



MOTE MARINE LABORATORY | 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

MILESTONES

Dear Friends,

This report on the activities at Mote in 2008 will provide an overview of the year's statistics as well as some details on the highlights and accomplishments of our outstanding organization. We can attribute the year's success – which includes local, national and global recognition in marine research and education – to one thing: the people who work here. From the staff and volunteers to our policy advisors and councils, generous trustees and our dependable members and donors, the Mote family ensures that our mission to advance the science of the sea is carried to a variety of audiences locally, nationally and throughout the world.

We have achieved our collective goal in marine research, outreach and education for more than 50 years. Some of those years have been more challenging than others, but we always arrived at the year's end with positive results. As we approach our 55th Anniversary in 2010, we are proud of our 2008 efforts to prepare for Mote's future by continuing a comprehensive strategic planning process. Trustees, volunteers and staff are working through the elements of this plan, which will provide a valuable map for near- and long-term initiatives.

Special appreciation goes to Chair Dick Donegan and the members of a trustee task force (appointed by the board chairman), Arthur Armitage, Howard Crowell, Ed Jennings, Ron Morris, John Pether, and Jim Schell, who helped senior management assess and respond to financial challenges.

Many thanks are also due to our 10,000-plus members, our annual fund and major donors and the foundations and corporations that continue to support us financially through this struggling economy. Your contributions to Mote are extremely appreciated.

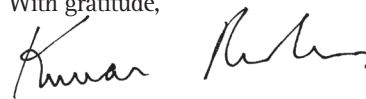
The Research Division conducted more than 90 funded projects, produced 125 peer reviewed papers, book chapters, and technical reports. We saw increased scientist involvement in national and international research consortiums and projects, as well as an increase in collaborative efforts with universities and agencies. Be sure to read the highlights section of this report to learn more about some of the fascinating and important work taking place here by scientists who are recognized around the world.

Our Education Division broke records with distance learning and summer camp enrollment, while developing new programming in several areas. Our high school interns were featured in Connect Magazine, a publication of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and we hosted two entire student bodies from local elementary schools. Our outstanding and greatly appreciated volunteers provided thousands of service hours and we are proud that 87 volunteers who received the "President's Call to Service Award."

In the Aquarium, where our research is displayed, a grant allowed us to produce new exhibits in the Sudakoff Shark Zone, in keeping with our global leadership in shark research. We also broke ground for the new sea turtle exhibit (Sea Turtles: Ancient Survivors), which was kindly funded by volunteer Penelope Kingman in honor of her husband, Barry J. Kingman. This year also marked the first full year of operation following the generously sponsored renovation of the former snack area. The new Deep Sea Diner, with a full menu, has reported a steady increase in gross sales 227 percent higher than the former snack service reported during its last year (2006). The Diner not only adds revenue but also adds value for our visitors.

On behalf of Mote staff and the Board of Trustees, we would like to thank you for reading about the details of our accomplishments and milestones in this Annual Report. Please visit us online at www.mote.org or at Mote Aquarium to learn about the remarkable research, environmental and conservation efforts and cutting-edge sustainability successes that make Mote a respected marine science and education organization as well as a leading attraction dedicated to sharing our findings with our guests.

With gratitude,



Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.

President



Judy Graham

Chairman of the Board

SCIENCE CENTERS

CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Director: Kevan L. Main, Ph.D.

MISSION: Dedicated to finding innovative and cost-effective methods to produce aquatic species for food and for fisheries and habitat restoration.

2008 Programs and Managers

MARINE AQUACULTURE RESEARCH: Kevan L. Main, Ph.D. Developing the technology and husbandry techniques to farm high-value marine species to advance Florida's food fish aquaculture industry. Research is focused on culture methods and sustainable recirculating aquaculture systems to produce snook, redfish, long-spined sea urchins and coral for stock enhancement and pompano for food.

STURGEON COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION: James T. Michaels. Developing and demonstrating sustainable recirculating aquaculture systems and techniques to produce caviar and sturgeon for high-value food markets and to promote a new aquaculture industry in Florida. In so doing, the program and its technology will help relieve pressure on wild sturgeon stocks and fill the current gap of supply vs. demand for food fish.

ADDITIONAL SCIENTISTS: Brian Babbitt • Constance Beaulaton, BS • Stephen Corbett • Terri Deppe, BS • Curtis Gionet • John Holly, BS • Michael Nystrom, MS • Matthew Resley, MS • Brian Richard II • Nicole Rhody, MS • Randy Shine, AS • Wade Tappan.

CENTER FOR COASTAL ECOLOGY

Director: Ernest D. Estevez, Ph.D.

MISSION: Studies the effects of human uses of water on coastal resources, especially rivers, bays and estuaries, and develops and applies multi-disciplinary research tools to understand the effects of river flow regulation, industrial and municipal discharges and storm water runoff on coastal ecosystems.

2008 Programs and Managers

BENTHIC ECOLOGY: James Culter. Explores life in the bottom sediments of Florida's rivers, estuaries, and oceans and conducts nationally significant studies at electric power stations. The program also discovers and explores submerged sinkholes and caverns on the west Florida shelf.

CHEMICAL ECOLOGY: L. Kellie Dixon, Ph.D. candidate. Monitors coastal water quality in Southwest Florida, develops new methods for real-time detection of human wastes in rivers and estuaries and conducts meta-analyses of very large data sets relating red tide to water quality.

Coastal Resources: Ernest D. Estevez, Ph.D. Develops methods and applications to use mollusks and other invertebrates as markers to portray ecological conditions and guide management in tidal rivers and creates ecological condition indices to improve resource management.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Camia M. Buehler, BS • Maya Dobrzeniecka, BS • Colleen L. Farrell, BS • Melissa L. Gilbert, BS • Emily Hall, Ph.D. • Susan R. Hemme, MS • Katherine Lansdowne, BS • Patricia Minotti, BA • Ari Nissanka, D.Sc. • Lori J. Zaworski, BS

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: Bruce Boese, Ph.D. • William Ellis, Ph.D. • Tom Fraser, Ph.D. • Michael Heyl

SCIENCE CENTERS (continued)

CENTER FOR CORAL REEF RESEARCH

Director: David Vaughan, Ph.D.

MISSION: Dedicated to monitoring, understanding and restoring coral reefs in collaboration with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other research organizations in Florida Keys.

2008 Programs and Managers

CORAL REEF SCIENCE AND MONITORING: Erich Bartels, BS. Evaluates the biology and health of coral reef ecosystems through projects such as BleachWatch, Reef Resilience Monitoring, the Marine Ecosystem Event Response and Assessment (MEERA) Project and the Staghorn Nursery Project.

CORAL REEF RESTORATION: David Vaughan, Ph.D. Seeks to develop systems and techniques to grow coral and other species, such as sea urchins, for replanting in depleted reef systems, and for scientific study.

MARINE MICROBIOLOGY: Kimberly Ritchie, Ph.D. Seeks to establish health assessments for Florida coral reefs, establish microbial baselines of coral communities and studies the application of beneficial bacterial interactions to corals and their symbionts.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Steve Davis, BS • Susan Leser, BS • Joel E. Thurmond, MS • Cory S. Walter, BS • Dave Wilson, BS

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: Rutiger Bieler, Ph.D., Chicago Field Museum • Erich Mueller, Ph.D. • Esther Caroline Peters, Ph.D.

CENTER FOR ECOTOXICOLOGY

Director: Richard H. Pierce, Ph.D.

MISSION: Investigates the source, fate and effects of natural biotoxins (red tide toxins) and chemical pollutants (pesticides, petroleum, industrial contaminants, pharmaceuticals) in the marine environment, including ecology of phytoplankton that produce the biotoxins and the development and implementation of new techniques to monitor the organisms and toxic substances to assess risks and reduce adverse effects to public health and natural resources.

2008 Programs and Managers

AQUATIC TOXICOLOGY: Dana Wetzel, Ph.D. Investigates chemical contaminants concerning impacts on marine mammals and other marine organisms, including how contaminants affect fertility in marine mammals.

Chemical Fate and Effects: Michael Henry, BS. Investigates natural biotoxins and chemical pollutants in the marine environment, including sources, routes of exposure, persistence and bioaccumulation to provide cause-and-effect relationships between exposure and adverse impacts to natural resources and public health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: Barbara Kirkpatrick, Ed.D. Investigates how airborne biotoxins impact public health to mitigate adverse impacts and develop better ways to educate the public.

