



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Dear Friends of The Ocean Foundation,

I am just back from touring the excellent projects of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, boating in Penobscot Bay, and relaxing in Islesboro, Maine and Weekapaug, Rhode Island. Nearly everywhere along New England's rocky coast and down along the I95 corridor to Washington, the effects of human activities on the oceans are inescapable. From coastal development to the invasive Asian crab to the red tides to the declining fisheries, we all have a stake in addressing our impact and ensuring that our children and grandchildren will also reap the magic of healthy oceans.

We have been focusing too on the other side of our continent -- we have some exciting news to share about making our oceans healthy!

PRO PENINSULA BECOMES PART OF THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

At the end of April, thanks to support from The Ocean Foundation's "Cuba Marine Research & Conservation Fund," Pro Peninsula's Kama Dean led a group of Mexican fishermen to Cuba to talk about turtle conservation with their Cuban counterparts. The fishermen represented Grupo Tortuguero, a 10-year old Mexican organization, which has been successfully working towards eliminating fishing pressure on endangered sea turtles on both sides of the Baja California peninsula. Fishermen in both regions have traditionally targeted sea turtles and the effort to promote sea turtle conservation represents a significant step towards the long-term protection of sea turtles at sea and on the beaches on which they depend for nesting. (www.grupotortuguero.com)

Grupo Tortuguero was recently fledged as an independent organization from Pro Peninsula, an 8-year old organization founded by Kama Dean and Chris Pesenti, to build the capacity of environmental non-profit organizations on Mexico's Baja peninsula. Over time, Pro Peninsula has housed dozens of projects and programs that support conservation efforts throughout the region. Recently, the Board of Pro Peninsula, with the full support of Kama and Chris, voted to dissolve the organization and seek a home for the fiscal sponsorships and other projects that Pro Peninsula houses. These include ProCaguama, Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative, Ocean Connectors and the Laguna San Ignacio Ecosystem Science Program, many of which are community-based organizations staffed by local Mexicans who promote natural resource conservation in their home areas. The Ocean Foundation has agreed to accept the transfer of these programs to continue the work to protect marine resources in the region. Kama will be joining the TOF staff as director of our new Pro Peninsula Fund.

We are very excited at this opportunity to house and support the organizations that work so hard on behalf of Baja's diverse natural resources. We are equally excited that Kama and Chris have agreed to become part of the TOF extended family of projects. For more information on Pro Peninsula's fine work, please go to www.propenisula.org.

SEE TURTLES!

Chris will be joining our SEE Turtle group www.seeturtles.org, a turtle conservation program housed at The Ocean Foundation. SEE Turtles recently reached two major milestones. One hundred people have now gone to visit turtle conservation sites through tours and volunteer programs. This program has generated more than \$50,000 for local conservation efforts and turtle communities through donations, fees, grants, and spending on tours. This funding has supported more than 700 nesting beach patrols by local researchers, helping to lower poaching of turtle eggs. SEE Turtles also launched its new

volunteer matching service that connects people with 10 turtle conservation projects across Central America and Mexico. Its volunteers have completed more than 175 shifts patrolling nesting beaches.

Please feel free to share your comments and observations with me at mospalding@oceanfdn.org.

For the Ocean,
Mark J. Spalding, President