

Alaska SeaLife Center *2019 Annual Report*



Alaska SeaLife Center Family

At the end of the year, the Alaska SeaLife Center was caring for **222 different species**. This brings our grand total to **4,412 individuals**.

Birds

13 species, 147 individuals

--Aviary Birds--

- 9 Tufted Puffins
- 14 Horned Puffins
- 2 Black Oystercatchers
- 3 Rhinoceros Auklets
- 14 Red-legged Kittiwakes
- 6 King Eiders
- 4 Long-tailed Ducks
- 2 Harlequin Ducks
- 4 Pigeon Guillemots
- 2 Smews
- 7 Common Murres

--Research Birds--

- 18 Spectacled Eiders
- 62 Steller's Eiders

Mammals

4 species, 17 individuals

- 4 Steller Sea Lions
- 5 Northern Sea Otters
- 4 Spotted Seals
- 4 Ringed Seals

Fish

82 species, 1,560 individuals

Invertebrates

123 species, 2,688 individuals



Stories – Highlighting 2019

This photo of Dutch was taken in January 2019. Dutch is one of the four ringed seals part of an ongoing Ice Seal Research Program at the Center in partnership with the Long Marine Laboratory of University of California, Santa Cruz. Ringed seals are a species of ice seal that inhabit the Arctic. Concern about depleting sea ice has ignited our research on this little known species. Our team is trying to answer the question, “how much energy does it take to be an ice seal?”



In February, the Alaska SeaLife Center hosted its annual Alaska Marine Gala, which included various fundraising elements such as a giving challenge, a live auction, a silent auction, and raffles and games throughout the evening. Proceeds helped to ensure the ASLC continues to carry out mission related initiatives in research, education, and response capacities.

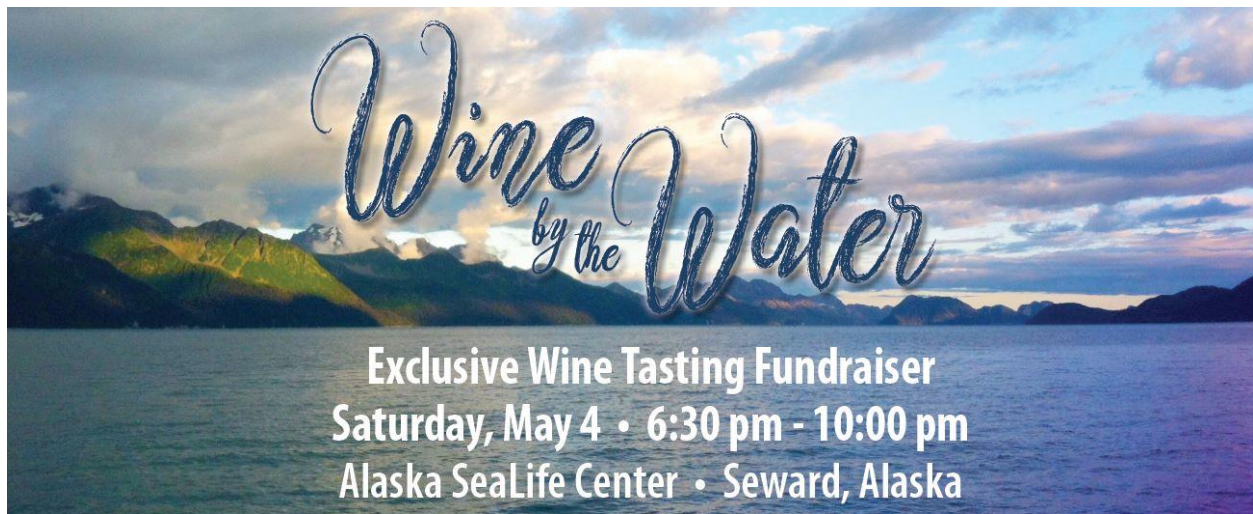


Throughout the year, the Alaska SeaLife Center participated in the conservation efforts such as National Skip the Straw Day, Plastic Free EcoChallenge, and World Oceans Day, encouraging our staff and the public to pledge to take steps to become educated on the dangers of single-use plastics in our oceans.



