



THE INTERDISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR PROJECT OCEANOLOGY
1084 SHENNECOSSETT ROAD GROTON, CT 06340
(860)445-9007 - OCEANOLOGY.ORG

**PREPARED BY:
PROJECT
OCEANOLOGY**





A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

For 50 years Project Oceanology has developed and delivered unique programs that allow students hands-on opportunities to investigate the marine environment and to understand our human connection to it.

Fiscal Year 2022 (ended June 30, 2023) was both a year of celebration and a year of preparation for the future. We were fortunate to be joined by many of our members, colleagues, partners, and supporters to commemorate our 50th Anniversary with special recognition for Dr. Howard “Mickey” Weiss, our founder. We also continued to look ahead - strengthening existing partnerships and forming new ones as well as working towards implementation of strategic goals to serve students for the next 50 years and beyond.

Since our start in 1972, Project ‘O’ created authentic experiential education opportunities for students in middle and high school. In the years since, we have expanded our education to include K-12, college age students, summer camps, professional development for educators, programs for the public, and involvement in community led watershed preservation and restoration efforts.

We look forward to continuing our work. Thank you for your unwavering support!

J. ANDREW ELY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOVE - ILLUMINATE: NEW LONDON LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE BY LAVANYA SHUBHAKAR, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AT THE MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board of Directors:

Kathy Howard, Chair
Stephani Jones, Treasurer
Suzanne Scorza, Secretary
David Bednarz
Kathleen Biddle
Lisa England
Jason Engalnd
Joshua Fish
Tom Gardiner
Robin Harris
Jennifer Hills
Kara Levenduski
Bill Linksi
Eleanor Mariani
Michael O'Connor
Laura Runkle
Nathaniel Trumbull
Lisa Vaudreuil

Staff:

J. Andrew Ely, Executive Director
Ian Morrison, Captain
Brae Rafferty, P/T Captain
Jim McCauley, P/T Captain
Callie Scheetz, Director of Curriculum
Deborah Sayer, Marine Science Educator
Marissa Gustafson, Marine Science Educator
Amanda Fall, Marine Science Educator
Katerine Cuzco, Marine Science Educator
Amy Stockburger, Marine Science Educator
Kimberly Donoghue, Marine Science Educator
Brian Tucker, P/T Marine Science Educator
Kallie Wornham, P/T Marine Science Educator
Haylie Schwarzenbach, P/T Marine Science Ed.
Lesley de Labry, Administrative Manager
Lisa Colon, Accounts Manager
Emily de Labry, Marketing Specialist
Brittany Pineault, Office Assistant
Raymond Mastronunzio, Custodian



PROJECT OCEANOLOGY MEMBERS

Bozrah Public School District **
Columbia Public School District
East Lyme Public School District **
Groton Public School District **
Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication
Ledyard Public School District **
Marine Science Magnet High School
New London Public School District
Norwich Free Academy
Preston Public School District
Salem Public School District **
Sprague Public School District
University of Connecticut Avery Point
Waterford Public School District **

**** Member since Project Oceanology's founding in 1972**



OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

50th Anniversary Gala Sponsors:

Swell

Orthopedic Partners

Curl

Adelman Sand & Gravel, Inc., AEN Asphalt, Inc., Brustolon Buick, Franklin Templeton, Greg McGuire, Mystic Financial Group, LLC, Noank Shipyard, Inc., and Secor Volvo

Wake

Boats Incorporated, Inc. Naomi Otterness, and Nancy Reynolds

Ripple

Brown Jacobson P.C., Bouvier Insurance, Chelsea Groton Foundation, Charter Oak Credit Union, Dominion Energy, Hillandale Farms, John Welch, and Sonia Rodriguez

Assured Quality Homecare, LLC, Flanders Fish Market, Lisa Hellen, Smith Brothers, Susan Lehman, and Tamara Rich

Sponsors:

Bodenwien Public Benevolent Foundation, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation, Connecticut Environmental Forum, Chelsea Groton Foundation, Connecticut Sea Grant, Connecticut Sun Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, Dominion Energy, Fuss & O'Neill, Ignite Thames River, Just Mystic, Kiwanis Club of New London, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Nordson, Pfizer, Pine Island Marina, Revolution Wind - Powered by Orsted & Eversource, Rotary Club of Groton, The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts, Veolia, West Marine Blue Future, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Partners:

Baker Cove Watershed Committee, Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, Ledge Lighthouse Foundation, Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee, Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Mitchell College, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic Oysters, Mystic Seaport Museum, New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative, New England Science & Sailing, Pro Bono Partnership, Save the Sound, Southeastern Connecticut Marine Educators, Stonington Kelp Company, University of Connecticut Avery Point, U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, Wequetequock Cove Clean Water Coalition

