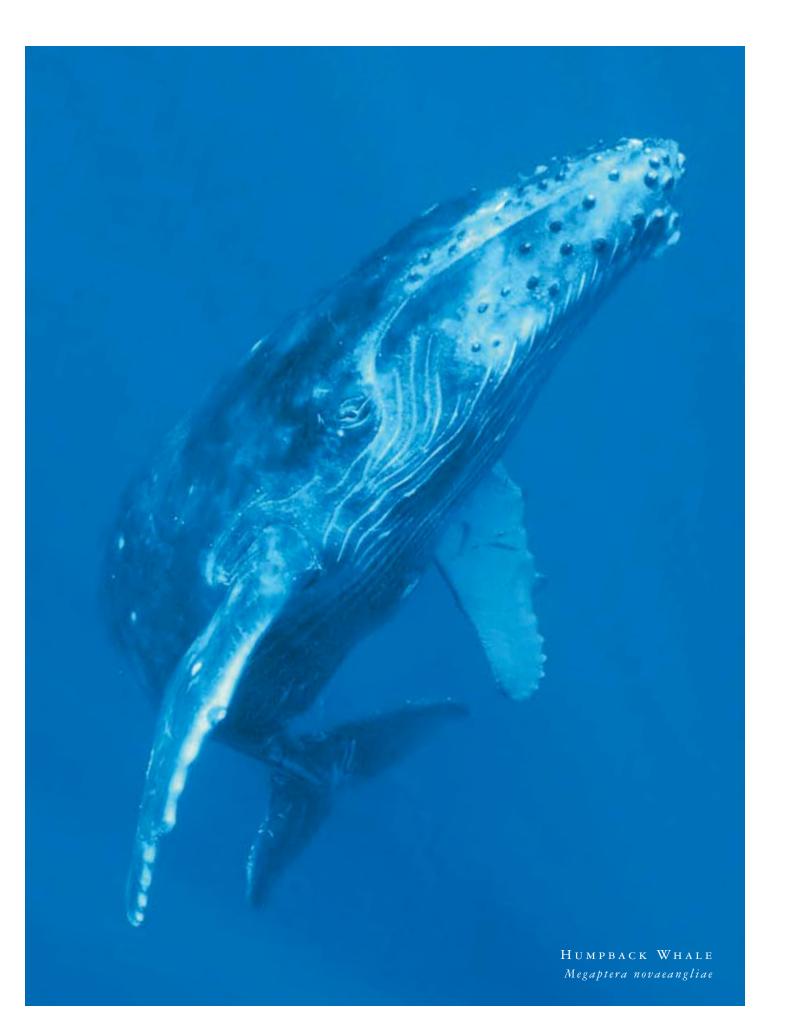
MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUMImage: Addition of the second s

IEW 2015



As we celebrate these accomplishments, we celebrate you for making them possible.

We welcomed **2.1 million visitors**—the second time that we've had back-to-back years with over 2 million guests.

We hosted *Big Blue Live*, a live television event that celebrated Monterey Bay as an ocean conservation success story of global significance.

Our education programs were recognized with a **Community Impact Award** from *The Silicon Valley Business Journal*.

The **White House honored** our own Sarah-Mae Nelson for her work interpreting the effects of climate change on ocean health to our visitors.

We're playing a **leading role** in the fight for a **plastic-free ocean**, and backed state and federal actions that will phase out plastic microbeads.

2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Executive Director

Due in great part to our amazing family of donors, the Monterey Bay Aquarium enjoys an enviable position among ocean conservation organizations. We're the most admired public aquarium in the United States, where we inspire millions of people to care more—and do more—for the ocean. We're a leader in education—reaching tens of thousands of students each year, bolstering the skills that science teachers bring to classrooms throughout California and inspiring a new generation of dynamic young ocean advocates. And we've grown to become an influential international champion of ocean initiatives.

You have helped us become more effective than ever before in our mission to protect and restore the ocean and the animals that call it home.

I'm so proud of what we accomplished together in 2015, with your wonderful generosity making possible so many important successes.

