

2014-15 Record Year for OSO



How Healthy is the Monterey Bay?



Thank You, Union Bank

# odyssey NEWS

## 2014-15 Was a Record Year for OSO

It was a record-breaking year for O'Neill Sea Odyssey. By the end of 2015, we will have served a total of more than 85,000 students, putting us on track to meet our goal of serving 100,000 youth with our free, ocean-going program by the end of 2018. 2016 will be our twentieth year of service.

Preliminary figures show that for the school year ending on June 30, 2015, OSO's staff served 207 classes, or 5,518 students, more than ever before. To support that endeavor we took in \$1,171,245 in revenue, derived from both the building and the program, for the year.

Pursuant to our 2014-2018 Strategic Five Year Plan; OSO's Education Coordinator, Laura Barnes Walker, has developed a matrix showing the alignment of its curriculum with the new "Common Core" California educational content standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. OSO has just completed its transition from paper to iPad collection of data on Monterey Bay. The iPad project involved the purchase of tablets and the development of software that enabled

oceanographic data to be entered on the tablets while at sea which enables classes to see their own data on OSO's website.



OSO completed filming three Monterey County classes to develop a "virtual program" for schools that cannot

physically get to our location but can benefit from our science program. The virtual program can be viewed on YouTube by searching "O'Neill Sea Odyssey" and either "Lesson 1", "Lesson 2" or "Lesson 3".

The Adam Webster Memorial Fund continued to serve special needs youth, enabling OSO's staff of instructors to modify its program according to the cognitive and physical abilities of the participating individuals.

Also pursuant to the OSO's Five Year Plan our staff advocated for passage of California Assembly Bill 988, by Speaker Toni Atkins and Assemblymember Mark Stone, to fund outdoor environmental education, which made it further than it had before: through the State Assembly and the State Senate policy committee, only to stall in the Senate Appropriations Committee. OSO will continue to acquaint the general public with the value of outdoor education, using the annual evaluations developed by OSO Education Coordinator Laura Barnes Walker and Applied Survey (**'Record'** continued inside)



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(Accumulated Giving)

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## 2016 Marks an OSO Milestone



BY JACK, BRIDGET & TIM O'NEILL

**2**016 will mark O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th year. In 1996, the three of us and a very talented group of friends had a vision to teach school children about the science and wonder of Monterey Bay and how to protect the ocean. 19 years and nearly 85,000 students later, we're doing exactly that.

It took a lot of hard work and ingenuity to get us this far. Our field trip, curriculum and community service program elements have stayed true to OSO's original mission and vision, but have benefitted from innovation, technology, and an infrastructure—including the Team O'Neill catamaran and the O'Neill building at the Santa Cruz Harbor. Of course, the people who make it happen, including our volunteer

Board of Directors, our staff, our Advisory Board and many volunteers and interns, are at the heart of what we do.

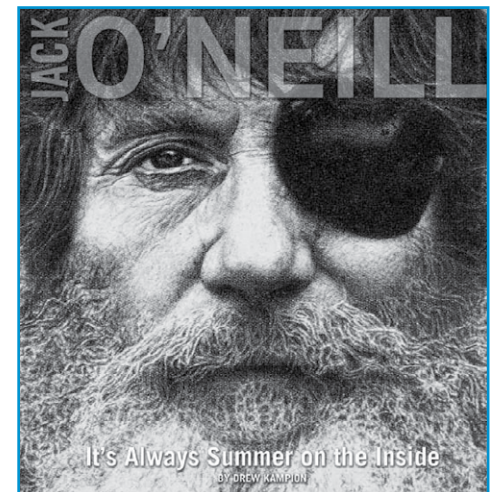
Over the next year you will hear more about our history and we will have an anniversary celebration in the fall of 2016. You will hear more details on that later. In the meantime we want to thank our generous donors, who help to make it all possible. THANK YOU! ♦