PHYTOPLANKTON ECOLOGY: Gary Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. Investigates phytoplankton behavior, photophysiology and bloom dynamics of Florida's red tide to understand how harmful algae function at cellular, community and ecosystem levels.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Patricia C. Blum, AA • Anamari J. Boyes, BS • Cory N. Boyes • Robert D. Carrier, AAS • Alan R. Hails, BS • Karl C. Henderson, Ph.D. • James R. Hillier • Rebecca Medvecky • Katherine Nierenberg, MS • Valeriy I. Palubok, MS • Bradley Pederson, MS • Erin L. Pulster, MS

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: Terence J. Evens, Ph.D. • Gary L. Fahnenstiel, Ph.D. • Scott M. Glenn • Michael Gulla • David F. Millie, Ph.D. • Gary M. Rand, Ph.D. • Gary E. Rodrick, Ph.D. • Oscar Max Eric Schofield, Ph.D. • Edward VanVleet • Aswani K. Volety, Ph.D.

SCIENCE CENTERS (continued)

CENTER FOR FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Director: Kenneth M. Leber, Ph.D.

MISSION: Strives to substantially increase the knowledge of how to preserve and responsibly enhance economically and ecologically important coastal fish and invertebrate populations.

2008 Programs and Managers

FISHERIES ASSESSMENT AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D., William and Lenore Mote Eminent Scholar in Fisheries Ecology, Imperial College, London. Develops mathematical models to assess the potential of fishery management options used to preserve fish populations, such as catch limitations, habitat conservation and restoration and marine fisheries enhancement.

FISHERIES HABITAT ECOLOGY: Aaron A. Adams, Ph.D. Advances knowledge about fish habitat use, habitat connectivity throughout the life cycle, essential fish-habitat requirements and the relative contributions of different fish habitats to fish population size. These studies provide better understanding of which species benefit most from conserving, restoring or adding habitats.

MARINE STOCK ENHANCEMENT: Kenneth M. Leber, Ph.D. Studies focused on developing and testing responsible marine stock enhancement technology and protocols to help restore depleted populations, augment fishery yields and advance basic knowledge about wild stocks. Develops optimal stocking strategies (fish size, release habitat, timing of releases, magnitude of releases, acclimation measures, etc.) and strategies for using conservation hatcheries to help with conservation and restoration of endangered species, such as those found in coral reef communities.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Andrew Barbour, BS, MS student • Ross Boucek, BS • Nathan Brennan, Ph.D. • Terri Deppe, BA • Rachael Sommer, BS • Tom King, Ph.D. • Carole Neidig, MS

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: H. Lee Blankenship, MS • Sasha Koulis, Ph.D. • Martin Moe, MS • Ken Nedimyer • Bill Pine, Ph.D. • Juliane Struve, Ph.D. • Carl Walters, Ph.D.

CENTER FOR MARINE MAMMAL & SEA TURTLE RESEARCH

Director: John E. Reynolds, III, Ph.D.

MISSION: Provides information to enhance the understanding of the biology and habitat requirements for marine mammals and sea turtles to help inform management decisions, and provides professional leadership support for students and programs worldwide.

2007 Programs and Managers

DOLPHIN RESEARCH: Randall S. Wells, Ph.D. Studies coastal and offshore dolphins in the southeast U.S., Argentina and elsewhere to understand their biology, health, behavior and ecology, and the human factors, including environmental contaminants, that impact them. The work is done in collaboration with the Chicago Zoological Society and colleagues worldwide.

MANATEE RESEARCH: John Reynolds III, Ph.D. Partners with other organizations to answer questions about manatee biology, health and behavior to understand the species, inform management decisions and educate the public. Also works in conjunction with Mote's Aquatic Toxicology Program to conduct research on contaminants, biomarkers and other aspects of marine mammal biology in marine mammals in Alaska and the wider Caribbean. Has helped develop Caribbean-wide action plans for manatees and other marine mammals.

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH: Tony Tucker, Ph.D. Coordinates turtle monitoring activities in Sarasota County to aid in assessment of beach nourishment projects. Satellite tags on nesting females are tracking the migratory paths and inter-nesting habitat use for the largest loggerhead turtle rookery in the Gulf of Mexico.

SENSORY BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR: William Tavalga, Ph.D. Studies the sensory and cognitive processes in a variety of marine mammals and fishes.

STRANDING INVESTIGATIONS: Greg Early/John Reynolds. Provides 24-hour response to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings in coastal Southwest Florida and offers logistical stranding support to state manatee biologists. Studies seek to

SCIENCE CENTERS (continued)

understand the natural history of cetaceans and sea turtles and evaluate long-term mortality trends.

ADDITIONAL STAFF:

MANATEE RESEARCH: Sheri L. Barton, MS • Laura C. Bracken, MA • Carolyn C. Cush, BS • Jay F. Gorzelany, MS • Diane W. Keal, BS • Kerri M. Scolardi, MS • Jay M. Sprinkel, BA

SARASOTA DOLPHIN RESEARCH PROGRAM: Jason Allen, BS • Brian Balmer, MS, Ph.D. student • Aaron Barleycorn, BS • Elizabeth Berens-McCabe, MS • Sandy Camilleri, BS • Deb Fauquier, DVM, Ph.D. student • Damon Gannon, Ph.D. • Janet Gannon, MS • Kim Hull, MS • Katie McHugh, MS, Ph.D. student • Todd L. Musgrove, BS • Robin Perrtree, BS • Jessica Powell, BS, MS student • Gene Stover

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH: Jennifer A. Beggs, MS • Jaime Budzynkiewicz, BS • Allison W. Hays, BS • Barbara McIntyre, BS • Sara C. Shaw, BA • Peter A. Solomon • Ryan Welsh, BS

SENSORY BIOLOGY: Douglas P. Nowacek, Ph.D.

Stranding Investigations: Nelió B. Barros, Ph.D. • Deborah Fauquier, Ph.D.

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: Gordon Bruce Bauer, Ph.D. • Heidi E. Harley, Ph.D. • Leszek Karczmarski, Ph.D. • David A. Mann, Ph.D. • William McLellan • Anne B. Meylan, Ph.D. • D. Ann Pabst • Arthur N. Popper, Ph.D. • James A. "Buddy" Powell, Ph.D. • Stephanie Presti Lantry, Ph.D. • Butch Rommel • Michael Salmon • Laela S. Sayigh, Ph.D. • Lori Schwacke, Ph.D. • Peter Lloyd Tyack • Graham Anthony James Worthy Ph.D. • Jeanette Wyneken, Ph.D.

CENTER FOR SHARK RESEARCH

Director: Robert E. Hueter, Ph.D.

Designated by the U.S. Congress as a national center for shark research in 1991.

MISSION: Dedicated to the scientific study of sharks, skates and rays; research ranges from molecular biology and biomedical studies of sharks in the laboratory to ecological studies of shark populations in the sea.

2008 Programs and Managers:

MARINE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH: Carl Luer, Ph.D. Studies disease resistance, biochemistry, reproduction and embryonic development of sharks, skates and rays. Marine Immunology: Cathy Walsh, Ph.D. Characterizes cellular immune function in elasmobranchs, identifies immune regulatory factors and characterizes environmental stressors in marine vertebrate health.

ELASMOBRANCH PHYSIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY: James Gelsleichter, Ph.D. Studies the reproductive physiology of, and effects of environmental contaminants on, live-bearing sharks and rays.