In April, 2019 a one-week-old female bearded seal pup was rescued in Shaktoolik with the help of local children. Later named Saktuliq, this originally underweight seal spent the summer at the Center rehabilitating and gaining weight. Deemed non-releasable by the federal government, in August she found a new home at the Long Marine Laboratory at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), having traveled about 2700 miles from her rescue location. Saktuliq is now participating in an ice seal research program that is a collaboration between Dr. Colleen Reichmuth, UCSC and ASLC.





In May, the Alaska SeaLife Center hosted its first annual Wine by the Water, a fundraiser where guests tasted custom wine paired with appetizers prepared by local chefs while learning about puffins, sea otters, Steller sea lions, Giant Pacific octopus, and current research programs at the Center.



Small Fry School for Parents and Preschoolers

One of our many education programs, Small Fry School was a free winter program offered to parents and their preschoolers in 2019. These "small fry" learn all about Alaska's marine ecosystems.



In June, 2019 this juvenile elephant seal that had been frequenting the Seward area was relocated outside of Resurrection Bay. She beached on a construction zone near the Seward boat harbor so our team needed to move her to a safer place. Our hope was she would stay in this secluded area to finish the rest of her molt, however, she returned to Seward and our wildlife response team closely monitored the seal to keep her safe from predators and humans.



July 2019: Science in action! Our research team at ASLC, led by Dr. Markus Horning, brought a Pacific sleeper shark from Resurrection Bay to the Center to begin an innovative research study. "If findings from recent studies on the close relative of the Pacific sleeper, the Greenland shark, are correct, then these animals could maybe reach an astonishing age of 200 to 300 years old," states Dr. Amy Bishop, Co-Investigator on Pacific sleeper shark study.

In this picture, part of the science team is preparing the metabolic chamber where most of the tests will be performed. This chamber is a kind of shark treadmill. After a short stay at the Center the animal was tagged and released back to the Bay. It is important to research this species because very little is known about them. Our team is attempting to find out how their population is being affected by fishing, their predation habits, and their ecological importance.



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME CF-19-08

In August, 2019, female sea otter pup Cinder was rescued by plane. Many of our wildlife response patients have to be flown in from various parts of Alaska, but it is rare we have animals transported to the local airport right in Seward. Due to the Swan Lake fire and consequent closure of the Sterling Highway, the team had to find a different method to pick up this three week old pup from Homer, AK. The community came together to transport the otter to the Center, including a donated flight by local pilot. The Homer Vet Clinic offered to overnight the pup until the pilot was able to assist with the pick-up.



In August, the Center hosted an Oiled Wildlife Response Drill, which was sponsored by Marathon Petroleum Corporation. It was well attended by oil spill response partners, Federal Agencies, and ASLC staff. The Center deployed and tested its mobile response infrastructure and remote operating procedures across Resurrection Bay.



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.

2019 Award Winners

Ocean Youth Award

Karl Pfeiffenberger

Marine Research Award

Lloyd Lowry and Kathy Frost

Stewardship and Sustainability Award

Eklutna, Inc.

Marine Science Outreach Award

Marilyn Sigman

Walter J. and Ermalee Hickel

Lifetime Achievement Award

Darryl Schaefermeyer

Program Round-Ups *Education*

<u>Program</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Nocturnes	2,641
Day Programs	3,729
Distance Learning	7,943
Outreach Trips	3,062
Road Scholars	570

Science

Publications	11
Active Research Projects	24
Research Presentations	18

Wildlife Response

<u>Species</u>	<u>Live Admissions</u>
Sea Otters	2
Bearded Seals	1
Harbor Seals	7
Spotted Seals	1