## Check Off OSO for Monterey County Gives!

**U**ntil December 31, 2015, O'Neill Sea Odyssey will be one of the non-profit organizations eligible for funding by donors who participate in Monterey County Gives! The project, sponsored by the Monterey County Weekly, the Community Foundation of Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, provides residents with the ability to choose OSO, among others, for year-end giving. All funds donated will be matched by monies raised by Monterey County Gives! To donate, pick up a copy of the Monterey County Weekly, or go to [www.montereycountygives.com](http://www.montereycountygives.com) ♦

## Autographed Copy of *Jack O'Neill: It's Always Summer on the Inside*

**F**ull of unique, personal stories and photos of the life and times of Jack O'Neill, this beautiful 250 page coffee table book is a rarity, but when coupled with his autograph...wow. With a \$500 donation to the O'Neill Sea Odyssey, you will receive one of these unique books, complete with a letter of authenticity. Originally, this book was sold at retail stores for \$40 and even more than that online. Hurry, because there are just a few remaining! Donate at [www.oneillseaodyssey.org](http://www.oneillseaodyssey.org) ♦



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## Leave a Legacy for Youth and the Ocean

**Y**ou're part of the reason we're here and you can also be part of the reason we'll be here 100 years from now. Since 1996, O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) has served nearly 75,000 youth with a free, ocean-going science and environment program.

This has been possible in part because you have provided much-needed and deeply appreciated support for OSO's program for area youth. In 2005 OSO's Board of Directors made a commitment to raise funds to ensure

our future by establishing a permanent endowment fund for OSO which is housed at the Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County.

We would like to invite you to help us build a future foundation for our program—for the kids, and for the ocean. You can do this by naming OSO's permanent fund at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County in your estate plan. There are also many ways to leave a permanent legacy and reap some significant financial benefits before hand, including: a beneficiary designation in your retirement fund or insurance policy, gifts from a will or living trust, an annuity that provides you with lifetime income, gifts of real estate, and charitable trusts.

We would be honored to meet with you to discuss supporting our permanent fund in a way that works best for you. Please contact Dan Haifley at **(831) 465-9390** or at [dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org](mailto:dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org), or fill out the form below and mail it to us. Thank you! ♦

### Enrollment Form

- ☐ I have named OSO in my estate plan (we will contact you relative to recognition)
- ☐ I would like to talk to someone about a gift to OSO in my estate plan
- ☐ I wish to learn more about the OSO/Community Foundation's gift annuity program
- ☐ I would like the recommended language for including OSO in my estate plan

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

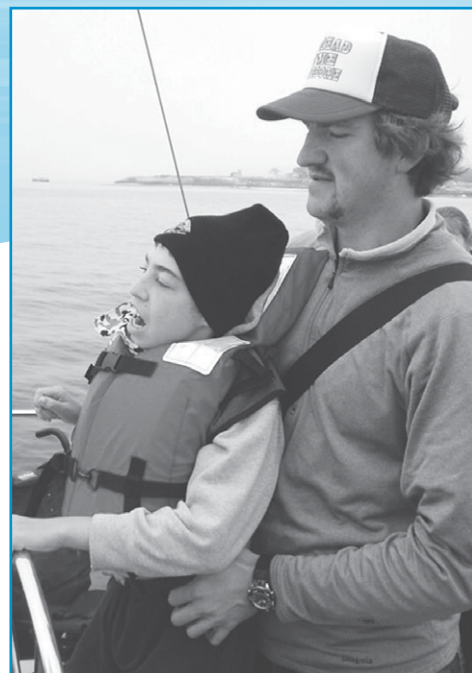
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Please send to OSO, 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 222; Santa Cruz, CA 95062



(*'Record'* continued from front cover) Research, and the long term study by Lauren Hanneman.

In the area of evaluations, OSO, working with Applied Survey Research, rolled out its new student survey and logic model in late 2014, administered before and after the program to find out what they learn from it. The new survey was based on a field test of new questions conducted between September and December of 2013.

OSO also hosted a Presidential delegation from El Salvador which was able to see some humpback whales who, of course, migrate between Monterey Bay and Central America. That delegation also held meetings at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, also attended by OSO's Executive Director.

