



MOTE MARINE LABORATORY | 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT & THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Our Annual Report presents to you a public accounting of what happened the previous year. While it would be difficult to offer a comprehensive account of the highlights and milestones we marked in each of the 353 research projects that were under way in 2007, we try to provide information about the most interesting and notable highlights in Mote's seven research centers and in the Aquarium and Education divisions.

As you review this Report, and the Milestones section that begins on page 3, we're sure you will absorb the breadth and depth of the many research and public outreach initiatives that drive Mote Marine Laboratory. The Report reflects the efforts of a versatile staff dedicated to excellence in marine research, education and outreach, not to mention our devoted volunteer corps of 1,400 people.

Through 52-years, Mote has significantly advanced many areas of scientific discovery and created new mechanisms to share these discoveries with the public. Mote's Education Division offers a host of programs, constantly evaluates whether our offerings are meeting the public need and makes adjustments when necessary. Outreach efforts also extend through Mote Aquarium where a combination of exhibits and highly knowledgeable docents provide an exciting setting for teaching the public about the sea.

2007 also marked the first policy assessment put forth by the Marine Policy Institute, our latest avenue for reaching new audiences – in this case to stakeholders, leaders in public policy and members of the public interested in the intersection of science and society. The Red Tide Assessment was well-received and helped focus public discussion surrounding red tide's effects on Southwest Florida.

In addition to celebrating each year's highlights, this Annual Report also allows us the opportunity to share with you some of the challenges we face at Mote. This year, much effort went into rebuilding Mote Aquaculture Park following the 2006 fire that destroyed one building and a third of the sturgeon stock. Exhaustive efforts by staff and volunteers have helped the Park re-build and are supporting the investigation of new business models that will ensure the park succeeds in its efforts to be an economically viable solution to farm-raising seafood.

Other challenges Mote faces are similar to those faced by many scientific and educational organizations nationwide as the economy wanes and federal and state governments are forced to trim budgets, especially those for marine programs.

Fortunately, Mote has one factor that has continually allowed our organization to weather difficult times: the support of a devoted group of staff, friends, volunteers and members. It is only through your ongoing dedication to Mote that we will meet future challenges and move forward in difficult times.

Thank you for your support.
We are extremely grateful,



Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Judy Graham
Chairman, Board of Trustees

2007 MOTE MARINE LABORATORY MILESTONES

What were Mote Marine Laboratory and Mote Aquarium staff up to in 2007? Turns out, quite a bit. In 2007, Mote staff:

- Worked on 353 ongoing research projects
- Wrote 180 new grant proposals
- Hosted 125 college interns
- Hosted 368,000 Aquarium visitors
- Reached another 320,000 people via the Mote Mobile aquarium
- Was supported in its mission by 1,400 volunteers
- Created five new programs, serving more students than ever

Here is just a taste of the year's notable happenings in Science, Education and the Aquarium from 2007.

SCIENCE

Name that Squid

■ Mote mollusk expert, Debi Ingrao, helped document new species of squid found in the Atlantic Ocean this year. The first was found in February floating just south of Key West and sent to Mote for identification. The squid was identified as an *Asperoteuthis acanthoderma*, a deep-water squid species previously reported in Okinawa and Hawaii and in the Celebes Sea, south of the Philippines, but never in the Atlantic.

■ A second squid, an *Architeuthis dux*, or giant squid, was found in the Florida Straits by another fisherman and brought to Mote for identification. Experts believe it to be the first *Architeuthis* documented in that area of the Florida Straits.

Restoring Coral Reefs

■ In June, Mote's Protect Our Reefs Grants Committee awarded \$375,000 worth of grants to organizations focused on coral reef research, conservation and outreach efforts. The grants, made possible through the sale of the Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate purchased by Florida drivers, supported new studies designed to help scientists have a more comprehensive picture of why corals are in decline and the factors that keep coral healthy.

■ In August and September, Dr. Kim Ritchie and other researchers completed a second Coral Spawning Expedition in the Florida Keys. Funded in part by the Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate, the Mote-Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

expedition helped scientists better understand the optimum conditions for coral reproduction and settlement. All told, researchers collected about 2 million gametes – a tiny fraction of all the eggs and sperm the corals released – making the 2007 season a great success.