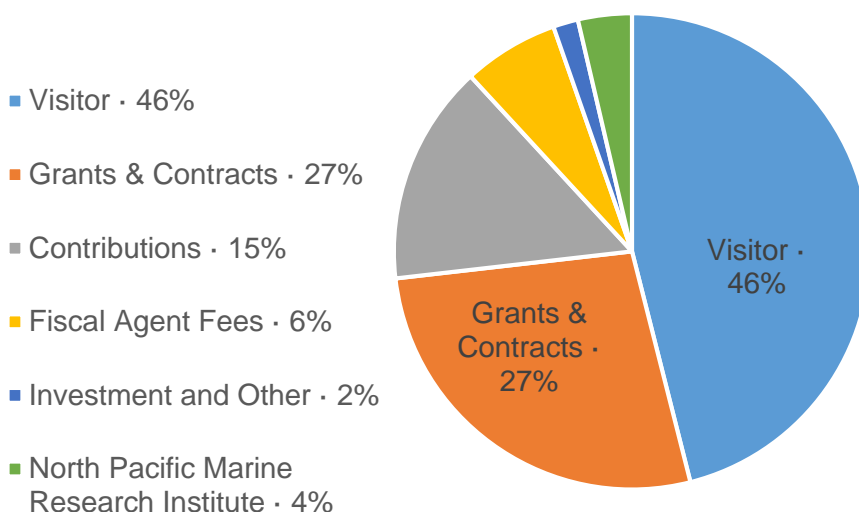


Financial Summary

As of September 30, 2019 (audited)

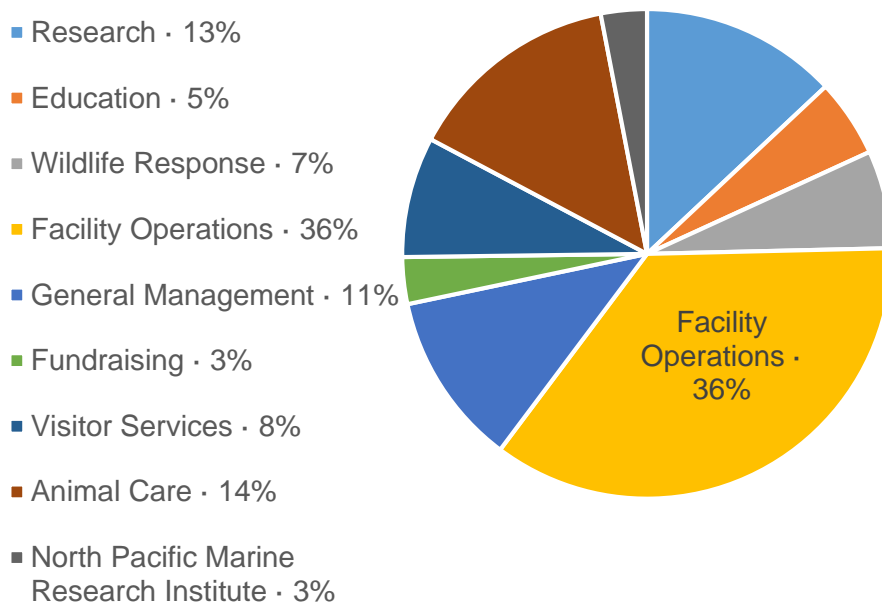
Revenues 2019

Visitor	\$3,648,910
Grants & Contracts	\$2,150,015
Contributions	\$1,185,564
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$515,135
Investment and Other	\$134,585
North Pacific Marine Research Institute	\$289,484
Total Revenues	\$7,923,693



Expenses 2019

Mission Programs:	
Research	\$1,240,782
Education	\$490,387
Wildlife Response	\$616,328
Facility Operations	\$3,394,622
General Management	\$1,092,781
Fundraising	\$294,274
Visitor Services	\$759,211
Animal Care	\$1,354,156
North Pacific Marine Research Institute	\$289,484
Total Expenses	\$9,532,025



Net Assets at End of Year: \$38,246,119

2019 Donors

We would like to thank our generous corporate and individual donors who made donations in 2019.

Corporate and Foundation Donors

\$50,000+

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ConocoPhillips Alaska
First National Bank Alaska

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous
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ExxonMobil
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\$10,000 - \$19,999

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Old 2 New 2 You
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\$1,000 - \$1,999

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Denali Brewing Company

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Slate the tufted puffling was born on July 13, 2019 and in this photo is starting to lose her baby fluff!

