



Annual Report 2015

From the President and CEO

As 2015 approached its end, the Alaska SeaLife Center mourned the passing of a well-loved founding resident. Woody, a 22-year-old Steller sea lion, had resided at the Center since its inception in 1998 and grew up with the facility and its mission. Woody's long and healthy life is a testament to the work the Center does and, just as importantly, the devotion and generosity of those on both sides of the glass.

In loving memory of Woody, the ASLC Endowment Fund has been dubbed "Woody's Fund" to continue his legacy of supporting the Center and its mission to generate and share scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.

Woody is an essential page in our history book, but even more exciting is the future he helped inspire. Alaska's marine ecosystems are constantly changing, and we are eager to study contemporary challenges, such as climate change, ocean acidification, and impacts on endangered and threatened species. We are also excited to build productive partnerships with organizations like the Homer Stranding Network, Seldovia's Sea Otter Rescue Center, NOAA Fisheries, and others to study, care for, and help ensure a bright future for those who utilize and depend upon marine ecosystems.

In pursuing the health of the ocean, our Wildlife Response team rose to many challenges this year and, in many cases, was able to release previously orphaned or injured animals back into their wild home. Additionally, our Science Department took on important projects studying external impacts on coastal ecosystems, ice seals and sea ice loss, seabird predation, and more. It is thanks to these teams that we have a healthy group of ice seals in residence, an exciting treat for visitors and a promising research opportunity for our staff.

As a non-profit with no guaranteed government support, the Alaska SeaLife Center relies on contributions from all sectors to achieve and maintain our goals and to keep our doors open year-round to the public. You can help support critical programs such as animal care, scientific research, outreach, and wildlife response by planning a gift through our Legacy Society or by contributing to Woody's Fund, benefiting the Center in perpetuity and solidifying Woody's legacy as a personality that inspired marine preservation, education, and prosperity.

On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, residents, and members of the Alaska SeaLife Center, I thank you for supporting our facility, our people, and our mission as we study, observe, and co-exist with Alaska's marine ecosystems.



Tara L. Riemer, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Horned and Tufted Puffins

New in the Aquarium

Updating our exhibits and welcoming new marine animals into our facility furthers our goal of promoting understanding of Alaska’s marine ecosystems by providing a unique and exciting experience for every guest, year after year.

Summer of Sharks

Wait—that’s a real animal!? Thanks to the intrepid mind of Ketchikan-based artist Ray Troll, guests of the Alaska SeaLife Center learned about *The Buzz Saw Sharks of Long Ago*, on loan from the Idaho Museum of Natural History for the summer of 2015. The exhibit included *Helicoprion* fossils as well as a collection of Troll’s buzz saw shark artwork, a film documentary, a mechanized whorl tooth shark jaw, and a life-size model of the prehistoric *Helicoprion* bursting through the wall. In celebration of Troll’s art-meets-prehistory exhibit, we held the Summer of Sharks Grand Opening in May, featuring a presentation and book signing by Troll.



Skates of Alaska

A shiny new habitat, wide and flat like its inhabitants, gives Alaska SeaLife Center visitors an up-close look at Alaska’s skates, often considered the “flatter” cousins of sharks. Researchers at the Center are simulating the nurseries of Bering skates and the slightly smaller Alaska skates in order to better understand development time in skate embryos. Studying the reproductive needs and vulnerabilities of these animals is a crucial first step towards their conservation.

Harbor Bottom Exhibit

The Harbor Bottom exhibit showcases marine species residing near the shore, among the docks and boats we see from the surface. Snake pricklebacks, tanner crabs, starry flounder, and big red sea urchins reside in the Harbor Bottom among other species, including a school of herring. As a system, the exhibit displays the ways in which marine species live inside, among, and attached to the structures and objects humans place in the oceans. Previously on the ground floor, this exhibit has been relocated upstairs to complement our Sustainable Fishing Boat exhibit.



Pilot Enters Breeding Program

Pilot, a 1,000-pound Steller sea lion, entered into the Steller Sea Lion Breeding Program this year as part of the Center’s efforts to better understand the early life of these large marine mammals. Pilot was born in 2009 at the Dolfinarium in the Netherlands and moved to the Alaska SeaLife Center in March of 2011. He was introduced to all three female Steller sea lions for breeding this summer, and staff will know whether the interaction was successful in early 2016. Pilot’s entrance into the breeding program marks the beginning of a new era, as the previous breeding male, Woody, retired from “active duty” after the 2014 summer season.