SHARK BIOLOGY: Robert E. Hueter, Ph.D. Studies shark abundance, behavioral ecology, feeding mechanisms, sensory systems and fisheries impacts. Elasmobranch Conservation Biology: Tonya Wiley. Assesses population status, behavioral ecology and critical habitats for the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Stephanie Leggett, BA • John Morris, BS • John Tyminski, MS • Armando Ubeda, MS • Beau Yeiser, BS

SCIENTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE: Eugenie Clark, Ph.D. (Trustee Emerita) • Jose Castro, Ph.D. (NOAA scientist) • H. Wes Pratt, BS (NOAA scientist, retired)

ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS: George Benz, Ph.D., Middle Tennessee State University • A.B. Bodine, Ph.D., Clemson University, SC • Jeffrey Carrier, Ph.D., Albion College, MI • Charles Colle, Ph.D., Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, CO • Leo Demski, Ph.D., New College of Florida • Michelle Heupel, Ph.D., James Cook University, Australia • Gary Litman, Ph.D., Children's Research Institute, FL • Philip Motta, Ph.D., University of South Florida • R. Glenn Northcutt, Ph.D., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego • Colin Simpfendorfer, Ph.D., James Cook University, Australia • Gregory Skomal, Ph.D., Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries • Clayton Smith, Ph.D., Vancouver General Hospital, Canada • Robert Thommes, Ph.D., Sarasota

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS, 2008

2008 was the International Year of the Reef, designated to help raise public awareness about the importance of coral reefs to the world's oceans. It was also an exciting year for Mote Marine Laboratory and Mote Aquarium.

Mote founding director, Dr. Eugenie Clark, received the Explorers Club Medal during the organization's annual dinner in New York City. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the club, an international society dedicated to advancing the scientific exploration of land, sea, air and space by supporting research and education in the physical, natural and biological sciences.

Mote staff members also:

Worked on 310 ongoing research projects

- Wrote 200 new grant proposals
- Hosted 122 college interns
- Hosted 368,000 Aquarium visitors
- Reached another 360,000 people via the Mote Mobile aquarium
- Were supported in their mission by 1,400 volunteers

While it would be impossible to detail all of the projects Mote researchers participated in this year, we've pulled together a sampling of highlights to provide an overview of the breadth and depth covered at the Lab and the many areas our experts are investigating. For more information on Mote and our projects, please visit www.mote.org.

AQUACULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Scientists at Mote Aquaculture Park in eastern Sarasota County jump-started snook spawning in captivity for the second year in a row. By carefully controlling environmental conditions, they enabled snook to breed from March to October – two months' head start on wild snook. A two-year research experiment began this year to examine the effect of adding vitamins and essential fatty acids to the diet of captive breeding snook. The goal of this research is to determine if we can improve egg and larval quality through changes in parental diets. Mote scientists also completed the

first of two experimental trials to examine the effect of diet improvements on survival and growth during the larval stage of snook. Snook research is supported by NOAA's National Marine Aquaculture Initiative and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Successfully spawning and rearing captive snook will allow for large-scale production of this popular sport fish to replenish wild stocks.

Mote was also awarded a two-year collaborative research grant through the NOAA Marine Aquaculture Initiative to continue developing hatchery technology for pompano and snook. This award to Mote and our research partners in Texas and Alabama will develop hatchery technology for pompano, snook and cobia. Pompano and snook research will take place at Mote, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute will work with cobia and snook and Harlingen Shrimp Farms will conduct fingerling trials with all three species. Our partner in Alabama will evaluate the economics of various technologies and production systems developed in this project.

Mote Aquaculture Park designed, built and began testing a new seven-tank system for growing juvenile redbfish, another economically important Florida catch, thanks to grants from FWC and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Experimental trials began in December to determine the effectiveness of the 100-percent recirculating seawater system in maintaining optimal water quality conditions for young redbfish and to develop protocols for growing redbfish for restocking in tanks. Redfish are presently grown in coastal ponds. This inland recirculating aquaculture research will provide information to sustainably produce large numbers of redbfish with minimal environmental impact.

Mote's Sturgeon Commercial Demonstration Program received a grant from the Darden Foundation to develop techniques designed to improve sturgeon flavor. Progress continued in rebuilding farm facilities lost in the 2006 fire, thanks to the generous donations from supporters of this state-of-the-art recirculating aquaculture project. New tank systems were stocked, allowing us to demonstrate the economic feasibility of inland recirculating aquaculture. Meanwhile, Mote's Siberian sturgeon meat delighted new

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

palates, appearing in August on a special menu at Ceviche Tapas Bar & Restaurant in downtown Sarasota. Mote staff continued harvesting, processing and marketing sustainably-grown caviar through the distributors Petrossian of Paris and Great Atlantic Trading Company in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

COASTAL ECOLOGY

Sarasota County adopted Mote's innovative method for measuring the ecological health of tidal creeks – waterways where ever-changing conditions often hinder other kinds of health checkups. Mote's newly-perfected method includes cost-effective surveys for algae, crustaceans, mollusks and other indicators of good or poor creek health that can be done quickly. This rapid-survey system will allow resource managers to better monitor and protect tidal creeks, which shelter many young marine animals but also suffer from heavy pollution. The survey, the first of its kind in the nation, is already in use across Florida.

The Chemical Ecology Program won top honors throughout 2008 during bi-annual audits from the Florida Department of Health for the program's continuing certification under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Such certification distinguishes Mote's analytical prowess and validates all of the program's measurements during an aggressive year of research.

In an active year for Chemical Ecology, Mote scientists refined a method developed at here that provides for real-time monitoring of optical whiteners, otherwise known as laundry dyes that make clothes "brighter than bright." The dyes fluoresce so clothes give off more light than they reflect. Because dyes are associated exclusively with human sources, they provide a reliable method of detecting pollution from septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants. Earlier markers could be influenced by natural sources, masking the effect of pollution.

Mote scientists secured two new grants for projects on two key components of Charlotte Harbor's ecology: sea grasses and scallops. Light is a key component for the growth of

healthy seagrass beds and can be affected by things like water clarity and the growth of epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants – in this case, algae that grows on seagrass). Mote is working on a model that takes into consideration all the factors that affect light conditions and predict what water quality changes are needed to allow seagrasses to regrow at depth. The grant other will support efforts to restore scallop populations in Pine Island Sound, replenishing a valued food source that has declined for decades around many parts of Florida, possibly due to poor water quality, changes to seagrass beds and other impacts.

The Benthic Ecology Program analyzed a wide range of ecological data collected at power plants, and produced an eight-volume report. Staff also conducted studies of invertebrates and seagrasses in the Homosassa, Chassahowitzka, and Little Manatee Rivers, seeking to understand how river-flow regulation affects estuarine productivity. Mote also continued its study of reverse osmosis discharges, completing a unique 10-year period of study and continued scallop restoration efforts in Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay, where new monitoring efforts are charting the scallops' recovery. In August 2008, Tampa Bay Watch and Sarasota Bay Watch conducted their first Sarasota Bay Great Scallop Search.

CORAL REEF RESEARCH

Scientists at Mote's Tropical Research Laboratory on Summerland Key successfully grew and transplanted staghorn corals – a species with dwindling populations – to four sites off the Florida Keys in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. The corals grew swiftly in Mote's field nursery and survived high summer temperatures that might have bleached them. A majority of the transplanted corals thrived, despite impacts from tropical storms and other damaging physical forces. This success will help lead the way for restoring coral reefs, which support numerous sea creatures and shield coasts from hurricanes.

Mote continued to take a leading role in coral research nationally and internationally, with scientists serving as

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

organizers to the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium held in Fort Lauderdale. The center also coordinated a scientific forum at Mote looking at the connectivity of marine reserves as part of the “Islands in the Stream” concept. The purpose of the forum was to engage scientists on a conservation strategy designed to protect ecologically important areas within the region.

Mote staff also continued growing 20 coral species (in collaboration with Mote’s aquaculture team), focusing on getting the lighting and water chemistry just right for the corals, and on producing large numbers of four important reef species.

Scientists broadened their studies of how bacteria help or harm corals in 2008 to include elkhorn corals from the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Along with their established study area in the Florida Keys, these new sites will offer a better picture of how bacteria living on Caribbean corals change seasonally – including how harmful bacteria can replace healthy bacteria as waters warm. Mote researchers are also studying how warming waters affect corals’ built-in disease resistance and continued looking for bacteria that can neutralize toxins produced by red tide algae in a team effort with scientists from Mote’s Center for Ecotoxicology.

The BleachWatch program, which trains volunteers to report coral bleaching and reviews NOAA’s remote sensing products, finished the 2008 season with more than 270 observations on coral condition submitted by volunteers. The project also provided the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with “current conditions” overviews throughout the summer coral bleaching season.