■ In early December, a group of experts met at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center in Key West to discuss efforts at restoring long-spined sea urchin populations on South Florida's coral reefs. Long-spined sea urchins (*Diadema antillarum*) are important to coral reef health because they eat algae on the corals that, if left unchecked, overgrow existing coral and prevent new coral from settling.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Sharks & their Sawfish Cousins

■ Led by Dr. Jim Gelsleichter, Mote researchers caught, tagged and released bull sharks to determine whether the animals were exposed to drugs excreted by humans. Early findings of this work, based on animals tested in 2006, were released during the annual meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society in St. Louis. Those results indicated that bull sharks had been exposed to extremely low levels of anti-depressants. Studies are continuing to find out if those exposures negatively affect the sharks.

■ Mote's Center for Shark Research gathered the information to help get smalltooth sawfish listed as an endangered species in 2003. In June 2007, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted to ban the international trade in sawfish, adding new protections for an animal whose population is now mostly confined to Southwest Florida waters. Ongoing sawfish studies also determined that size-at-maturity for male sawfish is larger than previously estimated.

■ Shark research center director Dr. Robert Heuter continued his whale shark studies with Georgia Aquarium in 2007 in Atlanta and in Holbox, Mexico. These studies are revealing new information about whale shark travels and about their feeding mechanisms. Satellite tags attached to these sharks off the Mexican coast have worked well and recorded long-distance movements into the Gulf, the Caribbean and out of the region. The tags have also recorded the sharks diving more than one mile deep, adding important information to the world's knowledge of this species. Mote also began new whale shark research in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

2007 MILESTONES

(continued)

Sea Turtle Migration and Nesting Discoveries

- In August, Mote completed its third year of using satellite tags to learn about the migrations and potential threats facing sea turtles that nest on area beaches. Scientists tagged 16 nesting female loggerheads and one green sea turtle from May through July on Casey Key in south Sarasota County. To track where the tagged turtles have gone, go to www.seaturtle.org. Mote researchers discovered that nest site fidelity – that is, a turtle’s tendency to nest repeatedly in the same area – varies markedly. For example, “Wiblet” nested six times within 2 km each time. At the other extreme, “Bubble” nested four times in an area that covered 110 km.
- In November, Mote excavated the last sea turtle nest of the season located on the 35 miles of beaches patrolled by staff and volunteers. In 2007, Mote recorded 738 loggerhead nests and 1,108 false crawls, compared to 898 loggerhead nests and 685 false crawls reported in 2006. Unfortunately, the 2007 loggerhead nest count follows a downward trend taking place locally and statewide in recent years. We estimate that nesting on all beaches produced 36,305 hatchlings. Yet 2007 was a bumper year for green sea turtle nests. Record numbers of greens were documented, with 14 nests and 13 false crawls. Many other nesting sites within Florida also recorded high nest counts for greens.
- Also in November, Mote’s sea turtle research staff received some unfortunate information about a turtle it had tagged in 2002 from colleagues at the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida. (Tags used by Mote’s sea turtle research program come from the University of Florida’s Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, which maintains a Sea Turtle Tag Inventory program for the U.S. to prevent duplication of tag numbers by various research programs.) Mote was notified that one of its tags had been recovered from a loggerhead 20 to 30 miles off the coast of Sabancuy, Campeche, Mexico. The notification – from a fisheries biologist in Mexico – stated that the turtle had likely been eaten.

Sarasota Dolphin Population Changes

- Summer 2007 was better than average for dolphin births in Sarasota Bay – there were 11. But overall, the number of dolphins using the Bay continued to decline, as it has since 2004, following five years of record abundance at a level of about 180 residents. Sarasota Bay is home to the world’s longest-running study of a wild dolphin population and the research is conducted jointly by Mote and the Chicago Zoological Society.
- Efforts examining red tide toxin levels in dolphins demonstrated that local dolphins did not die directly from red tide toxins during the severe 2005 bloom. However, dramatic and unsustainable increases in dolphin deaths resulted from dolphins’ attempts to steal bait and catch from anglers. This coincided with a precipitous decline in dolphin prey fish abundance in Sarasota Bay, significant declines in dolphin body condition and unprecedented changes in group size and the locations where dolphins spent their time during the red tide.
- Researchers also worked on new ways to educate anglers on the problems associated with feeding wild dolphins and how to help species conservation by properly discarding fishing line and tackle and by following the best fishing and viewing practices developed by Mote, the Chicago Zoological Society, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute and a number of anglers and fishing guides.