Research conducted under NMFS Permit 18534

Dr. Katrina Counihan and intern Rebekah Ziegman set up an experiment about mussels for the Changing Tides study.



Research

With a new Science Director at the helm, the Alaska SeaLife Center's Science Department is looking towards the future and solidifying its status as a gateway to world-class research in the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean. As the department evolves, it builds on existing strengths in upper trophic research and plans to expand projects related to middle trophic levels while seeking external funding in a competitive scientific landscape.

Introducing Science Director Dr. Markus Horning

In July of 2015, Dr. Markus Horning started his new appointment as Science Director at the Center. He succeeded Dr. Tuula Hollmén, who has chosen to return to a full-time research position after five years as Science Director. Until recently, Dr. Horning was an Associate Professor at Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute in Newport, Oregon. He has conducted research at the Alaska SeaLife Center since its opening in 1998, after touring the facility during construction. Dr. Horning was drawn to the Center for its comprehensive science and veterinary staff, statewide logistical support, and optimally-equipped laboratories. "It's very clear that research is a major focus of the Alaska SeaLife Center and, knowing that, I plan to continue my work here," he said in 2000. Dr. Horning recently collaborated with former ASLC scientist Dr. Jo-Ann Mellish on a project that studied Steller sea lion predation by sleeper sharks.



Dr. Horning earned his doctorate in zoology from Germany's University of Bielefeld and Max Planck Institution for Behavioral Physiology and went on to do research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. He then spent a decade as a scientist at Texas A&M University before joining Oregon State University's faculty in 2006. His research focuses on integrative, ecosystem-based investigations of the life history, physiological ecology, trophic and population ecology of upper trophic marine vertebrates, as well as their predators and prey. Dr. Horning has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.

Clams, Bears, and Changing Tides

In Katmai and Lake Clark National Parks, Alaska SeaLife Center scientists led by Drs. Katrina Counihan and Tuula Hollmén are working with bivalves—filter-feeding invertebrates like clams and mussels—to evaluate their health and detect changes that may be occurring in our coastal ecosystems. Dubbed "Changing Tides," this project studies bivalves because their method of seawater filter-feeding captures contaminants and bacteria that may be in the water. The team also observes brown bears clam-digging and evaluates how the land mammals use marine resources. The goal of the project is to explore how marine intertidal invertebrates and bear populations may be influenced by increased visitation, commercial activity, and industrial development in, around, and near coastal parks.

Collaborating Organizations: National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Gulf Watch Alaska, and Washington State University

Contributors: National Park Foundation's Coastal Marine Grant

Pacific Cod Eating Seabirds

A Dutch Harbor seafood processing plant sent Alaska SeaLife Center researchers a collection of Pacific cod stomachs containing partially digested seabirds after workers noticed the abnormal contents during processing. Dr. Tuula Hollmén and Research Associate Sadie Ulman discovered bird specimens in various stages of digestion ranging from whole carcasses to feather and bones. The cod, caught in Unimak Pass among the Aleutian Islands during the winter, primarily ingested the crested auklet, an alcid species that spends its winter in large flocks in the Bering Sea. Common murre, thick-billed murre, and unidentified gull species were also discovered, as well as one Cassin's auklet. Whether the cod scavenged carcasses or ingested the birds accidentally is unknown, but the findings offer new insight into possible marine predators of seabirds.

Collaborating organizations: UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and University of Alaska Southeast

Ice Seals and Climate Change

In 2015, the PHOCAS research program—Physiology and Health of Cooperating Ice Seals—was developed to examine species-specific indicators of health and the unique physiology of three ice-dependent seal species: ringed (*Pusa hispida*), bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), and spotted (*Phoca largha*) seals. Sea ice loss is currently progressing at an unprecedented rate, and many long-lived Arctic species may be ill-equipped to tolerate such rapid environmental change. The PHOCAS program is led by Dr. Colleen Reichmuth and is a joint effort between the Alaska SeaLife Center and the University of California Santa Cruz. A novel resource available to this project is a collection of trained ringed, bearded, and spotted seals currently living at the Alaska SeaLife Center and at Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz. Currently, it is difficult or impossible to collect health and physiological data from ice-dependent seals in the wild, which makes information gained from these seals vital to the conservation and management of these species. The main objectives of PHOCAS are to conduct conservation-minded health and physiological research to determine short- and long-term energy requirements, thermal strategies, molting dynamics, and physiological constraints for all three species. Ultimately, this data will be used to more accurately determine habitat requirements, define physiological limitations, and predict species' resilience to changing conditions in Arctic and sub-Arctic ecosystems.