ECOTOXICOLOGY

Scientists in the Chemical Fate and Effects Program work with local, state and federal agencies to monitor the fate of red tide toxins during and following red tide blooms. Specific focus has been on identifying red tide toxins in marine aerosols that cause human respiratory irritation and on toxin accumulation in shellfish (and subsequent transfer of

the toxins through the food web). They’re also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida International University to provide a risk assessment of mosquito control pesticides in the National Key Deer Refuge in the Florida Keys. This study will be used to revise operating protocols for mosquito pesticide applications in the Florida Keys to reduce the risks to non-target organisms while still providing mosquito control.

Scientists in the Aquatic Toxicology Program are evaluating chemical contaminants and their effects on marine mammals from the Arctic to the Caribbean, providing a global perspective of the contaminants that put marine mammals at risk. This work includes collaboration with scientists from Mexico to identify organic contaminants in manatees from the Yucatan and work on the impacts of contaminants on the fertility potential of Mexican manatees. Additional efforts include studies with the National Marine Fisheries Service to assess the contribution of organic in the decline of a threatened population of beluga whales in Alaska.

Working with Mote’s Manatee Research Program, Aquatic Toxicologists are also pioneering efforts to use a human fertility test for manatees and Cook Inlet beluga whales, both endangered species. The test detects certain “biomarkers” – hormones in blood, in this case – that Mote scientists believe measures fertility in mammals. This simple test may provide crucial insight into how pollution and other stressors affect marine mammal fertility and provide important information to resource managers for species conservation. Biomarkers are also being used to assess the impacts of climate change on polar bears in the Arctic, finding that the bears may be changing their diets in response to the Arctic’s changing environment.

The Beach Conditions Report™ created by Mote’s Environmental Health Program expanded in 2008 to include information from 31 beaches in nine counties, including the Florida Panhandle, with funding from the Florida Department of Health. Created in 2006, the Report provides current information about red tides on beaches, including updates on whether dead fish are present and whether beachgoers

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

are suffering respiratory irritation. The report is available and updated daily at www.mote.org/beaches. Those without Internet access may call 941-BEACHES (941-388-5223). The program also continued its investigations on how inhaled red tide toxins affect public health and what can be done to alleviate those affects. The research is supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and done in conjunction with the CDC, the Florida Department of Health and many other research partners.

Remote-controlled robots from Mote's Sarasota Operations Coastal Ocean Observing Lab (SO COOL) continued patrolling local waters for red tide algae, *Karenia brevis*, carrying detectors called BreveBusters™ developed by Mote's Phytoplankton Ecology Program. Working with Florida's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, NOAA and other partners, program scientists used the "robots" and SO COOL to continue studying the factors that influence red tides along Florida's Gulf coast and in the Keys in cooperation with state and national agencies. Knowing what makes Florida red tides tick will lead to faster warning systems for coastal residents and visitors and help in the creation of new models that can predict the movements of red tide blooms and help resource managers and public health officials respond to them.

FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Mote agreed to house a new fish hatchery as part of the Florida Marine Fisheries Enhancement Initiative, an effort to replenish redfish, snook, sea trout and other valuable sport fish. The Initiative includes partner groups from a variety of scientific organizations that plan to create six to eight new fish hatcheries in Florida – where saltwater sportfishing now generates \$5.1 billion in economic output each year.

Mote scientists in the Fisheries Habitat Ecology Program revealed that snook inhabit Gulf of Mexico passes throughout the winter months – when the snook weren't expected to be there – by tracking the fish with sonic tags. Since 2007, Mote researchers have tagged about 2,000 snook using different types of tags along Gulf Coast beaches to study their movements and spawning.

Mote also collaborates with Bonefish & Tarpon Unlimited (BTU) by sharing a staff member who oversees the foundation's research program, and the creation of the Bonefish-Tarpon Research Center, a collaboration between BTU, FWC, and University of Miami. BTU conducts bonefish research in Cuba and the Bahamas, including work on bonefish tissue sample collection for genetics in The Bahamas (Andros, Grand Bahama Island) and Florida Keys. Juvenile bonefish were collected in Southwest Florida and are awaiting genetic results. Adult bonefish were collected in The Bahamas for age and growth studies.

Mote scientists in the Science Consortium for Ocean Replenishment (SCORE), working with FWC biologists, documented that new snook fisheries can be created in freshwater inland ponds by stocking juvenile hatchery-reared snook; studies in 2008 showed that, so far, hatchery snook are surviving very well even when stocked at fairly high densities (more than 100 per acre).

Anglers gathered three times the number of tarpon skin samples in 2008 that they did in 2007 for the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Program, a team effort by Mote and FWRI to understand how populations of these popular sport fish move and change. Tissue samples are collected by anglers who rub small scrub pads along a tarpon's jaw. These samples contain DNA that scientists can use to identify individual tarpon and can show whether fish are recaptured in new locations and how animals move over time. More than 100 bait shops in Florida have joined the program by distributing collection kits. Anglers from Florida and four other U.S. states, Mexico, Trinidad, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, French Guyana, Angola, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Cuba are also participating by providing tarpon genetic samples.

The Tampa Bay Redfish Fin Clip Program has 1,851 participating anglers who contributed over 9,899 samples. Bait and tackle shops (95) from Levy to Collier Counties participate. Bait and tackle shops (99) from Citrus County to Lee County participate. Of the 6,000 samples evaluated by FWRI, 56 were identified as hatchery-reared red drum. Hatchery fish have been located from north Tampa Bay to

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Turtle Bay in Charlotte Harbor. The project was awarded UPS's first Environmental Project Donation. In 2008, over \$95,000 in in-kind and cash donations resulted from this work.

The Seventh William R. and Lenore Mote International Symposium in Fisheries Ecology convened at Mote and focused on the "Spatial Dimensions of Fisheries: Putting It All in Place." The symposium addressed three primary themes: defining the spatial scale of ecosystems and social systems, governance and access of fisheries and addressing new tools and technologies for analysis. The conference drew 125 scientists from all over the world.

MARINE MAMMAL AND SEA TURTLE RESEARCH

The Manatee Research Program conducted aerial surveys that produced the highest counts on record for the Florida manatee. Counts around power plants (which have been conducted for more than 20 years) were more than 50 percent higher than the previous high counts.

Manatee Research Program staff played an integral role in the development of a Caribbean-wide Marine Mammal Action Plan that was formally adopted and approved in September and completed a revised Caribbean-wide Manatee Action Plan for the United Nations Environment Programme. Mote's Manatee Program is or planning to work in eight Caribbean countries or territories and is playing an important role in creating Caribbean-wide research and conservation programs.

Loggerhead sea turtle nesting rebounded in 2008 across the southeastern United States after a decade of steady decline. Scientists in Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program recorded 1,145 loggerhead nests on the 35 miles of Sarasota County beaches monitored by Mote staff, interns and volunteers each day during nesting season. Mote scientists tagged female sea turtles to monitor nesting habits for the 27th year, including fitting 18 loggerheads – males and females – with satellite tags. Tracking revealed that one female loggerhead nested eight times in one season – the

highest number ever scientifically recorded for this species.

The world's longest-running study of a dolphin population, the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, a partnership between Mote and the Chicago Zoological Society, marked its 38th year. Today, scientists at Mote are monitoring a span of five generations of individually-identifiable bottlenose dolphins living in the unique "natural laboratory" of Sarasota Bay, revealing how environmental changes and human activities affect the animals' survival, reproductive success, behavior and health throughout life. The program serves as a model for dolphin conservation research around the world, providing training opportunities for foreign scientists and students.

Scientists at Mote found in 2008 that Sarasota Bay fish, which dolphins depend on for food, have rebounded after losses from red tides in 2005 and 2006. Their results – the first hard numbers showing how fish populations change during red tides – demonstrate that most local fish species have returned to or exceeded their numbers from 2004, the first year of monitoring.

Mote helped create and distribute more than 157,000 "Dolphin-Friendly Fishing and Viewing Tips" cards that tell anglers and boaters how to safely share the sea with dolphins, offering guidelines developed by the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute.