Manatee Research Supports Conservation Efforts

- Mote scientists have found startlingly high levels of certain contaminants – especially PCBs – in tissue samples taken from manatees in Mexico and Florida. Chlorinated pesticide residues have also been common and diverse in manatee tissues. The PCB levels are high enough to exceed the “toxic threshold” for some other species.
- Mote has also documented very high numbers of manatees using the waters of Lee County. These findings are communicated to managers and enforcement officers so that manatees can be protected in their most critical habitats on a near-real time basis.

2007 MILESTONES

(continued)

- Research in Mote Aquarium with resident manatees Hugh and Buffett showed that manatees can localize certain sounds better than humans, but not as well as dolphins. New research under way will look at manatees' hearing range and determine how sensitive the hairs on manatees' bodies are and how they use them to "sense" their environment.

Whales May Live 200 Years

- Mote has developed a new technique using chemical changes in an eye lens to provide accurate and precise ages for bowhead whales and other baleen whale species. The creation of the new technique was prompted by scientists who needed a new way to determine whale ages because traditional methods of aging a marine mammal by looking at the rings on a tooth don't work – baleen whales don't have teeth. Findings indicate that bowhead whales may reach 200 years old. The technique may be one that Dr. Dana Wetzel can also use to age sea birds and other species.

What do they Hear?

- Experts have convened a series of meetings at Mote on the "Effects of Man-Made Sounds on Marine Animals: Fishes and Turtles." The 15 participants, including Mote scientist, Dr. Bill Tavolga, were chosen because of their international recognition in the field. The conferences have been sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. In 2008, the group will prepare a final report summarizing the current state of knowledge about the effects of man-made sound in the ocean and make recommendations to mitigate possible harmful effects on marine life.

Red Tide Reports in Real Time

- The Beach Conditions Report created by Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick of Mote's Environmental Health Program expanded this year to include information from beaches in Pinellas and Lee counties. The Beach Conditions Report™ provides current information about Southwest Florida beaches, including whether dead fish are present and whether there is respiratory irritation among beachgoers. The report can be accessed at www.mote.org/beaches, giving residents and visitors daily updates on beach conditions. Those without Internet access may call 941-BEACHES (941-388-5223).

Red Tide Technology

- Three underwater "robots" are now outfitted with red tide detectors, or BreveBusters™, and are swimming in our coastal waters on a regular basis. A robot nicknamed "Nemo" swam a mission in October for 26 days with no intervention from Mote scientists. Every few hours, these robots come to the surface and transmit information to Mote about whether red tide is present in their patrol zone. Scientists in Mote's Sarasota Operations Coastal Ocean Observing Lab remotely direct the robots to hot spots where red tide might be present, allowing the BreveBusters™ they carry to sample the water for red tide. The BreveBusters™ were developed by Dr. Gary Kirkpatrick, head of Mote's Phytoplankton Ecology Program.
- In September, another new robot came to Sarasota to help researchers understand how children are affected by red tide. Called "PIPER," the robotic air sampler is designed to mimic the movements of a child 6 to 12 months old. The device, created at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey, was initially designed to measure children's exposure to indoor particulate matter, such as dust.

Snook Restocking Program Marks Major Milestones

- Dr. Nathan Brennan of Mote and scientists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission released 3,000 juvenile snook in October in four Sarasota County creeks as part of a marine fish restocking study. The release marked the first time that wild snook were held and matured to spawn in captivity and their offspring raised and released to the wild. Today, Mote staff provide key information and leadership for statewide planning in marine stock enhancement.
- Mote began a three-year study of snook spawning habits in the summer of 2007. Dr. Aaron Adams and his staff tagged and released snook along Charlotte Harbor beaches to better understand how this species uses different types of habitat at different times of their lifecycle. The studies will build on what researchers have learned about the critical importance of mangrove creeks for juvenile snook.