Collaborating Organizations: University of California Santa Cruz, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of British Columbia

Contributor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Key Researcher Earns Ph.D.

With plenty of support from the Alaska SeaLife Center's Science Department, researcher John Maniscalco earned his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a dissertation focusing on his work with Steller sea lions through the Center's Chiswell Island monitoring project. Dr. Maniscalco joined the Chiswell project as a research assistant in 2000 during the project's infancy and was soon promoted to research associate and project manager. With the help of Research Associate Pam Parker, Maniscalco published numerous scientific articles based on his research into Steller sea lion maternal care, mortality, predation, and more. In addition to earning his doctoral degree, Dr. Maniscalco authored three additional scientific publications and co-authored several studies relating to Steller sea lion research over the past year. The Alaska SeaLife Center is proud to congratulate Dr. John Maniscalco, on his most recent accomplishment and to thank him for his devotion to Steller sea lion research.

Contributor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Mammalogist Shelby Burman works with Kunik, a spotted seal.

Animal Care

Every year brings new arrivals and births at the Alaska SeaLife Center, expanding our diverse family of marine species. The Alaska SeaLife Center takes pride in providing top-of-the-line habitats, enriching diets, targeted development activities, and exceptional veterinary services to our resident species. We are proudly accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), demonstrating excellence in animal care.

Mara

In February, the Alaska SeaLife Center welcomed Mara, a 12 year-old Steller sea lion. Mara came from Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut and was previously part of a research study at the University of British Columbia and Vancouver Aquarium. After getting used to her new home, Mara was enrolled in the ASLC Steller sea lion breeding program, designed to investigate the reproductive and maternal investment practices of these marine mammals. In the summer of 2015, Mara was introduced to the in-house breeding male, Pilot. The information gleaned from Mara and the other adult female Steller sea lions at the Alaska SeaLife Center will further our understanding of this threatened species.



Pigeon Guillemot raised by Puffins

This year, a pigeon guillemot pair abandoned their nest site just days before their egg was due to hatch. Rather than allow the chick inside to go cold, aviculturists placed the egg under an expecting horned puffin pair. While both alcid species are closely related, a pigeon guillemot with horned puffin foster parents was previously unheard of. The puffin pair successfully hatched their guillemot egg and began feeding the chick the next day. Aviculturists supplemented feeds during the day while the puffin pair kept the chick warm and safe. At fledging time, the young guillemot left the nest site and was welcomed by the eight other pigeon guillemots on habitat.



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AQUARIUMS**

Woody & Sugar

When the Alaska SeaLife Center opened in 1998, Woody and Sugar were two of the first residents, arriving from the Vancouver Aquarium where they had lived since shortly after their wild births in June 1993. For two decades, Woody and Sugar contributed to the study of the precipitous decline in Steller sea lion populations in the Gulf of Alaska, the largest and most comprehensive captive Steller sea lion program ever attempted. During their lives, this charismatic duo won over the hearts and minds of both staff and visitors, becoming two of our greatest ambassadors. Sugar passed in March at 21, Woody in November at 22; both were humanely euthanized due to rapidly advancing complications from old age. Woody is survived by Ellie and Forrest, born June 2013 and July 2014, respectively.



Sugar



Woody

Woody's 2,400-pound legacy lives on through Woody's Fund, an endowment fund charitably supporting the Alaska SeaLife Center and its mission in perpetuity.

Research conducted under NMFS Permit 18534

Egg, Giant Pacific Octopus



Moving On

Mishka, a rescued sea otter, was transferred to the Seattle Aquarium in March. She made her public debut in Seattle on Super Bowl Sunday as a healthy 26-pound 6-month-old thanks to the round-the-clock care she received as part of our Wildlife Response Program. Mishka came to the ASLC as a newborn from Port Moller, Alaska where she had become entangled in fishing net. Deemed non-releasable by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our animal care team raised Mishka from bottle-feeding to whole fish so that she would thrive in her new home at the Seattle Aquarium, where she has joined their other resident sea otters.