Staff responded to a low number of dolphin strandings in 2008. Sea turtle strandings increased between April and August but then returned to average numbers. The absence of red tides may, in part, explain this lull in the stranding record. The change could also be happening because the dolphins may be shifting their distribution to other areas. Stranding staff also responded as part of a multi-agency team to the stranding of a sperm whale that grounded in Manatee County. A necropsy later showed the whale was chronically ill.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

CENTER FOR SHARK RESEARCH

The Shark Biology Program produced a major five-year technical report on shark and ray research with partners in the NOAA/NMFS-funded National Shark Research Consortium, which Mote coordinates. From 2002-2007, the Consortium conducted more than 120 individual projects, produced more than 360 publications, theses and reports, organized or participated in more than 100 conferences and workshops, trained more than 100 graduate and undergraduate students, pioneered innovative research techniques and technology, and provided critical data for U.S. stock assessments and worldwide surveys of shark, skate and ray species. NOAA funding for the Consortium – which includes Mote’s Center for Shark Research, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the University of Florida – was \$8.1 million over five years with an approximately equal match from other sources. Among the many Mote projects supported by this funding were surveys of large coastal sharks along the Southwest Florida coast that tracks species abundance and migration.

The Center for Shark Research has also been working to expand shark research efforts into the wider Caribbean, especially through collaborations with Cuban and Mexican scientists. Shark center collaborations with Cuban scientists gained momentum in 2008 and included research in Cuban waters with colleagues from the University of Havana and a high-level meeting of U.S. researchers, funders and other organizations involved in environmental projects in Cuba in New York.

Linked to this work is the Ocean Tracking Network project, an initiative to deploy biological and oceanographic sensors across the Straits of Florida from the Florida Keys to Cuba to track the movements of migratory ocean creatures. In June, Mote hosted a successful two-day international workshop on the project, involving 25 participants from 16 organizations.

Research efforts also continued with Mote’s ongoing whale shark studies in Mexico. Program staff tracked a whale shark for at least 4,500 miles from Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula south to waters between Brazil and Africa using a satellite tag, making the first record of an Atlantic whale shark’s journey across the equator. Mote scientists have made ground-breaking discoveries about this little-studied species through research since 2003, collaborating with other researchers from the U.S. and Mexico.

Mote scientists also satellite-tagged a 1,000-pound manta ray released from Atlantis, Paradise Island Resort, Bahamas. The tag collected data on this behemoth’s travels, habitat and behaviors and revealed that the manta survived the release and migrated to an area near North Carolina.

Scientists in the Marine Biomedical and Marine Immunology Programs continued laboratory studies of proteins produced by shark immune cells. Scientists have demonstrated that a protein mixture obtained from sharks inhibits the growth of human cancer cells. In collaboration with biochemists at Clemson University, Mote is working to produce smaller molecules from this mixture that will have an even greater potential for the creation of human cancer therapies. They are first evaluating the protein mixture’s ability to inhibit cancers in mice. Mote scientists also investigated how red tide toxins affect the immune systems of sea turtles, sharks, manatees and humans, with the overall goal of understanding potential health implications of red tide toxin exposure in sea life as well as in humans.

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION DIVISION

Jim Wharton, Vice President

Despite a down economy, demand for our programs continued to be strong in 2008. For instance, in April and May 2008, we served more children (3,100) than we did through all of 2006-2007 (2,600).

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Mote's summer programs drew nearly 600 participants in 2008, including more than 40 students who received scholarships for underserved youths through a grant from a Mote volunteer. The generous support has drawn additional funding from the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation and Wachovia. These programs are designed to teach children and adults about sea life, science and conservation through classroom and outdoor adventures, including kayak and scuba diving classes and trips to the Florida Keys.

Mote's Center for Distance Learning reached nearly 20,000 students through 500 SeaTrek programs – award winning videoconferencing and internet-based programs connecting schools with Mote educators. Mote educators reached full capacity by filling all program slots during the spring and fall seasons.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a 2008 grant for a new interactive traveling exhibit enhanced with live SeaTrek videoconferencing programs. The new exhibit will spotlight the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Production started this year for the exhibits' videoconference and supporting classroom materials, which will teach students in the Keys and elsewhere about marine science, conservation and how National Marine Sanctuaries protect natural resources.

Our High School Intern program completed a study funded by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) on human-dolphin interactions in Sarasota Bay in cooperation with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program. The program included a presentation at the annual conference of the Florida Marine Science Educators Association.

Mote also received a grant from the Verizon Foundation to train teachers for programs on watersheds, estuaries and their connections to the ocean. This project will span four coastal counties and include both classroom studies and a kayak-based field session. By training teachers to talk about these important ecosystems, Mote educators expand marine science outreach.

In 2008, more than 1,200 volunteers (including 122 college interns) logged 193,315 hours – a magnificent contribution of time exceeding \$3.3 million in value. In April, the Volunteer Awards Ceremony honored more than 472 volunteers for their contributions, including 87 volunteers who received the "President's Call to Service Award." This award is a national honor presented to volunteers who have donated 4,000 hours or more of service over the course of their lifetime.

STAFF: Debra R. Tidewell, AS, executive assistant
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CENTER FOR VOLUNTEER AND INTERN RESOURCES: Krystle N. Harvey, BS, intern coordinator • Lisa A. Kinsella, BA, volunteer coordinator

AQUARIUM HIGHLIGHTS

MOTE AQUARIUM

Dan Bebak, Vice President

2008 marked Mote Aquarium's 28th year of operation. The year was one marked by serious economic challenges, yet we were able to reduce expenses and generate new sources of revenue so that by year's end, a net \$1.1 million helped support the research mission of the institution.

Testament to the staff's dedication, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited Mote Aquarium for a second term. AZA is America's leading accrediting organization for zoos and aquariums and accredits only those institutions that have achieved rigorous standards for animal care, education, wildlife conservation and science. Fewer than 10 percent of the USDA-licensed wildlife exhibitors in the United States are accredited by the AZA. We're proud that our facility and animal care team has met the Association's high standards.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

A generous grant from volunteer Penelope Kingman in honor of Barry J. Kingman supported the construction of an exciting new Sea Turtle exhibit, including a new habitat for Hang Tough, the Aquarium's blind sea turtle. The new exhibit will include a 13,000 gallon habitat with a curved acrylic viewing window, new educational graphics and displays and information on the Lab's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program.

Another grant from the R.L. Sudakoff Foundation supported the upgrade of the shark habitat, shark theater and surrounding exhibits.

Research with Mote Aquarium's resident manatees Hugh and Buffett continued and revealed that manatees can hear sounds at unexpectedly high frequencies of more than 70 kHz. Masked audiogram procedures indicated that manatees can effectively detect sound in noise with exquisite sensitivity. Staff are also measuring the manatees' low-frequency vibrotactile detection.

In the Sea Turtle Care Program, training has been extremely successful with Shelly and Montego and has allowed us to create a behavioral audiogram to study their hearing. Data will be collected over the next year to obtain information about their hearing abilities. The information is being gathered through trained behavioral responses to sound tones. Harriet, a green sea turtle, was re-located into the Manatee Habitat in May. The turtle has been undergoing rehabilitation due to a boat strike, and Manatee Training staff has been working with Harriet regularly to increase jaw mobility and assess visual capacity.

In late 2008 after extensive discussions with both Aquarium and Research division staff, we decided to move the operational aspects of the Dolphin and Whale Hospital and Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital from the Aquarium Division to the Research Division under the guidance of the Center for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research. This will become effective in 2009. (The resident marine mammals and sea turtles will remain under Aquarium operations.) In the meantime, the hospitals treated two male pygmy killer whales; unfortunately, both succumbed to their illnesses. Just after Christmas, we received a local stranded dolphin that we expect to release in 2009. We also treated more than a dozen sea turtles and released six of them.

KEY AQUARIUM EVENTS

30 Days of Discovery: Mote partnered with eight local attractions that offered 2-for-1 admission prices for Florida residents during November. Participating attractions included Crowley Museum and Nature Center, G. WIZ The Science Museum, Historic Spanish Point, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Mote Aquarium, Sarasota Jungle Gardens and South Florida Museum.

AQUARIUM HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Sharktoberfest in October: Children were encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and meet Mote mascot Gilly the Shark, who was also dressed up in different costumes. On Halloween, visitors watched the sea turtles eat frozen treats, an ice carving presentation in front of the manatee tank. Mote Aquarium staff carved pumpkins underwater among sandbar, nurse and blacknose sharks in Mote's Shark Zone. Marine life artist and muralist Wyland visited Mote in November to retouch his original mural on the wall at the Ann and Alfred Goldstein Marine Mammal Center for Research and Rehabilitation. Wyland first painted the mural at Mote in 1993 to help raise awareness of the ocean and its inhabitants. He retouched the wall in 2005 and added a manatee in honor of Mote resident manatee, Buffett, to the original dolphins and sea turtle. This year, Wyland added manatee calf.