2007 MILESTONES

(continued)

Breakthroughs at Mote Aquaculture Park

- Mote expanded sturgeon caviar production to three harvests at Mote Aquaculture Park in eastern Sarasota County in 2007. The caviar is produced by sturgeon grown in environmentally friendly water recirculating systems. Mote was the first organization in the state to harvest caviar.
- Sustainable water recycling innovations continued for commercial-scale application in 2007. The goal is to reduce water-use requirements and discharge for fish farming. The research has led to a new water filtration system design and a provisional patent application. The demonstration project is creating a model for environmentally friendly aquaculture that is economically viable for farmers.
- The Marine Aquaculture Research Program is now also developing inland marine, zero-discharge filtration systems to produce large numbers of redfish to enhance and rebuild wild fish stocks. Working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Harbor Branch Oceanographic, the consortium's goal is to create a network of marine hatcheries across the state, expanding on Mote's successful aquaculture efforts with pompano and snook. Redfish, or red drum, are one of the most popular gamefish species in the state and play a vital role in Florida's fishing economy.
- Efforts to use environmental factors to control snook breeding behavior continued in 2007 when male and female snook were successfully spawned by Mote scientists a full two months before the natural spawning season. Being able to spawn snook in captivity will allow for large-scale production of snook – also an extremely important species for Florida's fishing economy.

Underwater Archaeology Study is the First

- In May, a team of scholars from several Florida universities enlisted the help of Mote's underwater archaeology team led by Dr. Coz Cozzi to search for artifacts of an early 1800's Black Seminole settlement called Angola. The group performed the first underwater archaeological research study ever conducted in the Manatee River.

Submarine Cavern Discoveries

- Mote scientists have added several sites to the list of known underwater sinkholes and cavern systems on the west Florida shelf. Averaging about 50 miles from shore, these unique features are aggregation sites for marine life and may harbor new species. They are also promising venues for archaeological discovery. In 2007, scientists found that some offshore cavern systems show faint signs of freshwater discharge into the Gulf.

Measuring Human Impacts

- Mote chemists have developed a new method of detecting optical brighteners – dyes added to detergent to make clothes shine – that can be used while underway on a moving boat. This method allows scientists to survey large areas for signs of contamination caused by septic tanks in just a few hours and brings new certainty to determining where human wastes go in rivers and bays.

New Creek Report Card

- Dr. Ernie Estevez has refined a rapid-survey system using biological measurements to determine the ecological condition of tidal creeks. The highly-changeable nature of creeks has for years hindered the development of such a system. Now, local governments and other resource managers can use Estevez's rapid-survey system to determine which creeks are in good or poor condition. This year, Mote's index was applied successfully to all 16 of Sarasota County's creeks.

Mote's First Policy Assessment

- In August, the Marine Policy Institute at Mote released its first policy report, "An Assessment of Florida Red Tide," offering an overview of past and current red tide research and providing recommendations for future efforts. (Get the report at www.mote.org/mpj). The Assessment calls for scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and the public to move beyond the polarizing debate surrounding red tide research and focus on a more comprehensive red tide response strategy. The Marine Policy Institute was created by Mote in 2006 to improve the connection between science and society by providing timely, credible policy assessments and advice to decision-makers and stakeholders.

2007 MILESTONES

(continued)

Education News

- In collaboration with the Key Largo-based REEF, Mote offered a two-hour session introducing recreational divers and snorkelers to the basics of fish watching. The session included information on fish shapes and anatomy and how to use those traits to identify fishy subjects.
- “Discovery Reef,” the second of three traveling “Digital Docents” exhibits designed by Mote’s Education Division was completed and began making its way around the country. Digital Docents is a unique program that links 10 partner organizations with science educators at Mote by combining a hands-on traveling exhibit with live videoconferences broadcast from Mote. Discovery Reef features fun facts about corals and showcases corals and other reef animals from the Caribbean and Atlantic.
- “Mommy & Me at Mote” programs began, proving to be one of our most popular family offerings. These educational play programs are designed for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers and will be expanding in 2008.
- For the first time, Mote’s Center for School and Public Programs is working with an entire school’s student body through a unique partnership with Manatee County’s Kinnan Elementary School. All 730 Kinnan students visited Mote in 2007 and will visit again in 2008. This program is designed to provide students context for their science lessons – bringing science to life by tying lessons to Mote and actual marine science being conducted today.