After participating in over 70 Octopus Encounters with our guests, resident giant Pacific octopus, Egg, began to lose interest in feeding and became very active as the year approached its end. Acting on the tell-tale signs of readiness to mate, aquarists removed the 70-pound invertebrate from the Denizens of the Deep habitat, and divers released him into Resurrection Bay, close to the beach where he had been originally found on Easter Sunday 2012, no larger than a marble.

Alaska SeaLife Center Family

At the end of the year, the Alaska SeaLife Center was caring for **211 different species.**

This brings our grand total to **4,816 individuals.**

Birds
13 species, 160 individuals

- Aviary Birds**
- 14 Tufted Puffins
 - 17 Horned Puffins
 - 5 Rhinoceros Auklets
 - 8 Pigeon Guillemots
 - 2 Black Oystercatchers
 - 12 Common Murres
 - 13 Red-legged Kittiwakes
 - 5 Long-tailed Ducks
 - 3 Harlequin Ducks
 - 3 King Eiders
 - 2 Smews
- Research Eiders**
- 10 Spectacled Eiders
 - 66 Steller's Eiders

Mammals
5 species, 17 individuals

- 6 Steller Sea Lions
- 3 Harbor Seals
- 3 Sea Otters
- 4 Spotted Seals
- 1 Ringed Seal

Fish
83 species, 1,927 individuals

Invertebrates
110 species, 2,712 individuals



Sea Cucumber



Wildlife Response

Responding to stranded animals along 34,000 miles of Alaskan coastline keeps the Wildlife Response Program busy year-round. Rescuing and rehabilitating injured marine animals helps us understand the dangers and vulnerabilities these animals face, as well as how Alaska's ecosystems are changing. A vital part of our mission, the Wildlife Response Program keeps a keen eye on endangered and threatened species to help support and sustain Alaska's wildlife.

Major Contributors: Shell Exploration and Production and ConocoPhillips Alaska

Heli Released in Juneau

Heli, a female Pacific harbor seal, was rescued from a Douglas Island beach in early 2015. Heli was likely abandoned by her mother, and she was lethargic, wounded, and unable to care for herself when found. Heli was named after the *Helicoprion*, a prehistoric shark whose fossils were on display for the summer of 2015. Heli lived up to her namesake by exhibiting a tenacity to thrive. The seal pup learned to care for herself while at the Alaska SeaLife Center, and was deemed releasable in October. Working with NOAA Fisheries, the Wildlife Response Program transported Heli to False Outer Point near Juneau where she was returned to the wild to live as an independent seal.

CISPRI and SORC: Oiled Wildlife Response

The Alaska SeaLife Center has pledged its support to Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) and the Sea Otter Rescue Center (SORC). In the event of an oil spill involving sea otters in Cook Inlet, ASLC staff will head about 200 miles away to the SORC facility in Seldovia, near the mouth of Kachemak Bay. Situated at the edge of the harbor for easy ocean access, the SORC consists of eight repurposed trailers joined by a central corridor. This unassuming structure houses holding tanks and a treatment center including veterinary clinic, nursery, food prep area, rehabilitation space, and facilities specifically geared towards oiled wildlife rescue. The SORC also features oil/water separators and deployable pens for nearby ocean rescue.

Saving Sea Otters in Homer

2015 was an unfortunate year for many sea otters, with over 300 dead or sick otters found on beaches in and around Kachemak Bay and Homer. The Alaska SeaLife Center worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services, and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in efforts to understand the mortality increase, an ongoing investigation with multiple stressors considered. The Alaska SeaLife Center owes many thanks to the Homer Stranding Network and Homer Veterinary Clinic, a group of about 25 volunteers devoted to marine rescue in Kachemak Bay. This group's contributions to sea otter mortality response in Homer—almost 200 miles from Seward—earned them the Alaska SeaLife Center Planet Blue Partnership Award.