For the second time in our 31-year history, we welcomed more than 2 million visitors to the Aquarium in back-to-back years. Our visitors told us, in greater numbers than ever, that they learned something new about ocean conservation during their visit —and were inspired to take action

on behalf of the ocean.

As you know so well, since our opening we've shared the unique story of Monterey Bay and its ecosystems in our exhibits. Last August, we brought that story to millions more across the

country and in Great Britain when we hosted an incomparable live television event from our back decks: *Big Blue Live*.

Over six nights, BBC and PBS celebrated the health of the bay's wildlife and ecosystems on prime-time television—spotlighting its recovery as a conservation success story of global significance.

The decline and rebirth of Monterey Bay carries lessons that inform every-

thing we do. It demonstrates that the ocean is resilient, and can recover when people take action to protect it. The bay's vitality is the product of human actions dating back more than a century: the 1911 treaty that ended the fur trade for sea otters and seals, creation of the first marine protected area off Pacific Grove in the 1930s, the ban on commercial whaling and the explosion of environmental legislation in the 1970s, better management of commercial fisheries over the past two decades and creation of a network of marine protected areas along the California coast less than a decade ago.

There's much more to be done, of course, both here and around the world. Your support is enabling us to lead change on many fronts. I'm proud to say that our work is now global in scope, and in its impact on the future of the ocean.

We played a strong role in advising the Obama Administration on shaping regulations to end illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing on the high seas. Our work influenced the final federal rules and subsequent legislation to keep seafood from destructive fisheries out of the U.S. market.

We were part of a U.S. delegation to international scientific advisory bodies working to reverse severe population declines that have reduced Pacific bluefin tuna to just 2.6 percent of their historic level. And we welcomed nearly 200 experts from around the

world for the first Bluefin Futures Symposium to share data and ideas that will put bluefin tuna fisheries on a sustainable trajectory.

As part of our new initiative to stem the flow of ocean plastic pollution, we championed the legislative campaign in California that banned plastic microbeads in personal care products, and subsequently supported successful federal legislation that will phase out microbeads nationwide. In the face of growing threats to ocean health from the impacts of climate change, we stepped up our response. We mobilized public support for bold action at the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris, and identified the steps needed to respond to the effects of rising sea level on the Aquarium and the communities of the Monterey Peninsula.

We advanced initiatives to support sustainable seafood production around the world—bringing our respected Seafood Watch program to a global audience. We brought business and government leaders together in Southeast Asia to shape new standards for sustainable aquaculture, and welcomed Indonesia's progressive fisheries minister to the Aquarium in Monterey. We helped colleagues in Brazil, Japan and Europe advance their sustainable seafood initiatives, and worked with partners in Mexico to move toward sustainable fishing and aquaculture in the Gulf of California.

We welcomed new business partners in 2015, including Disney Parks and Resorts, and celebrated the accomplishments of partners like Aramark, which now sources 100 percent of its tuna from sustainable sources.

Knowing how critical it is to foster the next generation of ocean leaders, we're also deepening our investment in education programs. We're committed to helping thousands of children and young adults become science and ocean literate, confident and ready to act on behalf of the future of our planet.

To that end, we completed design for our new Center for Ocean Education and Leadership in 2015, and expect to break ground by the end of this year. I'm grateful for the generosity that our community of donors and friends has shown thus far and look forward to enlisting support from many more of you so we can make this important new center a reality.

Our vision of a future with a healthy and productive ocean that sustains all life is within reach, and it all starts with awareness of the ocean's value. With our status as the best place in the world to experience and learn about the ocean, the Monterey Bay Aquarium is truly driving change on a global scale. Thank you for your confidence and support that make it all possible.

JunoPackard

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



From my earliest days as a Trustee of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, I have been impressed and deeply gratified by STEPHEN C. NEAL how our education programs are trans-

Chairman forming and inspiring young lives. That

power to transform and inspire is the driving force behind our ambitious decision to create a new Center for Ocean Education and Leadership.

Preschool children and their families are filled with enthusiasm when they participate in our morning programs for Head Start students. There's equal enthusiasm in the voices of our educators —the people who can spark what we hope will become a lifelong connection with ocean animals.

