



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

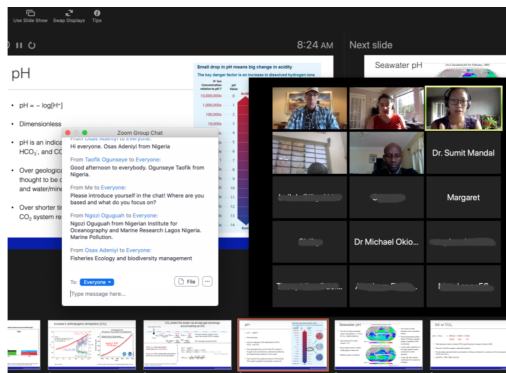
Quarterly Newsletter



Mangrove Pilot Site is Planted!

In March, The Ocean Foundation started mangrove restoration at our one acre pilot site in Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico. Though the pandemic prevented our staff from returning since, our wonderful partners continued this important work throughout the summer, nearing completion. We hope to continue this fall.

[Learn about the Blue Resilience Initiative.](#)



Virtual Training for Students in West Africa

Our Ocean Acidification (OA) team continues to virtually support our global partners! Recently, they designed and led the OA courses and discussions for The Coastal Ocean Environment Summer School in Ghana (COESSING) with our partners from leading universities.

[Learn about the goals of COESSING.](#)



Racial Justice Impact Investing

Climate justice isn't possible without racial justice. The Ocean Foundation has long been a third party screener for Rockefeller Capital Management investments, and we are pleased that a recent Forbes article explains anti-racist investing as well. It also features a pledge by [Confluence Philanthropy](#), of which Mark J. Spalding, TOF President, is the Board Chair.

[Read the Forbes article.](#)



On June 1, [The Ocean Foundation received a "Four Star" rating](#), the highest possible, for the fifth consecutive year. According to Charity Navigator, only 16% of rated charities have received 5 consecutive Four Star evaluations.

The Ocean Foundation Joins Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)



The Ocean Foundation is excited to announce its membership to [GLISPA](#)! Through our work, we are supportive of GLISPA's mission to "promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, and facilitating collaboration for all islands." We look forward to sharing more about our work in the Climate Strong Islands Network during New York City's 2020 Climate Week.

We are committed to island communities and their capacity to respond to the present day threats of climate change, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, and seafood productivity. Across our initiatives, we identify restoration and research opportunities and make science and adaptation more affordable for local stakeholders. We bring awareness and expertise to governments and regional coalitions, as well as to an international audience.

GLISPA is a partnership led by the Presidents of Palau, Seychelles and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Prime Minister of Grenada, and Premier of the British Virgin Islands, with more than 40 other members in the partnership.



State of the Ocean

It is late summer in the northern hemisphere, and the world weather map is full of major events. I am watching my home state in flames set alight by thousands of dry lightning strikes that ignited the largest wildfires in its history, wildfires that have already destroyed forests, homes, state parks, and businesses. Across south Asia, slow moving monsoon storms are bringing more flooding to already soggy communities. The hundreds of millions of dollars in damage from the derecho that ripped across the midwestern US are just being totted up. And two strong tropical storms are wreaking havoc on islands and coastal areas in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico at the same time. The list goes on, but you get the point: historic weather patterns (summer heat, the monsoons, the hurricane season, even the fire season) all continue. They've just intensified and become more extreme, climate disruption driven by the multiplier effects of human activities from greenhouse gas emissions to habitat destruction.

Some change is now "baked in," it is going to happen no matter what we do today. But this is no time to sit back and only act when there's an immediate threat. It is time to be proactive. It is time to build anew. It is time to create jobs and an economy around smarter use of the resources we have, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and innovative solutions to make human activities less harmful. It is time to make a [Blue Shift](#), and to remember the world is still a beautiful place, and more places can be restored to full abundance. Just look at the ocean.

As summer at home comes to an end, we head into fall at home, probably followed by winter at home. Our TOF team continues to do a great job of working together remotely, for which I am grateful. New potential fiscal sponsorship project managers continue to approach us. We continue to present on panels, respond to media inquiries, and get solicited for advice because of our reputation. I am particularly pleased that we've been able to share what we've learned through our DEIJ initiative with organizations who are just beginning to commit to more equitable and inclusive practices.

In mid-August, our staff completed a marine litter policy solutions proposal invited by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. It involved six partner organizations in multiple time zones, lots of other moving parts, and the need to write a cohesive narrative that demonstrated TOF's experience, expertise, and capacity. I am very proud of how everyone came together. Even if we are not the successful applicant, we learned a lot from the process, and we are excited that someone will be helping the Eastern Caribbean states develop legislative proposals to address the big problem of marine litter across the region.

Likewise, our ocean acidification team led a remote science training in Ghana, which drew scientists from a number of countries. Among other tasks, this involved making sure that each participant had access to enough internet bandwidth and developing key materials for distribution electronically. All participants are now better equipped to understand how ocean chemistry is changing in their countries' waters.

While there is considerable uncertainty about what might emerge to affect our programs and operations, TOF is holding steady in fundraising, operating, and completing our work with others to do good for the ocean.

I hope that you all are staying safe and well. And if you have any questions, please let me know.

For the ocean,

Mark J. Spalding
President



Donate Now and Join Our Work



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