



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

November – December 2009

Dear Friends of The Ocean Foundation,

When I last wrote to you, storms were raging in the Pacific. The Atlantic hurricane season is now officially over until next June. It was a relatively quiet season, especially compared to the eastern and western Pacific. TOF and Pro Peninsula supporters helped with the relief efforts in Baja California following major hurricane damage there earlier this fall. And in the western Pacific, the storm activity has been especially intense. According to a December 2nd report, the Philippines alone has suffered over four billion dollars worth of damage, or nearly three percent of its annual economic output. Floods, landslides and disease caused by the storms in late September and early October left more than 1,000 people dead and affected nearly 10 percent of the population. The assessment of damages to nearshore reefs, mangroves, and other coastal ecosystems is still under way, although the recent report confirmed that a significant amount of the damage was to fishing and related subsistence infrastructure.

Meanwhile, we at The Ocean Foundation (and the many projects that are housed here) generated our own, more benign, storm of activity on behalf of the oceans and the people who work so hard to defend them.

This past September, TOF helped organize another workshop on the precious coral trade, this time in Naples, Italy. This was a follow-up to the workshop that TOF hosted with NOAA in Hong Kong last March. TOF Special Projects Director Jeremy Linneman attended the workshop as part of the US delegation, along with representatives from NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and TOF grantees SeaWeb, WWF, and TRAFFIC. It was an intense and contentious week, but our camp proved victorious, as the European Union has decided to co-sponsor the United States' proposal for a CITES Appendix II listing for the family Corallidae.



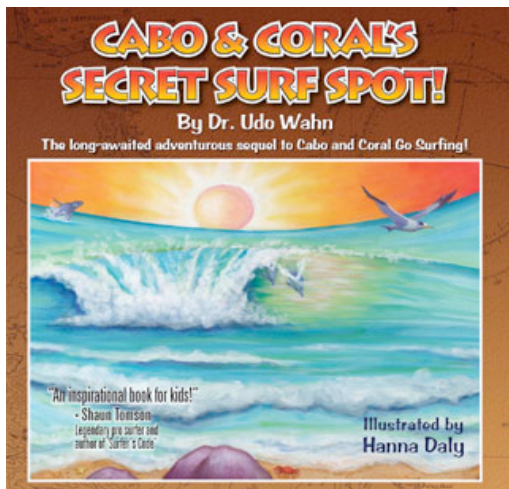
This listing would mean that trade in the over two-dozen species contained within this threatened family of corals will be monitored and regulated, ensuring the sustainability of the living coral populations as well as the industry that depends on them. The final decision on the listing will be made at the next CITES Conference of Parties meeting in Doha, Qatar in March 2010.



In October, TOF Board Chair Tom McMurray and President Mark Spalding joined the TOF Cuba team, Dr. David Guggenheim and Dr. Fernando Bretos, for marine workshops in Cuba. The first, hosted by us, featured a discussion of the Cuba-Mexico-USA joint projects we have supported, and the finalization of a new five-year "Plan of Action," a blueprint for future collaboration to elevate collaboration in marine science and conservation. The second meeting was the first-ever joint congress of the Latin American Association of Marine Sciences Investigators

(ALICMAR) and the Cuban National Oceanographic Committee (NOC). This “double congress,” entitled ColacMarCuba 2009, included the 13th Latin American Congress on Marine Sciences (COLACMAR) and the 8th Cuban Congress on Marine Sciences (MarCuba 2009), held October 26-30, 2009 and included nearly 1,500 participants representing nearly 40 countries.

Late last month, sea turtle scientist Dr. J. Nichols of TOF's Ocean Revolution project, issued a special request that might be of interest to you: “We are hoping to add more international voices to the Ocean Voices project (www.OceanVoices.org). If your computer has a microphone, please consider taking a moment to link to the website to add your voice, and sharing it with your friends, family and colleagues. We'd like additional youth voices, so if you are an educator/parent please feel free to open this up to your students/kids. OceanVoices will be performed by renowned sound artists Halsey Burgund in honor of World Ocean Month and Jacques Cousteau's 100th celebration at the California Academy of Sciences in June 2010.”



And, speaking of young voices, one friend of the oceans, Dr. Udo Wahn has written *Cabo & Coral's Secret Surf Spot!*, a sequel to his first children's book, *Cabo and Coral go Surfing!* Dr. Wahn volunteers with the Surfrider Foundation in San Diego and hopes his books will help children learn more about “living in harmony with the sea.”

www.caboandcoral.com

Other News from The Ocean Foundation

TOF Board of Advisors member, **Nirmal Shah**, was elected President of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association by the new WIOMSA Board of Trustees on Saturday, 21 November 2009.

At its annual dinner in November, **Dr. James Elder**, who serves on TOF's Loreto Bay advisory board, received the National Wildlife Federations 2009 Conservation Achievement Award in Education. He was cited by NWF for being “a fearless and tireless champion for the advancement of environmental and sustainability education” and credited with expanding federal funding for ocean literacy. Also receiving NWF's “Connie” awards were TOF funding partners and colleagues, **Keith Campbell** and **Verna Harrison** of the Campbell Foundation for the Environment for their work to improve the health of Chesapeake Bay. (<http://www.nwf.org/about/connieawards2009.cfm>)

- **Andrea Marshall**, a grantee of TOF's Ocean Revolution Fund, has been dubbed “the queen of the manta rays.” She has set up a ray adoption scheme at giantfish.org. Her work with the giant manta ray in Mozambique was featured in an episode of BBC TV's *Natural World* series, titled *Andrea: Queen of the Mantas*, in November.
- **Tamika Washington** has joined the TOF finance team, helping to ensure that all of our projects and programs stay on track.
- Former TOF staffer, **Nicole Ross**, has agreed to step in part-time for the next month or so while **Jackie Morgan**, TOF Senior Manager of Human Resources, Operations, & Administration, recovers from a respiratory illness.
- **Kate Maude**, a senior at George Washington University, has joined the TOF team as an intern.
- Summer intern **Campbell Howe** of the University of Wisconsin is working on sustainable fisheries issues in Lake Victoria, Kenya, as a result of her summer research.

Special Thanks to TOF's Donors

The Ocean Foundation is home to a lot of good projects started by committed people who wanted to

dedicate their time and energy to get work done on the ground and in the water—leaving the “back office” details of payroll, benefits, bookkeeping, and tax returns to us. We are also host to funds set up by people who recognize the unique niche we play, not just for the projects we are so proud to host, but also for the community of species that call the ocean home, and the human communities who depend on them. The Ocean Foundation’s donors are a special group of people, with diverse interests and experiences that they bring to our community. We’d like to extend our thanks to each and every one of them.

We look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of The Ocean Foundation, I wish you all the best for a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

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

For the Ocean,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Spalding', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Spalding, President