Our Discovery Lab classrooms are filled with energy every weekday as

busloads of students arrive, from all over California. Our talented teachers offer science education lessons, complete with live-animal elements, that those students carry with them when they return to their classrooms. Imagine the impact when we can offer experiences like these to every student who visits!

Out in the exhibit galleries, I'm amazed by the young men and women —Teen Conservation Leaders—who are sharing what they've learned with our visitors each day. We are building long-term relationships with these dedicated young people, and they are enhancing and cementing their roles as next-generation ocean conservation leaders. Our long-term partnership with Pajaro Valley schools is having a further transformative effect on many teens who have become the first in their families to attend college. Each summer, and in workshops

throughout the school year, hundreds of science teachers come to the Aquarium for professional development programs. They return home better equipped to use ecosystem-based learning approaches in their classrooms. They are deeply dedicated to their craft and to their students.

Our education programs are changing lives—and we know they will do so much more effectively when we have the facilities to deliver the same programs to twice as many students and teachers. I am grateful to all of you for embracing the vision behind the Center for Ocean Education and Leadership—and for your financial support that is turning the vision into a reality.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, thank you.

Moto C. Ned

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Big Blue Live positioned Monterey Bay as a conservation success story of global significance.



The Program

Our back decks were the primary set for this worldwide television phenomenon on BBC and PBS. The nine hours of live programs were captivating, as the weather, animal activity and ocean anomalies combined to create a hugely engaging viewer experience with rare blue whales, mysterious great white sharks, sea otters and more.

In the end, Big Blue Live was a story of hope that proved ocean ecosystems are resilient and can recover if given a chance—and with a helping hand from people like you, who come together to make a difference.



The Production

that conservation works.



Monterey Bay.



BBC personalities Liz Bonnin and Matt Baker hosted Big Blue Live and were also featured in stories about animals at the Aquarium and in Monterey Bay.



Big Blue Live was the first co-produced joint broadcast event for BBC and PBS—and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The unprecedented live television series was over a year in the making, and ultimately involved about 450 people responsible for everything from cameras to catering, boats to beach scouts and more. It's the biggest media event we've ever staged at the Aquarium—much larger than even Star Trek IV. In the end, Big Blue Live exceeded all of our high expectations for this inspiring program—in content, audience size and reaction—and in sharing with the world the message



Conservation scientist M. Sanjayan, on left, also hosted the *Big Blue Live* series as well as several stories about wildlife conservation in and around



The Popularity

An astounding 75 million BBC and PBS viewers watched *Big Blue Live* on television and online. The program was also highly successful on social media. PBS, BBC and Aquarium social media teams collaborated to produce imaginative and engaging animal and conservation stories that significantly amplified the reach of the programs—and were eventually seen by over 25 million viewers. Notable content included the broadcasts themselves, videos about Aquarium exhibit animals and the recovery of Monterey Bay, and a series of fun contests. Fans and followers were actively engaged with us and each other during the broadcasts—including on some social media platforms at the highest levels we've ever seen.



The Aquarium was the main set for Big Blue Live on BBC and PBS that positioned Monterey Bay as a conservation success story of global significance.



Seafood Partnerships

Our leadership is recognized by colleagues around the world. In collaboration with our business partners, we're working in Sri Lanka, and with ASEAN nations in Southeast Asia, to improve fishing and fish-farming methods. We're active on six continents—in countries from South Africa to Japan, Mexico and Brazil—to build the capacity of regional sustainable seafood movements, and to strengthen our collective impact by coordinating efforts.

White Shark Science

We concluded a record field season, tagging and tracking adult and juvenile white sharks off the coasts of California and Mexico. Our field researchers have identified 117 individual white sharks, 43 new animals in 2015 and one shark that returned to the Farallon Islands for a record 27th year. Partnering with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and others, we're developing a camera tag that will reveal what adult sharks are doing far offshore near Hawaii, at the "White Shark Café."