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MOTE MOBILE: Glenn H. Markos

SEA TURTLE CARE: Sarah C. Alessi, BS • Kelly J. Martin, BS

ADJUNCT STAFF: Clyde Roper, Ph.D. • Stephen Spotte, Ph.D.

OF NOTE

- Mote sponsored the second annual Barn Raisin' in March. This event continued to help support the rebuilding of a the production building at Mote Aquaculture Park that was destroyed in a fire in 2006.
- The 22nd annual Run for the Turtles took place in April with proceeds benefitting Mote's sea turtle conservation and research program.
- In June, Mote celebrated the International Year of the Reef with the World Ocean Day Family Festival, the Pirate Coast Dive Festival and the Fourth Annual Artificial Reef Cleanup & Treasure Hunt, which included diving on local artificial reef sites to remove accumulated trash and debris.
- Dr. Sylvia Earle, Mote trustee and world-renowned oceanographer and explorer, was awarded the first "Eugenie Clark Scientific Explorers Award" in July. Dr. Earle has led more than 60 expeditions and logged more than 6,000 hours underwater, including the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970 and setting a record for solo diving to a depth of 1,000 meters (3,300 feet).
- The Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County recognized Mote Marine Laboratory with the newly created John J. Cox Community Partner of the Year Award in September.
- In October, the courtyard of Mote Aquarium was transformed into an old-fashioned saloon and dance hall for Mote's annual Black Tie Gala, Oceanic Evening. The theme was "The Magnificent Seven" and supported Mote's seven research centers. Judy Graham and the Oceanic Committee put together a fun and elegant evening and Mote's seven research center directors were surprised and delighted with their Eugenie Clark Scientific Explorer Awards. Honorees were Dr. Ernest Estevez, Dr. Robert E. Hueter, Dr. Kenneth M. Leber, Dr. Kevan L. Main, Dr. Richard H. Pierce, Dr. John E. Reynolds III and Dr. David Vaughan.

ADJUNCT PROGRAMS

THE MARINE POLICY INSTITUTE

Launched in 2006, the Marine Policy Institute received a \$400,000 grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice in 2007 that helped the Institute move forward on a series of outreach and network-building activities in 2008. The Institute's – the mission of connecting science to society – is designed to strengthen the scientific basis of public policy and societal decision making for economic development and the sustainability of our oceans and coastal ecosystems.

The Institute hosted two major events including "Islands in the Stream," a science forum attended by 80 scientists, and a meeting the its new advisory committee. Islands in the Stream was convened to discuss a proposal being studied and developed through the National Marine Sanctuaries Program to set a new precedent for marine conservation in the United States by establishing a network of marine protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico, including areas on Florida's west coast.

The advisory committee meeting included 18 leading experts from across the nation brought together to help advise the institute on priorities, production of high quality products, management structure, financial matters, future directions and best practices.

PROTECT OUR REEFS

Since 2003, Mote has administered the funds generated through sales of the Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate to Florida drivers. In addition to providing an extremely important source of financial support for the Center for Coral Reef Research, funds generated through plate sales also support a grants program.

In 2008, total revenue was \$1.06 million and the plate ranked No. 7 of the state's 110 specialty license plates. The grants program also awarded 16 grants for coral reef research, conservation and outreach programs. These grants are designed in-part to provide initial funding for new research investigations with the idea that the projects will eventually lead to larger and more critical investigations.

Efforts designed to promote knowledge of the plate to Florida drivers included the production of a new high-definition public service announcement featuring Dr. Sylvia Earle and a second PSA produced for Spanish speakers.

THANK YOU

Not many organizations can boast such varied scientific research or scientists as widely known and respected for their cutting-edge programs. Much of this research occurs right next to a well-established and very popular public attraction designed to showcase the many fascinating things our science discovers about the sea.

Mote's support is similarly diverse. While we receive some funding from state and federal government sources, our work would not be possible without the generous support of individuals and private foundations recognized on the following pages. Our donors come from all over the U.S. and abroad.

We are very grateful to all of our supporters and want to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their generosity. This support is critical to Mote's success.

Glenda Wright
Vice President for Development

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FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

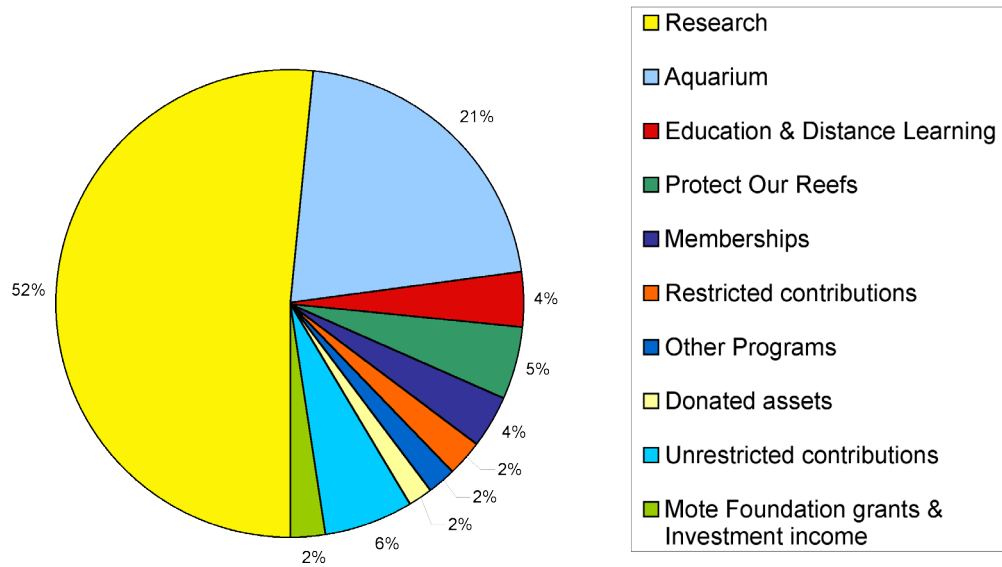
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,478,320	\$ 2,460,134
Accounts receivable	138,290	301,484
Due from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	1,586	1,380
Research grants receivable	2,235,795	1,980,221
Bequest receivable	-	3,344
Pledges receivable	98,089	147,587
Inventory	179,514	202,423
Prepaid expenses and other assets	59,502	57,769
Land	7,498,190	7,498,190
Construction in progress	141,195	11,894
Property and equipment, net	23,984,445	25,356,385
Beneficial interest in the net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	<u>8,805,065</u>	<u>12,956,351</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 45,619,991</u>	 <u>\$ 50,977,162</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,188,992	\$ 958,108
Accrued payroll	601,217	579,837
Memberships relating to future periods	525,690	480,959
Funds advanced on research programs	2,563,610	3,312,471
Line of credit	3,968,668	8,139,671
Notes payable	<u>6,405,379</u>	<u>2,247,223</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>15,253,556</u>	 <u>15,718,269</u>
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted	20,507,201	21,538,915
Temporarily restricted	1,046,776	4,801,542
Permanently restricted	<u>8,812,458</u>	<u>8,918,436</u>
Total net assets	<u>30,366,435</u>	<u>35,258,893</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 45,619,991</u>	 <u>\$ 50,977,162</u>