Aquarium News

- Mote Aquarists have had a successful year of rearing animals for exhibit, growing a bumper crop of seahorses, cuttlefish, clownfish and jellies.
- They also made a splash in October when they performed Mote’s first-ever underwater pumpkin carving from inside our shark exhibits to celebrate Halloween.
- Mote admitted 19 turtles to the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital and released 15, including some that were admitted in 2006. Five turtles remained hospitalized at the year’s end. Selby Foundation provided a grant to remodel and expand the sea turtle rehab area, with Mote still in the process of raising an additional \$100,000 to complete the re-do.
- The Roberta Sudakoff Leventhal Foundation has also donated a new grant to help make improvements to the Shark Zone in the Aquarium, one of the most popular exhibit areas.
- Mote identified several new viral diseases in turtles, including the first two papillomaviruses ever identified in sea turtles, and two new herpes viruses. In addition, over the last two years we have dealt with three cases of lungworms in sea turtles – the only three cases reported anywhere in the world. (Mote was the first to identify the parasite that causes it two years ago.)
- In 2007, Mote’s Dolphin and Whale Hospital admitted six dolphins and released three back to the wild. (See page 13 for details.)

SCIENCE CENTERS 2007

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.

2007 Programs and Managers:

Marine Biomedical Research: Carl Luer, Ph.D. Studies disease resistance, biochemistry 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.

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.

2007 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 of tidal rivers and creates ecological condition indices to improve resource management.

SCIENCE CENTERS 2007

(continued)

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 Florida, Argentina, and elsewhere to understand their biology, health, behavior and ecology, and the human factors that impact them. The work is done in collaboration with the Chicago Zoological Society and colleagues worldwide. **Manatee Research:** John E. 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 in marine mammals in Alaska and the wider Caribbean. **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 track 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. **Stranding Investigations:** Greg Early. 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 understand the natural history of cetaceans and sea turtles and evaluate long-term mortality trends.

CENTER FOR ECOTOXICOLOGY

Director: Richard H. Pierce, Ph.D.

MISSION: Investigates the sources of natural biotoxins and chemical pollutants, their distribution and impacts in the marine environment. This center also assesses the risks that contaminants and toxins pose to public health and natural resources and has developed and implemented new techniques to monitor these chemicals and reduce adverse effects.

2007 Programs and Managers:

Aquatic Toxicology: Dana Wetzel, Ph.D. Assesses petroleum, PCBs and pesticides in marine mammals and their environments – from the Arctic to the Caribbean – and looks for biomarkers to assess the biological impacts of exposure to these toxins. **Chemical Fate and Effects:** Michael Henry. Studies seek to discover the amount and types of natural toxins and chemical pollutants in the marine environment, their sources, modes of transport, routes of exposure, persistence and bioaccumulation in marine organisms. **Environmental Health:** Barbara Kirkpatrick, Ed.D. Studies how humans are affected by airborne red tide toxins and how to effectively educate the public about those findings. **Phytoplankton Ecology:** Gary Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. Addresses phytoplankton behavior, photophysiology and bloom dynamics, especially the organism that causes Florida's red tide. Studies seek to understand how harmful algae function at cellular, community and ecosystem levels. Designs, builds and maintains instruments that remotely sample and detect red tide.

SCIENCE CENTERS 2007

(continued)

CENTER FOR FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Director: Kenneth M. Leber, Ph.D.

MISSION: To substantially increase the knowledge of how to preserve and responsibly enhance coastal fish and invertebrate populations.

2007 Programs and Managers:

Fish Biology: Karen Burns, Ph.D. candidate. Works to understand the life history and migratory patterns of coastal, pelagic and reef fishes as the foundation for stock management. Fisheries Assessment and Ecosystem Management: Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D. Imperial College, London, UK. The Florida State University-Mote Marine Laboratory William and Lenore Mote Eminent Scholar in Fisheries Ecology. Addresses the need for reliable stock assessment. Fisheries Habitat Ecology: Aaron Adams, Ph.D. Advances knowledge about how to maintain fish habitats and understanding which species most benefit from an increase in habitat. Marine Stock Enhancement: Kenneth Leber, Ph.D. Focuses on developing marine stock enhancement technology to restore depleted populations, augment fishery yields and advance basic knowledge about wild stocks. Develops effective strategies for using hatcheries to help conserve coral reef communities.