Plastic Pollution

Plastics threaten the health of marine life in the global ocean. We championed the California campaign that banned plastic microbeads in consumer products. The legislation inspired swift, bipartisan Congressional action on a national ban. And we forged a network of leading U.S. aquariums that will campaign to eliminate other major sources of plastic pollution.

Bluefin Tuna

Our science and policy teams traveled to Ecuador, southern California, Japan and Samoa to address the crisis facing Pacific bluefin tuna. We welcomed experts from 14 countries around the world to Monterey for a first-ever Bluefin Futures Symposium to seek ways to recover bluefin tuna in the Atlantic, Pacific and Southern oceans. Satellite tags we've deployed on Pacific bluefin tuna have recorded 106,937 days of data about their migrations. We've placed 1,254 tags on these fish, whose population has declined by 97 percent since the 1980s.

Engaging with Business

Seafood Watch business partners use their purchasing power to transform fishing and aquaculture practices—in big ways. Aramark shifted to 100 percent sustainable tuna for the 2.5 million pounds of canned albacore and skipjack it serves annually. Seafood purchased for Disney Parks and Resorts in the U.S. is now guided by our Seafood Watch standards.

Policy Leadership

We're sought as a trusted advisor by the White House, federal agencies and state leaders in California on a wide range of issues, including reduction of ocean plastic pollution, combatting illegal and unregulated fisheries, advancing domestic and international protections for sharks, and maximizing the effectiveness of ocean conservation provisions in international trade agreements around the Pacific Rim.

Inspiring Future Ocean Leaders



While we expand our conservation impact beyond Monterey Bay, we remain dedicated to nurturing future ocean stewards at home. For over 30 years, our free visits and education programs for

schoolchildren have encouraged young people to embrace their curiosity about science and the natural environment. Now we're preparing to double the reach of our programs for students and teachers through our new Center for Ocean Education and Leadership on Cannery Row.

At a time when threats to the ocean grow more urgent each day, this is our most important undertaking—one that will benefit the planet for generations to come.

We've continued our \$165 million campaign, which includes \$65 million for the LEED-certified building and expanded programs for teachers and students.





Life-Changing Experiences

You make it possible for schoolchildren from all backgrounds to visit the Aquarium, to learn about the marine environment and to ultimately become confident, science-literate and ready to act on behalf of the natural world. We're proud to share just a few of the many life-changing experiences that happen every day because of your support.

Young Women in Science

"I love the Aquarium because being a scientist was just a dream, but with the Aguarium's help, it's almost - Sage S. within reach."

"If it wasn't for Young Women in Science I wouldn't have found my love of the ocean, I wouldn't be aware of our environment, I wouldn't have become a Teen Conservation Leader and most importantly, I wouldn't have gained the knowledge and understanding of what impact we have on this world."

- Mariah P.

Leaders

"Being a conservation leader is part of my identity [now]. It means going above and beyond to connect with the environment and, more importantly, to connect others with the environment. It means learning all that you can and then sharing that knowledge with others, combining your knowledge and actions to help conserve our oceans."

"The Aquarium changed how I thought, how I felt, and what I did in my interactions with the ocean environment. I was able to follow my curiosity while being surrounded by teens who not only care about the same issues I do, but have the desire to act on them as well." - Katie R.



Teen Conservation

- Felicia D.

Teachers

"Being involved as a partner in building the Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats program has been the most personally and professionally rewarding endeavor of my teaching career."