Eider Rescue

Over the summer, we responded to two injured eider sea ducks. The first came in June from Barrow after a report that an adult male Steller's eider struck a power line and suffered a broken wing. Although his wing was broken in two places, leaving him unable to migrate, the Wildlife Response team nursed him back to health and then monitored his well-being. The eider was then sent to Dry Creek Waterfowl in Washington, a private breeder working with our eider program. Kugaruk, a female King eider, was found with a broken wing by a spill readiness crew near an active oil field. Kugaruk's break was too old to heal properly for flight, but she was cared for and monitored for a month before moving to the Toledo Zoo to join other sea ducks in an Arctic animal exhibit.



Pimniq, Ringed Seal

Ice Seal Rescue

The Wildlife Response team rescued two ice seals in 2015. Pimniq, a male ringed seal, was captured by a hunter in Stebbins in June with a very poor coat due to an unsuccessful molt, and several bite wounds, as well as pneumonia and parasites. Kunik, a male spotted seal, was flown to the Center after washing up on the beach near Nome at about two weeks old. Maternal neglect, emaciation, dehydration, a slew of parasites, and anemia meant Kunik needed intravenously-delivered fluids around the clock. Kunik and Pimniq both recovered wonderfully and now reside at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Ice seals are dependent on sea ice and are considered non-releasable in Alaska when rehabilitated outside of their natural range.

Education

Each year brings new opportunities to educate visitors and students in the local area and around the world. Virtual Field Trips and Distance Learning programs transport the Alaska SeaLife Center to the classroom via modern technology and devoted educators. We also serve urban and rural communities throughout Alaska, teaching students and sharing best practices in informal marine science communication with other educators. Thousands of students also visited the Center for on-site Nocturnes or Sea Journeys, thanks in part to generous sponsors.

Education Round-Up

Program	Participants
Nocturnes	3,130
Day Programs	1,105
Distance Learning	6,190
Outreach Trips	4,004
Road Scholars	718



Pinnacle Award

The Alaska SeaLife Center's Distance Learning Program was again recognized by the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration for its exceptional content quality and delivery. The Center has been presenting to classrooms around the world since 2007, making over 2,300 connections to more than 68,000 students.



Educators Jeff Dillon and Darin Trobaugh connect Kotzebue students to the aquarium tanks in Seward.

Sea Journey

This year kicked off the two-year Sea Journey program, which will provide the opportunity for 5th grade students from Title I schools in Anchorage to become “connected” to the lives of marine animals. On September 1, all 50 eligible teachers attended the orientation workshop. During the fall semester, nearly 1,200 students boarded buses for special programs at the aquarium. In the spring, these students will create local stewardship projects informed by their Alaska SeaLife Center experiences.

Ocean Acidification Workshop

For more than ten years, the Education Department has facilitated teacher workshops with the Oceans Alaska Science & Learning Center. In March 2015, we traveled to Juneau to conduct our first regional workshop outside of the southcentral area. Seventeen teachers from ten communities in southeast Alaska spent two and a half days with us at NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratories to discuss ocean acidification curriculum for students in grades 4-6. In the fall, ASLC educators traveled to Sitka, Kake, Petersburg, Skagway, Haines, Ketchikan, and Juneau to conduct follow-up evaluation on the impact of this workshop in the classrooms.

Gulf Watch Alaska VFT

In the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, Gulf Watch Alaska is a collaborative program which monitors ecosystems impacted by the 1989 oil spill. In partnership with this program's outreach team, Alaska SeaLife Center educators created an online Virtual Field Trip that introduces participants to the Gulf Watch Alaska monitoring program. This Virtual Field Trip includes an optional curriculum along with classroom activities.

Alaska Science and Math Conference

ASLC educators joined other K-12 educators from throughout the state to participate in the biennial Alaska Science and Math Conference, held this year in Sitka. The ASLC presented a morning workshop on how to productively talk about climate change and ocean acidification with K-12 students. Based on lessons learned from previous teacher workshops, we also shared best practices for teaching ocean literacy principles in the classroom.

Village Outreach

In partnership with the National Park Service's Oceans Alaska Science & Learning Center, our educators spent six weeks in 2015 flying to rural communities for marine science outreach. We spent time with students in Sand Point, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Shishmaref, Nome, Selawik, Kotzebue, Chignik Bay, Perryville, King Salmon, Haines, Pelican, and Tenakee Springs.