CENTER FOR CORAL REEF RESEARCH

Director: David Vaughan, Ph.D.

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

2007 Programs and Managers:

Coral Reef Science and Monitoring: Erich Bartels. Evaluates the biology and health of coral reef ecosystems through projects such as BleachWatch, Reef Resilience Monitoring and Marine Ecosystem Event Response and Assessment (MEERA). Coral Reef Restoration: David Vaughan, Ph.D. Seeks to develop systems and techniques to grow coral and other species 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.

SCIENCE CENTERS 2007

(continued)

CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Director: Kevan L. Main, Ph.D.

MISSION: Dedicated to finding innovative and cost-effective systems and husbandry techniques to produce high-value marine and freshwater fish and shellfish in an environmentally sound manner.

2007 Programs and Managers:

Marine Aquaculture Research: Kevan L. Main, Ph.D. Develops 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 to produce juvenile snook, coral and other marine fish and invertebrates. Sturgeon Commercial Demonstration: James T. Michaels. Seeks to develop systems and techniques to produce caviar and sturgeon for high-value food markets and promote a new aquaculture industry. 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.

MOTE EDUCATION DIVISION 2007

In organizations, as in individual lives, strength of character is often exhibited in routine efforts rather than in response to special circumstances.

I am more proud of the accomplishments of Mote's Education Division than I have ever been before. Not so much because of the new projects we've started, but because of the good, solid, day-to-day effort that our education staff has sustained throughout the year. The Division is maturing, finding excitement not only in creating new products, but also in refining and sustaining the projects that we've started in the past three years.

In the Centers for Distance Learning, School and Public Programs and Volunteer and Intern Resources, staff have organized, refined, adapted and delivered educational programs with enthusiasm and efficiency in our efforts to maximize outreach to various audiences while minimizing pressure on the Lab's bottom line.

Excellent examples include the continuation of the Digital Docents traveling exhibit project, which now has three exhibits in use across the United States. While we are completing the initial phase of the project we are seeking additional funding to research and develop marketing materials and associated premiums so that the project can become self-sustaining after completion of grant funding. The Center for Distance Learning, through a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, also completed a unique pilot study to train student teachers in environmental education curricula via interactive video conferences to their home classrooms. The program was rated by classroom teachers as the top aquarium-based interactive video conference provider in the country for the second straight year and the Center has increased the number of paid programs delivered by 20 percent over each of the past four years.

The Center for School and Public programs has worked tirelessly to increase the number of underrepresented students attending Mote education programs. New partnerships and special programming for schools has doubled the number of local school students coming to Mote over previous years. Additionally, a generous gift by a Mote volunteer in memory of Barry J. Kingman has allowed us to award more than 50 summer camp scholarships so that qualifying children could experience the wonder of the sea. This initial gift is now inspiring other donors to support this effort.

Finally, 2007 was also a year of loss and transition. Long-time Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Davis retired after 17 years of service to Mote. No one can replace Andrea's intimate knowledge, compassion and concern for the Mote volunteer program. We are pleased to say that former volunteer Lisa Kinsella will take on the role in 2008.

David Niebuhr, Ph. D.
Vice President, Mote Education Division

MOTE AQUARIUM 2007

At the end of each year, I have the opportunity to look back and marvel at where we've been and where we're going. Inevitably there are changes and improvements to reflect upon.

In 2007, we had the first successful year of operations of the Deep Sea Diner, with the redesign generously donated by Graham Interiors, Inc. The new diner provided enhanced services for the 360,000 visitors we hosted. A less obvious improvement was the construction of new behind-the-scenes fish quarantine facilities funded by the Bank of America Client Foundation, which is already helping us ensure the health of our many Aquarium species. We also received a four-year, \$500,000 grant from the Roberta Leventhal Sudakoff Foundation that will help us make improvements in the popular Shark Zone exhibits.

But enhancing the visitor experience to better connect the public to our oceans isn't Mote Aquarium's only goal; we also believe that we have an obligation to help animals in the wild through the Dolphin and Whale and Sea Turtle Rehabilitation hospitals and through special programs designed to help us learn more about the resident animals we care for.