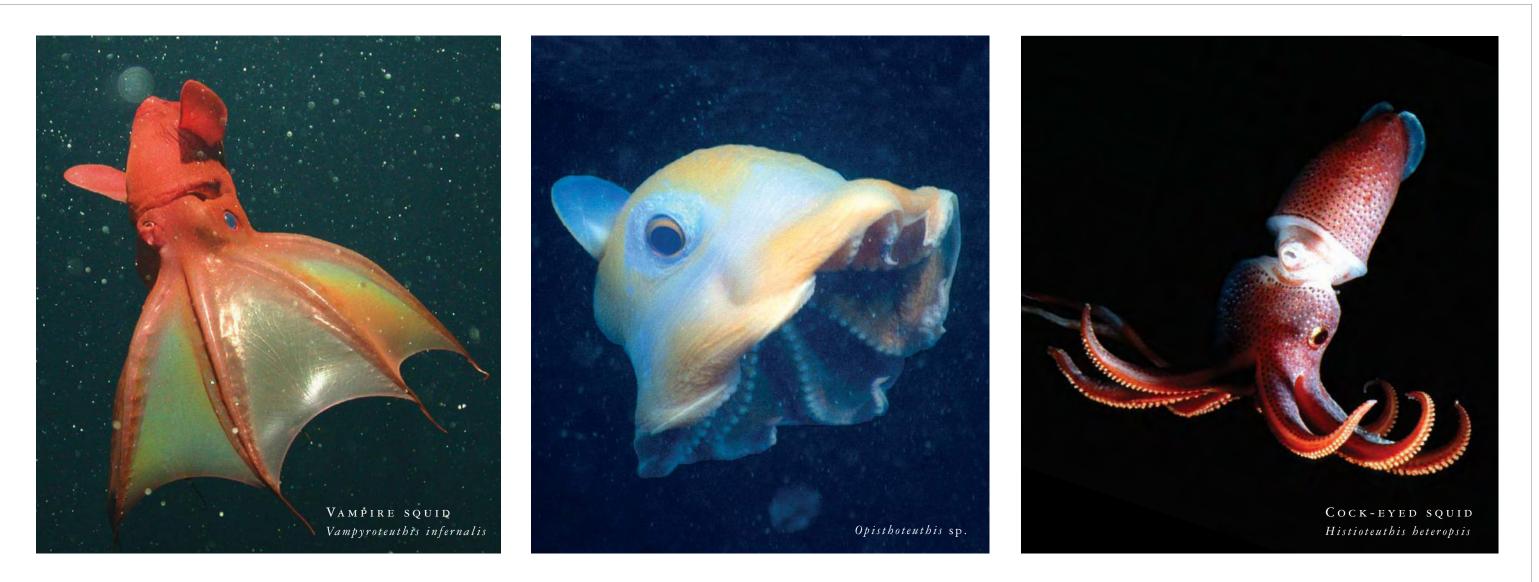
- Gary Martindale

"Thanks to the Aquarium workshop, I am better able to bring science into my classroom. It really gave me a backbone to believe that I can do this."

- Teresa Day, Teacher Institute participant

Teens Conserving Habitats

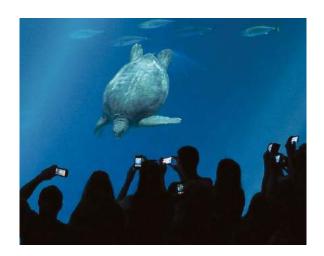
"The Aquarium's program has inspired me to be a lifelong advocate for sustainability and environmentalism in all aspects of life." - Anthony B.



Continuing over 30 Years of Innovation in Sharing Amazing Animals

Our *Tentacles* team boosted the wow factor of the breakthrough special exhibition in 2015 when they introduced visitors to several species of deep-sea cephalopods. We were the first in the world to debut the mysterious vampire squid, and among the first to show the cock-eyed squid and the *Japetella* octopus. Another uncommon animal became an international media sensation after a research colleague at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute dubbed the as-yet-unnamed *Opisthoteuthis* species "*adorabilis*"—the "adorable" octopus. Your support is critical to our success in bringing uncommon animals like these to the public. Thank you.

Reaching Visitors & Inspiring Conservation



More than 2 million guests enjoyed our live animal exhibits and special visitor programs, and in the process, learned more about our vital work to protect ocean habitats

and wildlife. A visit to the Aquarium is our best tool for inspiring people to care more—and do more—for ocean conservation. In fact, 95% of our visitors say their visit inspired them to consider taking action on behalf of the ocean. Last year, we invited visitors to take a deeper look at the conservation stories behind the animals we exhibit and the ecosystems we interpret with new programs, animal stories and outreach activities.