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

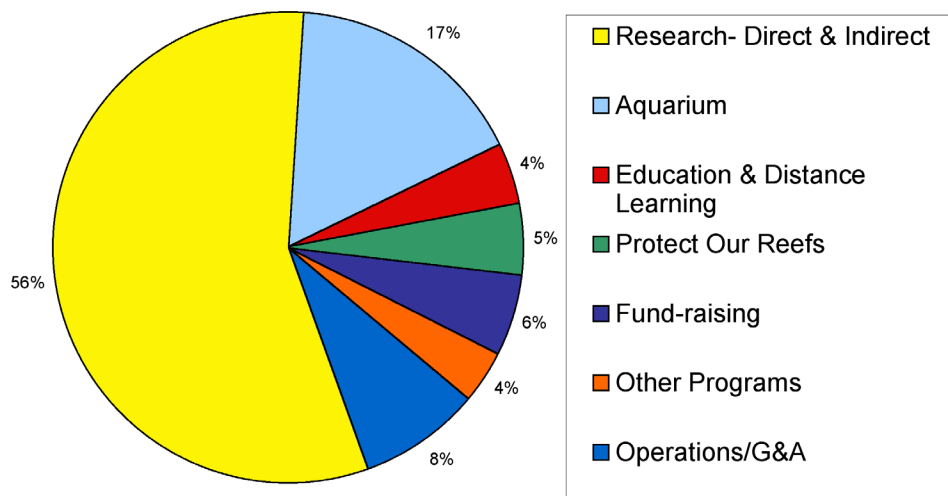
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets		
Program revenue		
Research grants		
Federal	\$ 3,337,773	\$ 4,041,901
State	3,636,475	3,724,890
Other	3,722,396	3,794,965
Aquarium		
Admission fees	2,484,103	2,341,301
Gift shop	1,030,537	1,125,193
Other	259,685	301,585
Memberships	770,900	832,741
Education	781,245	786,750
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	1,036,551	968,074
Other programs	428,593	307,253
Contributions	1,298,251	1,317,413
Donated assets	327,222	419,114
Grants from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	438,295	414,825
Investment income	50,570	86,186
Realized loss on investments, net	(1,176)	(24)
Realized gain on disposal of assets	8,026	2,028
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>815,025</u>	<u>996,344</u>
 Total unrestricted revenues and support	 <u>20,424,471</u>	 <u>21,460,539</u>
 Expenses		
Program services		
Research	12,128,802	13,298,120
Education	926,950	949,311
Aquarium	3,599,499	3,906,801
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	1,051,600	947,187
Other	781,377	871,734
Supporting services		
Administrative and general	1,767,516	2,219,567
Fund raising	<u>1,200,441</u>	<u>1,122,730</u>
Total expenses	<u>21,456,185</u>	<u>23,315,450</u>
 Decrease in unrestricted net assets	 \$ <u>(1,031,714)</u>	 \$ <u>(1,854,911)</u>
 Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions		
Construction	\$ 354,837	\$ 359,121
Aquarium	609,841	419,778
Other programs	135,325	124,025
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net	(4,409)	556
Investment income	9,423	11,800
Change in net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	(4,044,758)	434,834
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(815,025)</u>	<u>(996,344)</u>
 (Decrease) Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	 <u>(3,754,766)</u>	 <u>353,770</u>
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions for endowment fund	550	500
Change in net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	<u>(106,528)</u>	<u>69,213</u>
 (Decrease) Increase in permanently restricted net assets	 <u>(105,978)</u>	 <u>69,713</u>
 Decrease in net assets	 (4,892,458)	 (1,431,428)
 Net assets at beginning of year	 <u>35,258,893</u>	 <u>36,690,321</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 30,366,435</u>	<u>\$ 35,258,893</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

Mote Marine Laboratory
REVENUES 2008
Total \$20,715,013

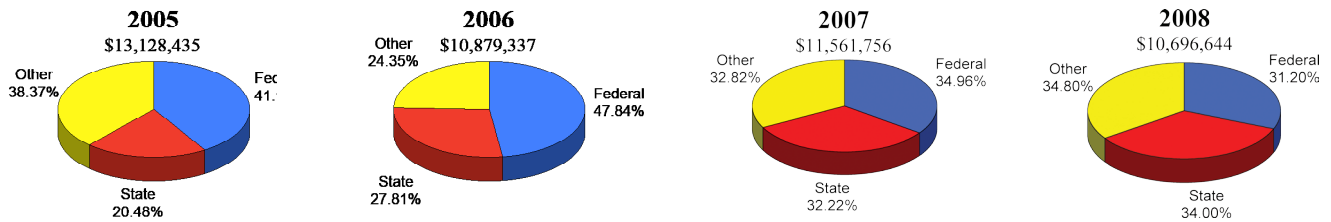


Mote Marine Laboratory
EXPENSES 2008
Total \$21,456,185

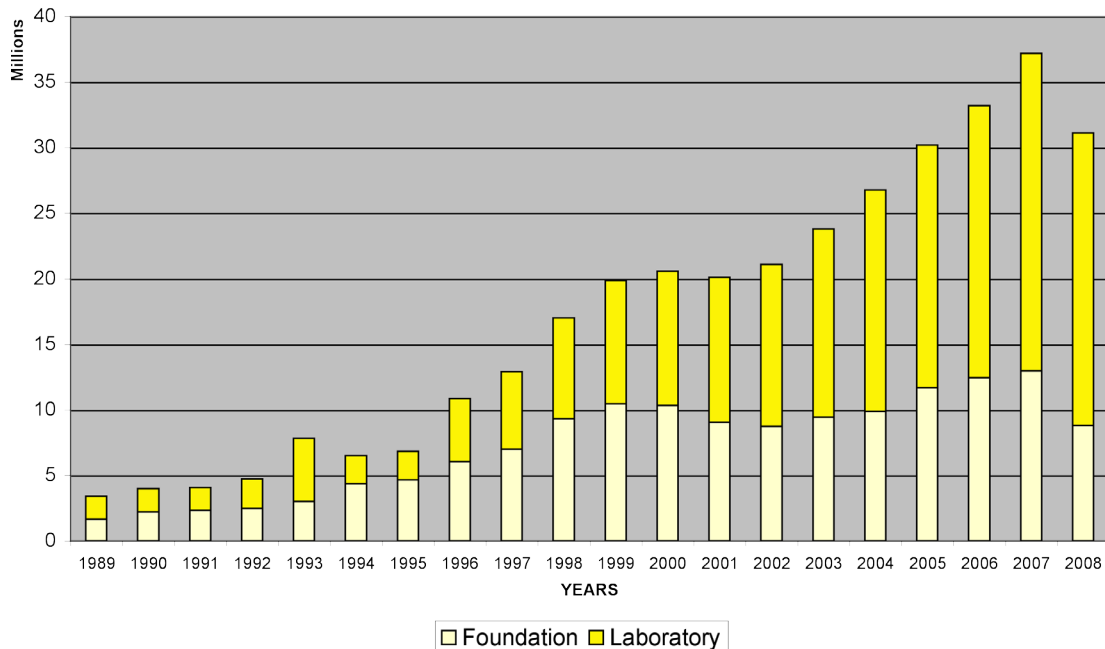


FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

RESEARCH REVENUES



TOTAL NET ASSET GROWTH 20 YEARS 1989-2008



The Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities included are excerpts from our complete set of financial statements audited by Kerkerling, Berberio & Co., P.A., for the years ended Dec. 31, 2008 and 2007. The complete set of audited financial statements can be obtained from Dena Smith, Chief Financial Officer or downloaded from www.mote.org/2008audit.

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LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

ARTHUR VINING DAVIS LIBRARY

Sue Stover, RN, Director

The Library has been providing resources, reference and research for 30 years at Mote Marine Laboratory. Its collection is maintained for the support of marine research and education and is open to the public by appointment.

The Major General Raymond E. and Margaret E. Mason Technology Hub in the front of the library provides desktop and laptop computers, specialized software, scanners and printers for library patrons.

The Library also received a “Connecting to Collections Bookshelf” grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant provides important conservation tools that support the preservation of special collections. Among the important works housed in the Library:

- The Eugenie Clark Collection – articles and books written by or about Mote’s founding director, Dr. Eugenie Clark.
- The Perry Gilbert Collection – a collection of papers, letters, documents and photographs that provide an insider’s view of this eminent shark scholar and Mote Marine Laboratory director from 1967-1978.
- The collected works of Mote scientists – more than 1,300 “Mote Technical Reports” produced since the mid-1970s and 845 peer-reviewed articles compiled in the “Collected Papers from Mote Marine Laboratory.” Many of the technical reports have been digitized and are accessible online through Mote’s institutional repository, DSpace, online at <https://dspace.mote.org/dspace/>.

The Friends of Mote Library continue to be an important source of financial support for the Library, holding several fundraising events throughout the year, including the annual author program “Books with Bites.”