Hugh and Buffett, our manatee residents, are two great examples of how our animal ambassadors can help their wild cousins.

Mote Aquarium's Manatee Care and Research Program has been investigating the sensory capabilities of the Florida manatee for several years. During 2007, Hugh and Buffett participated in numerous behavioral research studies that have helped us explore the cues manatees use to localize sounds. By knowing what sounds manatees can hear, researchers can determine if this sense is being compromised in the wild. Another major research effort is examining the hairs on manatees' bodies. These hairs may be used to detect hydrodynamic stimuli, similar to the lateral line of fish. Findings from this research will tell us more about how manatees perceive their environment and provide resource managers with the tools they need to better protect this species in the wild.

Mote Aquarium's resident sea turtles are also helping us explore turtle sensory capabilities. New research is expanding upon the husbandry training program established in 2006 that was designed to teach animals to participate in their own medical checkups.

Now we're investigating the hearing ability of sea turtles by using behavioral responses, which may have application in the wild. A redesign of portions of the sea turtles' habitat is slated for completion in 2009.

Mote's resident dolphins, Moonshine and Harley, are also working researchers. In 2007, training began for a new project to evaluate the accuracy of evoked auditory potential (EAP) with dolphins. EAP uses non-invasive technology to measure brain waves and determine hearing ability quickly and effortlessly. Other ways to measure hearing ability include training animals to perform an action after hearing a sound, which requires intensive training before testing can begin. The goal is to establish a species' hearing range and ability. Moonshine and Harley are also two of our most popular ambassadors, with guests gathering near them each day to watch feeding and training sessions.

Our work with dolphins and sea turtles, however, also takes on a more direct role in helping the species in the wild through our rehabilitation programs for injured or sick animals.

The Dolphin and Whale Hospital was busy throughout most of 2007, treating a variety of species.

Early in the year, an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and a rough-toothed dolphin were brought to the hospital for treatment. Both were later deemed non-releasable by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries, which oversees the care of these animals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Both were sent to other facilities more appropriately equipped to undertake their permanent care.

We also rehabilitated a young female bottlenose dolphin. "Filly" had been monitored by the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program at Mote since her birth. She was rescued after she was found with life-threatening injuries due to entanglement in monofilament fishing line. The dolphin was successfully treated and released. Unfortunately, experts believe that her behavior of approaching anglers may have later led to her death in the wild when sightings of her ceased.

In May, the Hospital also received four Risso's dolphins, two females, each with a young calf, that stranded near Bonita Beach, Fla. These animals were suffering from bacteremia and septicemia, parasite infestation, gastric infection and pneumonia. The septicemia was caused by a very drug-resistant bacteria that may have originated from humans (an investigation to identify the bacterial source is continuing).

While one mother-calf pair succumbed to their illnesses, the remaining female and her calf recovered and were released in September. The release of "Betty" and "Big Al" marked the first time a mother with such

MOTE AQUARIUM 2007

(continued)

a young dependent calf were treated and released in the Southeastern Region of the U.S. Scientists were able to follow Betty's movements and diving patterns remotely via satellite-linked transmitter for 105 days, marking the longest period of time researchers have been able to follow this species in the wild. They were also able to monitor the diving pattern, finding that most of her dives were in the top 50m of the water column, with a few dives to 800-1000m – a record for this species.

The rehabilitation of these animals provided new information on the treatment of bacterial infections in marine mammals, new insights on maternal care and calf development and valuable information about this species' ranging patterns in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital admitted 26 sea turtles in 2007, including nine turtles affected with fibropapilloma tumors. We have one of only three facilities in the state of Florida that will accept and treat these turtles, most of which are endangered green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). A new veterinary laser allows us to surgically remove these tumors and return many of the turtles to the wild. Other patients treated by the hospital included turtles suffering the effects of boat strikes, line entanglement, parasites and red tide. Mote admitted 19 turtles to the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital and released 15, including some that were admitted in 2006.

Lastly, reviewing the year's highlights allows me the opportunity to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the many volunteers who help make our work possible. Their generous support – of time and, often, of resources – provides essential support for Mote Aquarium. And that is a marvel indeed.