Education Sponsors

Sponsor support continues to provide opportunities for outreach to underserved students and communities. The Ocean Sciences Club for Seward middle and high school students explored marine science topics for a fourth year, thanks to the Seward Community Foundation. Wells Fargo sponsored this year's monthly Family Science Nights. Thanks to the Usibelli Foundation, ASLC educators presented marine science to 1,200 students in the North Star School District. ExxonMobil sponsored visits to the aquarium for 455 Title I students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Donlin Gold connected us to classrooms in the Kuskokwim area. Saltchuk sponsored visits by Mountain View and Fairview Elementary 5th graders. CIRI and CIRI Alaska Tourism contributed to the Sea Journey bus fund, assisting classrooms in their voyage to Seward.

Events and Awards

Hosting and taking part in various events throughout the year provides fun opportunities for involvement and giving, and is also an engaging way of thanking communities for their unwavering support of our mission.

Community Involvement

Special occasions that bring people together are a great way to show our appreciation for the communities we serve. The Alaska SeaLife Center kicked off the tourist season with a grand opening of the Summer of Sharks in May, which featured a presentation by Alaskan artist Ray Troll.

The Seward area of Alaska was also selected to contribute this year's Capitol Christmas tree, Alaska's first. The Alaska SeaLife Center was proud to host the Capitol Christmas Tree celebration organized by the Seward Chamber of Commerce. Though the 80-foot Lutz spruce Capitol Tree departed in October, over 500 community members came back to the Center in December for our annual Christmas Holiday Party, featuring a visit by Santa.

Ocean Leadership Awards

The Ocean Leadership Awards, established in 2010, recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to ocean sciences, education, and resource management in Alaska.

2015 Award Winners

Walter J. and Ermalee Hickel Lifetime Achievement Award

Al Burch
Prince William Sound
Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Marine Research Award

Dr. Jacqueline Grebmeier & Dr. Lee Cooper
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental Science

Supporting Our Mission

Providing opportunities for giving is an integral part of our commitment to stewarding Alaska's ocean ecosystems, and 2015 had its share of successful events. The Alaska SeaLife Center welcomes each new year with the annual Alaska Marine Gala, a "blue-tie" event during which Ocean Leadership Awards are bestowed and all those in attendance enjoy live music, dinner, and drinks while pledging support to the Alaska SeaLife Center's animal care, education, and research programs.

To celebrate World Oceans Day in June, the Alaska SeaLife Center teamed up with Major Marine Tours aboard their new fuel-efficient touring vessel to offer an evening cruise punctuated by Dr. John Maniscalco's sea lion presentation and an encounter with some of our resident Seabird Ambassadors.

Stewardship and Sustainability Award

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Vessel of Opportunity Program

Marine Science Outreach Award

Benjamin Carney
Juneau-Douglas High School

Ocean Youth Award

Alisa Aist
Polaris K-12 School, Anchorage

At the peak of summer, the Wildlife Rescue Run saw over 130 participants cross the finish line while proudly supporting the Center's wildlife response efforts. 2015's Rescue Run was one of our most successful, thanks to the staff, volunteers, and participants that made the event possible.



Coming in 2016

The Alaska SeaLife Center is always looking for new opportunities to showcase different facets of the dynamic ocean environment at our doorstep. We're excited to announce new exhibits and projects that will continue to promote our mission and offer even more reasons for visitors to discover or re-discover the Alaska SeaLife Center in 2016.