HIGHLIGHTS & A LOOK AHEAD

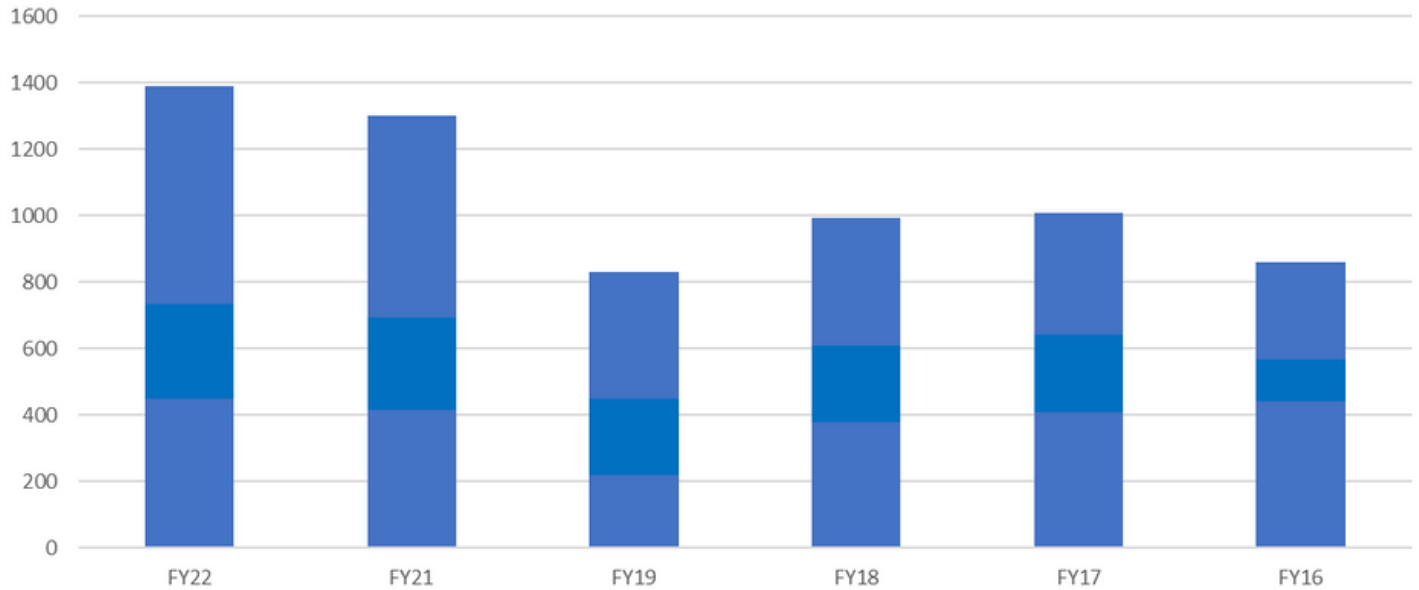
We enjoyed ample opportunities to celebrate during the year including our first annual Family Day, our 50th Anniversary Gala, welcoming New London Public Schools as a member district, the construction of outdoor classrooms at two public schools in eastern CT through a NOAA grant, a grant to grow kelp in the classroom, the start of ongoing work with the Maritime Aquarium and Save the Sound to remove abandoned lobster gear from CT waters, the return of in person programs to pre-pandemic levels, and upgrades to our seawater lab.

Project Oceanology continues to prepare for the future. In 2022 we added 4 community members to our Board of Directors bringing additional skill sets to our team to assist with strategic goal implementation. We also revised our membership program to meet the needs of school districts today and we laid the groundwork to establish a volunteer program.

PICTURED BELOW (CLOCKWISE): DR. WEISS RECIEVES RECOGNITION FROM SENATORS SOMERS AND FORMICA AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA, 1ST ANNUAL PROJECT O FAMILY DAY, ABANDONED LOBSTER GEAR RECOVERED BY PROJECT OCEANOLOGY, NEW AQUARIUM INSTALLATION, & SUMMER CAMPERS ABOARD ENVIRO-LAB