Turning the Tide

A dynamic new summer deck show shared the rich fishing history and incredible rebirth of Monterey Bay. Told on both land and sea (a first for us!), "Turning the Tide: The Story of Monterey Bay" wove a tale about the region's diverse cultural history. The show featured theatrical interpretations of particular tools and talents each culture used to harvest the bay's living bounty.

Saving Endangered Species

In May, we marked Endangered Species Day with 229 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) colleagues across the country with a new initiative: AZA SAFE—Saving Animals From Extinction. We drew attention to sea turtles, sharks, African penguins and other animals whose kin are struggling in the wild. And we shared positive news about how we're making a difference for their survival.



Frequent Flyers (with Flippers)

We're one of 10 U.S. aquariums to foster baby loggerhead sea turtles rescued off North Carolina. Here, the wee turtles charm our visitors while we share the story of their endangered species. After a year or two, they've grown large enough to join other rescued juvenile sea turtles that are fitted with satellite tags and released into the Atlantic Ocean.

Big Love for Giant Sea Bass

With their hefty weight and wide, wide lips, the giant sea bass we exhibit hold a special place in the hearts of our visitors, and especially our members and donors. We house several of these critically endangered fish, ranging from babies to adults 30 years old. By studying individuals at different life stages, we could help strengthen laws protecting these gentle giants.

¡Viva Baja! Begins

We prepared for our 2016 special exhibition, *iViva Baja! Life on the Edge*, which opened March 19. *iViva Baja!* explores a unique and fragile place, where life thrives on the edge of sand and sea but whose future hangs in a delicate balance. Exhibits feature a rainbow of tropical fishes and invertebrates, plus iconic desert animals.