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Alaska SeaLife Legacy Society

Your Legacy Is Our Future

You can be a part of the Alaska SeaLife Center's critical work by leaving a gift through your estate plans. A planned gift allows you to support our mission after your lifetime so future generations can enjoy the wonder of Alaska's ocean. Anyone, regardless of age or financial status, can create a legacy gift to the Alaska SeaLife Center.

How to Make a Planned Gift

A planned gift can be as simple as naming the Alaska SeaLife Center in your will or designating the Center as a beneficiary on your retirement plan or life insurance policy. The Alaska SeaLife Center Endowment Fund, established through the Alaska Community Foundation, enables additional options for planned gifts through the Foundation's unique expertise.

Benefits of Planned Giving

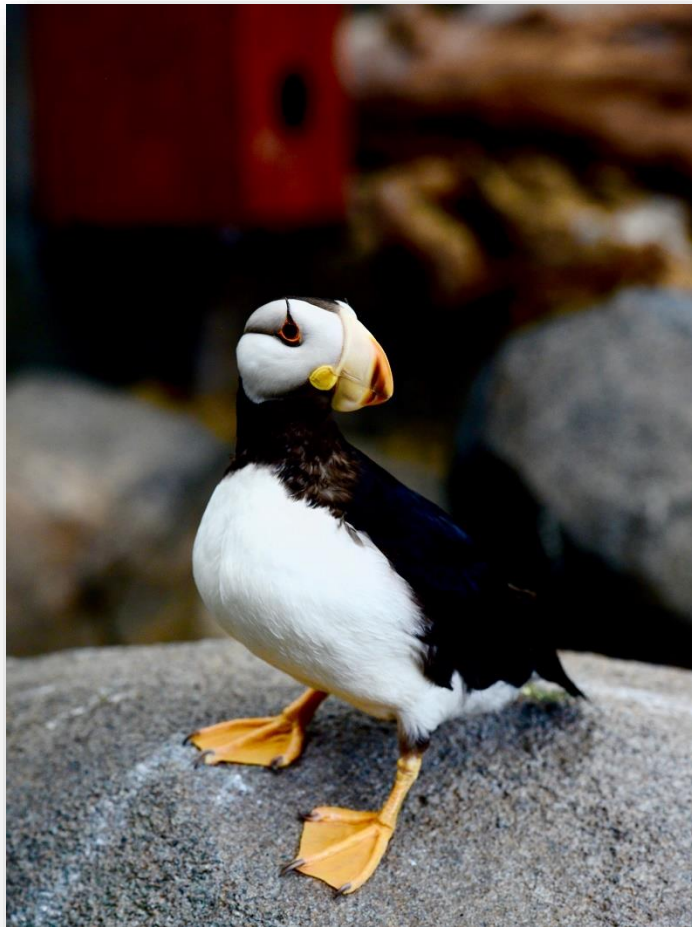
When you notify us about your gift, we will enroll you in the Alaska SeaLife Legacy Society. You will receive invitations to special events and be recognized in our annual report and e-newsletters, unless you choose to remain anonymous. All communications you have with our staff about planned giving is strictly confidential.

Members of the Alaska SeaLife Legacy Society

*Michael and Judy Blair
Darla Gerlach
Gary Goodnow
Dale Hoffman
Ed Hutchinson and Jan Knutson
Lisa and Steve McLennan
Tara Riemer
Paul and Sharon Ruppel
Lou Saksen
Anonymous (1)*



We are grateful to those who support the Alaska SeaLife Center through Planned giving. Through your gift, you are ensuring that future generations will learn about and care for Alaska's oceans. To learn more about how to enroll in the Legacy Society, please contact our Development Office at 907-224-6396 or development@alaskasealife.org.



Mission Statement

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



301 Railway Avenue
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, Alaska 99664-1329
907-224-6300
888-378-2525

www.alaskasealife.org



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OF ZOOS &
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Rehabilitation activities authorized by USFWS and NMFS.