*OSO's 2014-2015 financial audit, and our 2014-2015 Program Evaluation, will be available in December, 2015. To obtain a copy, please contact Dan Haifley at [dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org](mailto:dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org) ♦*



## OSO on Facebook

Please take a moment to "Like" us at [facebook.com/oneillseaodyssey](https://www.facebook.com/oneillseaodyssey) ♦



## Our Ocean Backyard: How Healthy is the Monterey Bay Sanctuary?

BY DAN HAIFLEY,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The programmers are Alexander As a prerequisite for an upcoming review of its activities and regulations, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's staff has completed a "condition report" which paints perhaps its most positive portrait since the 1992 designation of the 6,049 square mile area that features a deep underwater canyon and spans coastal waters from southern Marin County to northern San Luis Obispo County in addition to



Photo: Doug Jones

the undersea Davidson Seamount 75 miles offshore.

"Once an area depleted of marine mammal populations and key fish populations but now teeming with wildlife, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has experienced dramatic improvement since its designation in 1992," Sanctuary Superintendent Paul Michel said in a prepared statement. "Overall, marine habitats and living resources in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary are in good condition, which is the highest rating for condition reports, according to a preliminary evaluation of current trends and pressures facing the sanctuary."

The analysis, which dozens of experts contributed to or reviewed, has found that

populations of many marine mammals, birds and fish are growing, or at least not declining. Superintendent Michel said that since designation, sanctuary waters have given up more than a billion pounds of the forage fish species of anchovies, squid and sardines, with 2014 being the best year since 2000.

With a population that just forty years ago hovered around 1,000 breeding pairs, the Brown pelican spent nearly three decades on the endangered species list, but Michel said that in 2006 there were 11,695 breeding pairs and the pelican was de-listed in 2009. Once targeted by hunters, Northern elephant seals living in rookeries at Piedras Blancas, Cape San Martin—Gorda, Ano Nuevo State Beach or Ano Nuevo Island now number more than 30,000, with a total population of more than 150,000, probably close to its previous height.

Michel said the report points out that Monterey Bay's subspecies of Humpback whale, which migrates as far south as Central America, has a population now healthy enough to be considered for de-listing. The resident Southern sea otter population has inched upward to 2,944—scientists consider 3,090 to be sustainable—while their range expands south as they breach the recently-lifted legal boundary at Point Conception.

The superintendent also said most beaches have improved water quality—a notable exception being Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz—due to improved sewage treatment and better control of pollution that flows to the sea from storm drains, rivers and wind-driven debris that don't pass through a sewer. Marine life and habitats at Davidson Seamount "appear to be in near pristine condition," while kelp forests and corals are said to be healthy and plentiful.

Michel said the report found some negatives, which lets managers know where work is needed in during the

sanctuary's upcoming management plan review. Marine debris, or junk in the ocean such as plastic, threatens wildlife and habitats, as does a variety of contaminants. Elkhorn Slough managers must deal with externally forced water quality and upland erosion problems, and climate change drives ocean acidification, which can harm shell-forming organisms and well as tiny, free-floating plankton. There are impacts from sand mining, human-caused noise, and wildlife disturbance from ocean recreation, a challenge that will require more education about federal rules on observing marine mammals as more people get into the water.

To learn more about Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, go to [www.montereybay.noaa.gov](http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov)

A version of this column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on September 13, 2015. ♦

## Thank You, Union Bank



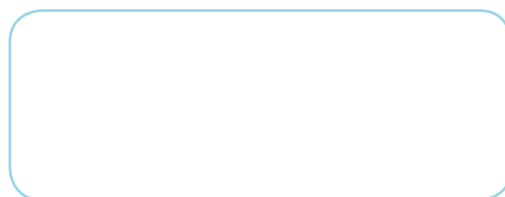
David Jochim of Union Bank presents a generous donation to OSO Founder Jack O'Neill. Photo: Mark Prefontaine



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