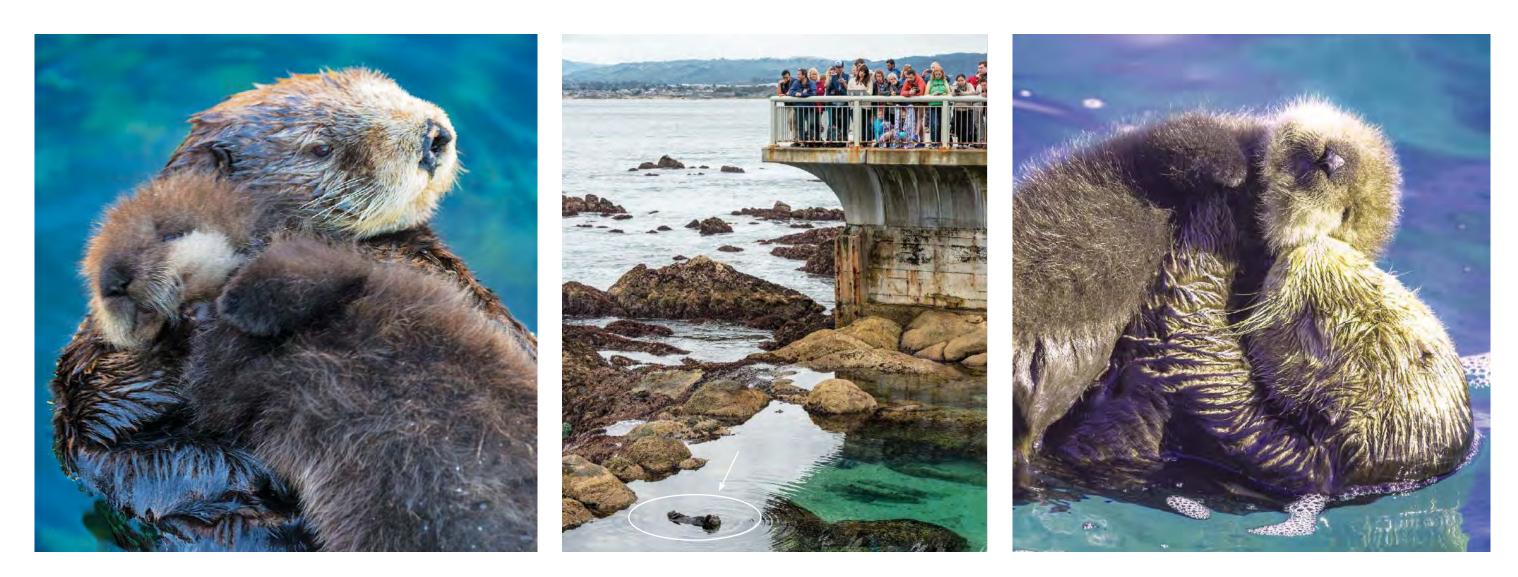


Conservation Chicks

We welcomed a penguin chick and a common murre chick into our avian collection; both hatched from eggs laid by exhibit birds. These fuzzy additions were among several penguin and murre chicks that have hatched here over the past few years. Some birds we keep; some we send to other accredited institutions as part of species survival plans governed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Thank You, Volunteers!

In more ways than ever, Aquarium volunteers enhance our mission to inspire conservation of the ocean. In 2015, over 1,300 volunteers contributed over 163,000 hours of service in 79 different work areas, notably in education and animal care. Our volunteer community hails from all over central and northern California—86 cities in all—and volunteers range in age from teenagers to folks in their 90s.



Conservation Works—Bringing Sea Otters Back from the Brink

Besides *Big Blue Live*, we witnessed another success story—two, actually—closer to home: Wild sea otters delivered pups in our Great Tide Pool in December and March. The most recent birth happened before our eyes—and was witnessed by a lucky crowd of guests, members, staff and volunteers who cheered (quietly) as mom deftly handled her newborn and groomed it into a fluffy phenomenon. This adorable event was made possible by people like you supporting conservation of this threatened species. Not long ago, sea otters were hunted to near extinction. Thanks to legislative protection and a change of heart toward these furriest of sea creatures, the sea otter population is rebounding to steady levels in Monterey Bay.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the year ending December 31, 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2015	2014
Admissions	\$43,131,000	\$40,295,000
Contributions and Grants		35,828,000
Memberships	12,156,000	11,348,000
Endowment Distribution		3,893,000
Merchandising and Food Services		4,199,000
Fee-Based Programs		2,636,000
Rental Facilities and Other	2,667,000	2,612,000
Total Support and Revenues	\$85,009,000	\$100,811,000
EXPENSES-PROGRAM SERVICES		
Marine Life Exhibition and Care	\$33,661,000	\$31,200,000

Education and Outreach Programs	545,000 11,	578,000
Guest Services and Marketing Programs 12,2	258,000 12,	325,000
Conservation and Science Programs	221,000 6,	423,000
Merchandising and Food Services	782,000 2,	946,000

EXPENSES-SUPPORT SERVICES

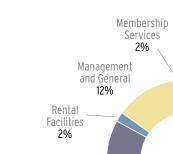
Management and General	10,328,000	8,074,000
Rental Facilities	1,328,000	1,320,000
Development	2,972,000	3,279,000
Membership Services	1,879,000	1,980,000
Total Expenses	\$84,974,000	\$79,143,000

Capital expenditures during 2015 of \$11 million included development of the special exhibit ¡Viva Baja! Life on the Edge, main entrance and auditorium improvements, planning and design for the new Center for Ocean Education and Leadership, new visitor programs, digital resources for Seafood Watch and expansion of animal holding and care facilities. Copies of the 2015 audited financial statements will be available online in August 2016.

AQUARIUM ATTENDANCE	2015	2014
General Admission	1,086,086	1,033,943
Member Visits	511,276	523,169
Community Days / Free Visits	216,868	255,115
Free School Visits	112,881	107,643
Group Visits	122,993	116,118
Private Events	34,431	30,189
Total Attendance	2,084,545	2,066,177