In 2008 alone, the Library staff and nine volunteers:

- Catalogued 893 items: 356 books, 449 reprints and 88 Mote Technical Reports
- Processed 866 print journal issues, including 616 subscriptions and 250 donated
- Ordered, copied or scanned 434 interlibrary loans for staff and interns
- Circulated 215 books and reports to staff and interns
- Loaned, copied, scanned 160 items to other libraries
- Responded to 50-plus public requests
- Performed 30 literature searches on specific topics for staff, interns and volunteers
- Digitized and electronically catalogued 30 Mote Technical Reports and made them public through the Library’s online access called DSpace (<https://dspace.mote.org/dspace/>)
- Received 130 books and 250 miscellaneous donated journal issues

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COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

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Florida International University (Miami, FL)
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Marathon and Key West, FL)
Florida Power & Light Corporation (Miami, FL)
Florida Sea Grant (Gainesville, FL)
Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)
FUNDEMAR --Fundación Dominicana de Estudios Marinos, Inc. (Dominican Republic)
Galveston Laboratory (Galveston, TX)
Georgia Aquarium (Atlanta, GA)
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute (Tampa, FL)
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (Fort Pierce, FL)
Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
Hillsborough Community College, Aquaculture Program (Brandon, FL)
Horn Point Lab - University of Maryland (Cambridge, MD)
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (Orlando, FL)
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca (Mexico City, Mexico)
Iowa State University (Ames, IA)
J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (Sanibel Island, FL)
Lemur Conservation Foundation (Myakka City, FL)
Longboat Key Turtle Watch, Inc. (FL)
Lovelace Respiratory Institute (Albuquerque, NM)
Lowry Park Zoo (Tampa, FL)
Manatee County School Board (Bradenton, FL)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA)
Mel Fisher Museum (Key West, FL)
Miami Science Museum (Miami, FL)
Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI)
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (Moss Landing, CA)
Mount Sinai Medical Center (Miami, FL)
Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration (Mystic, CT)
The Nature Conservancy's Florida Keys and Marine Conservation Programs (Marathon Key, FL)
NASA Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL)
NASA Office of Earth Science (Washington, DC)
NASA Signals of Spring (Rye, NY)
NOAA-Fisheries (Washington, DC)
NOAA Fisheries, Manchester Research Station (Manchester, WA)
NOAA Fisheries, Miami Laboratory (Miami, FL)
NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Woods Hole, MA)
NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (Seattle, WA)
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources (Silver Spring, MD)
NOAA Fisheries, Panama City Laboratory (Panama City, FL)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Miami, FL)

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS (continued)

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office (St. Petersburg, FL)
NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center (La Jolla, CA)
National Geographic Society (Washington, D.C.)
National Ocean Services, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science,
National Ocean Science (Silver Spring, MD)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Center for Coastal
Fisheries/Habitat Research (Beaufort, NC)
New College of Florida (Sarasota, FL)
New Gate School (Sarasota, FL)
North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)
North Port High School (North Port, FL)
North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management (Barrow, AK)
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (Olympia, WA)
Northwest Marine Technology (Shaw Island, WA; Olympia, WA)
Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Oberto National Series Tournaments (Little Rock, AR)
Ocean Conservancy (St. Petersburg, FL)
Oceanic Institute (Waimanalo, HI)
Optech International (Vaughan, Ontario, Canada)
Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Engineering (Beaverton, OR)
Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (Memphis, TN)
Parker Aquarium (Bradenton, FL)
Pelican Man Bird Sanctuary (Sarasota, FL)
Perry Institute for Marine Science (Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas)
Pier Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI)
Pigeon Key Foundation (Pigeon Key, FL)
Portland State University (Portland, OR)
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Australia)
Randell Research Center-Florida Museum of Natural History (Pineland, FL)
Riverview High School, Aquaculture Small Learning Community
(Sarasota, FL)
Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ)
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory (Sanibel, FL)
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (Sarasota, FL)
Sarasota County School Board (Sarasota, FL)
Sarasota Military Academy (Sarasota, FL)
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (Sarasota, FL)
Scripps Institution of Oceanography (La Jolla, CA)
Sea Mammal Research Unit (St. Andrews, Scotland)
Seaturtle.org (Durham, NC)
Selby Botanical Gardens (Sarasota, FL)
Smithsonian Field Station (Fort Pierce, FL)
Smithsonian National Zoological Park (Washington, DC)
Snook Foundation, The (Sarasota, FL)
Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (Longboat Key, FL)
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (Columbia, SC)
South Florida Water Management District (Fort Myers, FL)
Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, IL)
Southwest Florida Water Management District (Brooksville, FL)
Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)
State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Olympia, WA)
Tampa Bay Watch (St. Petersburg, FL)
Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Austin, TX)
Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (Amarillo, TX)
Town of Longboat Key (FL)
Turneffe Atoll Conservation Foundation (Belize)
Turtle Hospital (Marathon Key, FL)
U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington, DC)
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Station
(Fort Pierce, FL)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Sanibel, FL, Vero Beach, FL,
Jacksonville, FL, Anchorage, AK and Washington, DC)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Washington, DC)
U.S. Geological Survey (Gainesville and St. Petersburg, FL, Denver, CO,
Washington, DC)
U.S. Marine Mammal Commission (Bethesda, MD)
Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur (Baja California Sur,
Mexico)
University of Alabama (Birmingham, AL)
University of Akron (Akron, OH)
University of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)
University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
University of California at Davis (Davis, CA)
University of California at Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)
University of Canberra (Canberra, Australia)
University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)
University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Department
(Gainesville, FL)
University of Florida, Tropical Research Laboratory (Ruskin, FL)
University of Florida, Whitney Marine Lab (St. Augustine, FL)
University of Georgia (Athens, GA)
University of Guelph (Guelph, Ontario, Canada)
University of Illinois (Maywood, IL)
University of Maryland, Biotechnology Institute Center of Marine
Biotechnology (Baltimore, MD)
University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point
Laboratory (Cambridge, MD)
University of Maryland, Department of Biology (College Park, MD)
University of Maryland, School of Medicine (Baltimore, MD)
University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston, MA)
University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric
Sciences (RSMAS) (Miami, FL)
University of Miami, School of Medicine (Miami, FL)
University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH)
University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)
University of Paris (Orsay, France)
University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Rome, Italy)

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS (continued)

University of South Alabama (Mobile, AL)
University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
University of South Florida, College of Marine Science, Center for
Ocean Technology (St. Petersburg, FL)
University of South Florida, Children's Research Institute
(St. Petersburg, FL)
University of South Florida, College of Medicine (Tampa, FL)
University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Marine Science (Stennis Space Center, MS)
University of Southern Mississippi's, College of Science & Industry,
Gulf Coast Research Lab (Ocean Springs, MS)
University of Stirling (Stirling, Scotland)
University of Texas, Marine Science Institute (Port Aransas, TX)
University of Texas, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
(Austin, TX)
University of the West Indies (Barbados)
University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
University of Western Illinois (Moline, IL)
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (Gloucester Point, VA)
WGCU (Fort Myers, FL)
Waddell Mariculture Center (Columbia, SC)
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)
Webb Research Corporation (Falmouth, MA)
Weber State University (Ogden, UT)
Western Connecticut State University, Dept. of Biological and
Environmental Sciences (Danbury, CT)
Whalenet/ Wheelock College (Boston, MA)
Wildlife Trust (Palisades, NY; Prospect Park, PA; Sarasota, FL)
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Woods Hole, MA)
Yale Peabody Museum (New Haven, CT)

AFFILIATIONS

Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium are accredited by:
The American Association of Museums
The Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Mote Marine Laboratory is a member of:
Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean
Chambers of Commerce of Anna Maria Island,
Englewood-Cape Haze Area, Longboat Key, Manatee,
Greater Sarasota and Venice Area
City Island Leaseholders Association
Florida Institute of Oceanography
Florida Ocean Alliance
Florida Sea Grant
St. Armands Circle Association
National Association of Marine Laboratories
The Ocean Project
The Oceanography Society
Science and Environment Council of Sarasota County
Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

FIN

Main Campus and Public Aquarium

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Field Stations

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Summerland Key, FL 33042

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Public Outreach Facilities

MOTE'S LIVING REEF EXHIBIT

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Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex

33 East Quay Road

Key West, FL 33040

Phone: 305.296.3551

Fax: 305.296.2325