Educational Programs Delivered each Fiscal Year



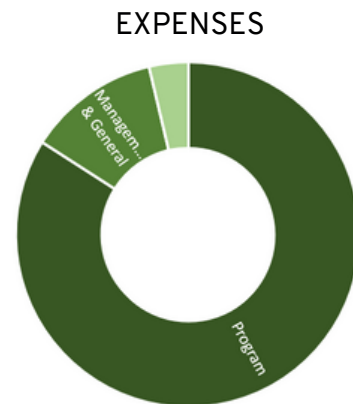
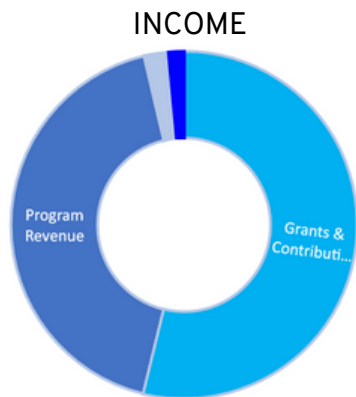
WHAT WE DO

- Project Oceanology's **mission** is to nurture interest and inspire enthusiasm for science and for our planet's marine environment from our waterfront facility in Groton, Connecticut.
- Project Oceanology is a year-round, marine science educational organization governed by local school districts and in collaboration with universities and other educational institutions.
- Project Oceanology's **vision** is to be the center of excellence for inquiry, and place-based science and marine education serving the evolving needs of our global community.
- Experiential educational programming aboard our vessels and on the shore forms the core of our work.
- All of our K-12 school year and summer camp programs are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- We are experiencing rapid growth in the volume of programs we are providing. In FY22 we delivered 41% more programs than we did at the height of the COVID pandemic and an average of 31% more programs than we did 2016 thru 2018.



FISCAL YEAR 2022 REVIEW*

Year Ended June 30, 2023 (FY 2022)			
REVENUE, GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS			
Program Revenue		\$ 864,694	42.5%
Grants & Contributions		\$ 1,093,934	53.8%
Investment Income		\$ 45,614	2.2%
Other		\$ 29,673	1.5%
Total Income		\$ 2,033,915	100%
EXPENSES			
Program		\$ 1,455,084	84.0%
Management & General		\$ 215,054	12.4%
Fundraising		\$ 62,685	3.6%
Total Expenses		\$ 1,732,823	100%



* Preliminary



FISCAL YEAR 2022 ASSETS*

ASSETS

- \$714K - Current Assets
- \$217K - Net Property & Equipment
- \$870K - Investments

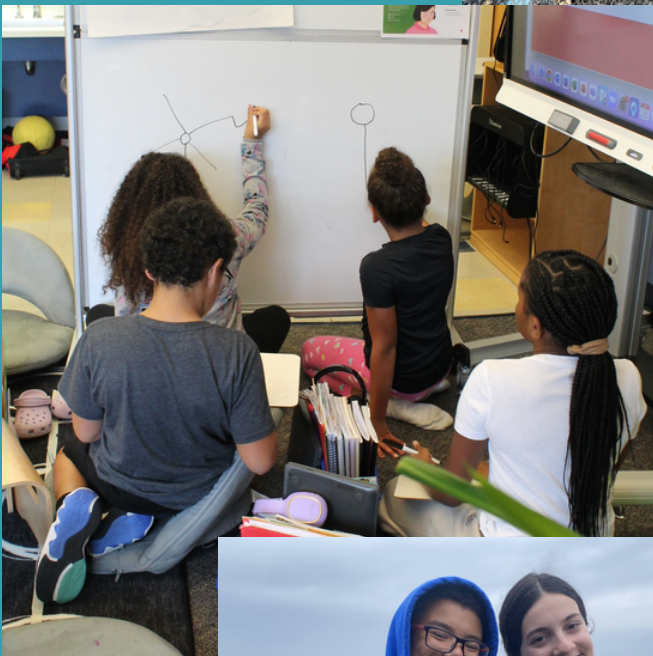
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

- \$533K - Total Current Liabilities
- \$1.27M - Total Net Assets

* Preliminary



**SINCE 1972 ONE
MILLION
STUDENTS HAVE
EXPERIENCED
PROJECT
OCEANOLOGY**



**20,000 +
STUDENTS ATTEND
OUR PROGRAMS
EACH YEAR**



WE EDUCATE OCEAN STEWARDS

We have the responsibility to care for the ocean as it cares for us.

-Suzanne van der Veeken

OCEAN SOLUTIONS ARE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Water is the driving force of all nature.

-Leonardo da Vinci

COASTAL AND OCEAN HABITATS PROTECT FISH & HUMANS

The edge of the sea is a strange and beautiful place.

-Rachel Carson

MARINE SCIENCE EDUCATION PREPARES TOMORROWS LEADERS & GLOBAL CITIZENS

Be the change you want the world to see.

-Ghandi