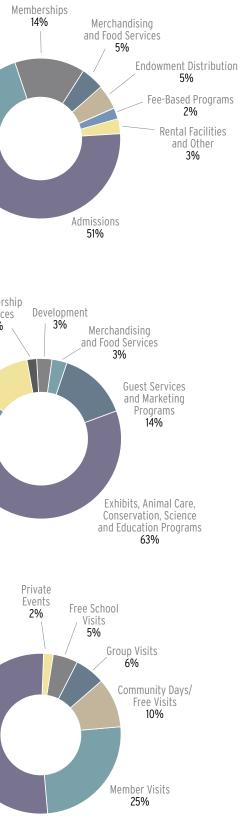




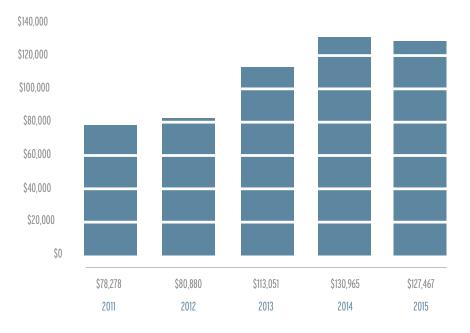
2015 EXPENSES

2015 ATTENDANCE

General Admission 52%



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



ENDOWMENT FUND GROWTH, IN THOUSANDS

Growing our endowment is a top priority and we greatly appreciate our donors whose gifts today and through their wills and trusts are helping to build this important fund. Their investment in the future will have a lasting significance for the Aquarium and the world's ocean.

Knowing that conservation will be a never-ending task, our Board of Trustees established the Endowment Fund for the Future of the Ocean in 1996, with a generous gift of \$1 million from Jane and Marshall Steel Jr. Since that time, many donors have contributed to our Endowment that provides a secure source of funding for our education programs, conservation and science initiatives and exhibits, every year...forever.

Our programs inspire students to care about and care for the ocean and we're proud that over 2.2 million schoolchildren have visited the Aquarium since opening our doors in 1984. Working with teachers and school administrators, we play a critical role in students' learning by engaging them in science and discovery, but without free admission these visits would not be possible. To ensure that schoolchildren in the future enjoy the same opportunity, we established the Children's Education Endowment in 2011. Over time we plan to grow this fund and secure free access for all of our visiting students.

Our total endowment in 2015 was \$127 million* and \$4.2 million was distributed from the fundproviding valuable support for our programs to inspire conservation of the ocean and free admission for thousands of schoolchildren and their teachers.

*Our total endowment includes both donor-restricted and board-designated gifts.

A Special Thank You to Our **Ocean Legacy Donors**



JACK STEELE PARKER Founding Aquarium Trustee 1984-1997

Jack and Elaine Parker were close friends of the Packard family. Jack was proud to serve as our trustee and considered the Aquarium to be a "world treasure." He was thrilled to see it succeed and wanted to leave a gift that would allow it to continue to grow and thrive after his and Elaine's lifetimes. Through his very generous bequest, he created a legacy that will inspire future generations of ocean stewards for many years to come.

In his note to Julie on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, Jack wrote, "You have done a magnificent job. Dave was a great longtime friend and I miss him still, but YOU have made the difference in carrying out his family dream. We are all very grateful."

We deeply appreciate Jack and Elaine Parker and the following donors for their generous bequests received in 2015. Their gifts will have a lasting significance for the Aquarium and the ocean.

Johnnie Adkisson Marjorie Callow James Lee Hafner Sue E. Hovda Nancy Maytag Love Janet Morris Musson Anne Tewksbury Olivia B. Thebus Hugh Van Valkenburgh Robert J. Webster Sally Wienke

Our trustees play a pivotal role in advancing the Aquarium's mission to inspire conservation of the ocean by generously sharing their time, experience and financial support. Founding trustee Jack Parker was no exception, and we wish to recognize his generosity and dedication to the Aquarium.

- Philip and Elizabeth Diether
- George and Jo Ann Martin

We also wish to express our gratitude to our 411 Ocean Legacy Circle donors for their commitment to the Aquarium and to a brighter future for us all.

If you have included a gift to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in your will or trust, please contact Mary Mullen at mmullen@mbayag.org or 831-648-4913. We would like to thank you and welcome you into our Ocean Legacy Circle.

Thank You

We are honored to recognize the following donors for their gift received in 2015.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF THE PACKARDS' CIRCLE

The Executive Leadership Council recognizes individual and family foundations that support the Aquarium with gifts of \$100,000 or more annually.

\$1 million and above

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