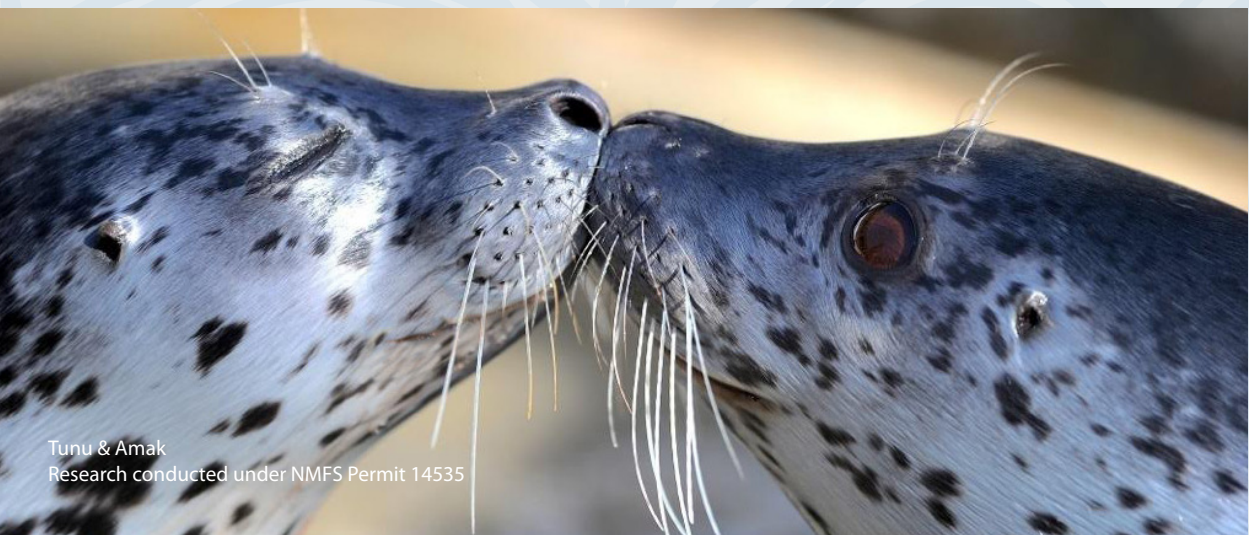
Underwater Viewing Renovations

A freshly painted mural depicting humpback whales diving and feeding in Resurrection Bay kicked off renovations to Underwater Viewing, our ground-floor exhibit area providing below-the-surface views of seals, sea lions, diving marine birds, and deep water creatures such as octopus and king crab. Additional renovations will include facelifts on existing exhibits, as well as multiple new, hands-on exhibit components. The Denizens of the Deep exhibit will also undergo extensive changes to get ready for its new resident. Egg, the previous Denizens dweller, was released in December after reaching maturity. The new and improved Underwater Experience will be unveiled May 1, 2016.

Ice Seals on Habitat

This year, Tunu and Amak returned to our research program and aquarium display. These spotted seals, a type of ice seal, first came to the Alaska SeaLife Center through our Wildlife Response program in 2010, and were later relocated to Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz, California. Now back in Alaska, Tunu and Amak are a part of an ongoing research partnership and will spend much of their time in the seal habitat.

We also rescued two more ice seals in 2015: ringed seal Pimniq, rescued as a yearling, and spotted seal Kunik, named after the Inuit word for "nose-kiss," a common seal greeting. Pimniq and Kunik join Sura, a spotted seal rescued in 2014, as well as new arrivals Tunu and Amak. Our family of ice seals is part of a research program studying ice-dependent seals in a time of unprecedented sea ice loss. These seals also play an important role in familiarizing our guests with Arctic species and their current challenges, inspiring compassion and understanding as they glide by. The Alaska SeaLife Center is proud to be the only facility in North America showcasing these polar region seals.



Tunu & Amak
Research conducted under NMFS Permit 14535



Grants & Contracts	4,059,979
Capital Improvement	
Grants & Contracts	401,825
Visitor	2,772,759
Contributions	819,624
Fiscal Agent Fees	397,917
Investment & Other	286,523
North Pacific Marine Research Institute	290,250

Total Revenues 9,028,877

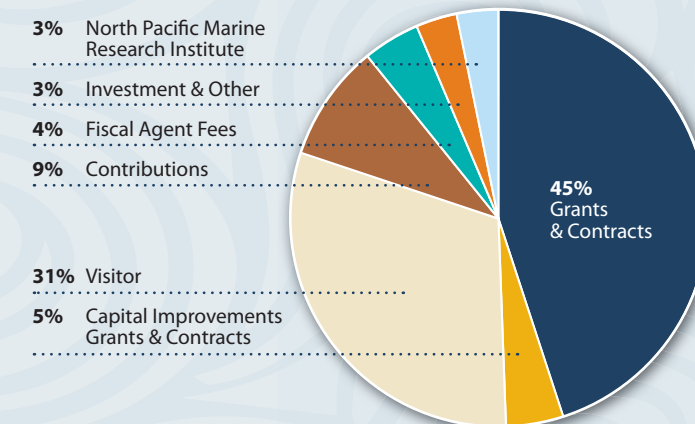
Mission Programs	
Research	2,012,391
Education	386,128
Wildlife Response	424,760
Facility Operations	3,345,713
General Management	915,955
Fundraising	327,369
Visitor Services	1,084,764
Animal Care	1,258,958
North Pacific Marine Research Institute	290,536

Total Expenses 10,046,574

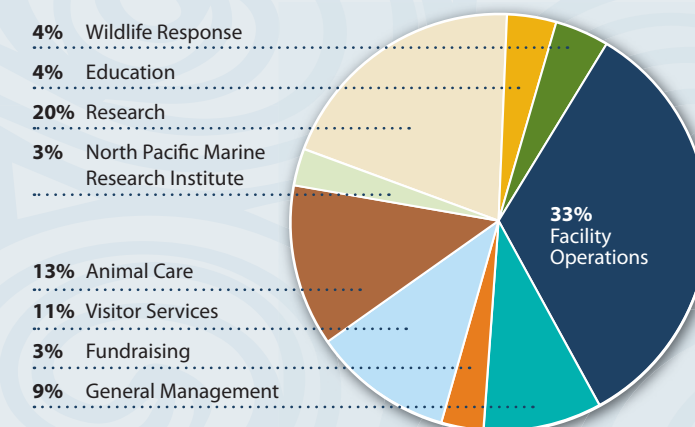
Financial Summary

As of September 30, 2015 (unaudited)

Revenues 2015



Expenses 2015



Net Assets at End of Year 44,127,930

Thank You Donors

October 2014 - September 2015

Corporate and Foundation Donors

\$250,000+

Shell Exploration
& Production Company

\$100,000+

Anonymous
ConocoPhillips
Rasmuson Foundation

\$50,000+

BP
Georgia Aquarium
National Park Foundation

\$20,000+

Alaska Public Media
ExxonMobil
Sea World & Busch Gardens
Conservation Fund

\$10,000+

Alaska Railroad Corporation
At-Sea Processors Association
Caelus Energy Alaska LLC
Donlin Gold LLC
GCI
Major Marine Tours
Marie Keese LeLash
Foundation, Inc.
Oceans of Fun
Point Defiance
Zoological Society
Seward Community Foundation

\$5,000+

Alaska Airlines
Alaska Seafood
Marketing Institute
Aleutian Pribilof Island
Community Development
Association
CIRI Alaska Tourism
Great Bear Petroleum
Icicle Seafoods
Odom Corporation
Saltchuk Resources, Inc.
Samson Tug & Barge
Usibelli Foundation

\$2,000+

Alaska Clean Seas
Alaska Pacific University
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Alyeska Pipeline Service
Company
Apache Alaska Corp
Arcadis US, Inc.
Bering Sea Fishermen's
Association
Burch Brothers Fish LLC
Burns & McDonnell
City of Seward
Danger Island Studios
Edison Chouest Offshore
Great Originals
Hotel Seward
Jaffa Construction
KPMG
Microcom Communications
Solutions
NANA Development Corporation
North American Marine
Environment Protection
Association

North Pacific Fishery
Management Council
Olgoonik Fairweather LLC
Petro 49 Inc.
/Petro Marine Services
Prince William Sound RCAC
Providence Seward Medical
and Care Center
Spenard Builders Supply
St. Paul Island Tours
Visit Anchorage
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$1,000+

Alaska Commercial Fishing
and Agriculture Bank
Alaska Wildlife
Conservation Center
Captain Jack's Seafood Locker
Escape Salon and Spa
J & R Fisheries
/Kruzof Fisheries LLC
Lynden
Northrim Benefits Group
PenAir
Shoreside Petroleum
Stoney Creek Canopy
Adventures
Whale Bone Watercolors

\$500+

Alaska Black Diamond
Aquatech
Arctic Crown Canvas
Exit Glacier Guides
First National Bank Alaska
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
Metco, Inc.
Michael David Winery
Orca Island Cabins

PacRim Coal, LP
Premier Alaska Tours
Seward Brewing Company
Southside Bistro
Statoil
TelAlaska
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

\$250+

2 Chicks Steel Art
Alaska Zoo
Alaskan Reflections
Arctic Qiviut
Bass Pro Shops Alaska Outpost
Bluejuice Images
Breeze Inn
Capital Genealogy
Center for Inquiry
Chinook Winds
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
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Grunt Sculpin

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Mission Statement

The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.



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