Dan Bebak
Vice President, Mote Aquarium

THE MARINE POLICY INSTITUTE AT MOTE 2007

CONNECTING SCIENCE TO SOCIETY

Mote Marine Laboratory has rightfully gained international recognition for its leadership role in marine and coastal science research, as well as its commitment to communicating this science to the public through the Education and Aquarium divisions. Now, the Marine Policy Institute at Mote is adding to the richness of these programs.

The Marine Policy Institute, which was officially launched in 2006 with the focus of linking science to sustainable policies in the marine environment, serves as the newest component of Mote. In April 2007, the Institute received a two-year \$400,000 grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. The grant has helped the Institute move forward on a series of outreach and network-building activities.

The Marine Policy Institute's mission is 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 adds a new element to Mote by bringing different experts to the table – social scientists, lawyers and economists – who can aid in translation, interpretation and communication of multi-dimensional marine science so it can be easily understood and used by decision-makers.

In August 2007, the Institute released its first product: an assessment of Florida red tide research. This assessment provides an overview of a broad range of research on the causes and consequences of red tide, along with a variety of technologies being considered to control it or mitigate its effects. It also discusses a number of management options and regulatory considerations for policymakers. The assessment calls upon scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and the public to move beyond polarizing debate surrounding red tide research and focus on a more comprehensive response strategy. Among the report's several concluding observations was the suggestion to reconstitute the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force and movements have been made in that arena.

In October, the Institute hosted a special lecture titled "Sunken Coasts and Dead Oceans? Science, Human Values and Political Will." The lecture was presented by Dr. Michael Orbach, Special Advisor to Institute and Director of the Coastal Environmental Management Program at Duke University. The lecture about climate change included discussions on sea level rise, harmful algal blooms, disappearing wetlands, changing coastal habitats and how Floridians can respond. The lecture, attended by 250 guests, was well received and stands as an example of how the Institute hopes to bring science to the community.

In November, we convened our first high-level Community Leadership Workshop, inviting a select group of key public sector and business leaders in a four-county area of Southwest Florida (Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee). Participants were asked to share their views on what they believe to be the concerns and challenges for the long- and short-term sustainable use of our coastal resources. The Workshop is helping us gauge the areas of top concern among our local leaders and we anticipate ongoing individual and group interactions. This effort should serve as an important network for further outreach and partnership building.

As we move into 2008, we look forward to building upon our progress and continuing our efforts to connect science to society.

Frank Alcock, Ph. D.
Director, Marine Policy Institute at Mote Marine Laboratory

PROTECTING OUR REEFS 2007

Florida drivers who purchase the state's Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate are supporting new programs designed to attack coral reef problems on a number of fronts. In 2007, Mote awarded \$375,000 in grants for coral reef research, conservation and outreach from funds raised through the sale of the specialty license plate. These studies will help scientists and resource managers have a more comprehensive picture of why corals are in decline and the factors that keep coral healthy.

This is the second year that the Protect Our Reefs Grants Advisory Committee has awarded funding for nonprofit organizations based in Florida. Efforts are primarily directed toward the major reef tract that extends from Miami to the Dry Tortugas.

Protect Our Reefs-funded studies have shown that:

- Corals may have a third symbiont. It has long been understood that corals consist of two organisms: the coral polyps that secrete the calcium carbonate to build the reef skeleton and the zooxanthellae, a single-celled algae that give corals their color and provide food for the polyps in a symbiotic relationship. New findings suggest bacteria are a third member of the coral equation, playing a vital role in coral health.
- In a kind of underwater germ warfare, investigators studied the potential use of naturally occurring viruses to attack bacteria that cause coral disease. Surveys showed numerous natural viruses can combat disease. The Advisory Committee is hopeful that initial work funded by the Protect Our Reefs license plate will spark additional research by others to understand whether such viruses could be used to help combat bacterial infections on corals in the future.
- In Martin County, a volunteer organization used Reef Plate funds to initiate cleanup of five miles of reef off the south side of St. Lucie Inlet. Trained divers mapped the reef, identified debris by type and location and carefully removed it. They also developed public education programs and outreach by creating a toll-free number that members of the public could use to report debris. This program is expected to become a multi-year effort supported by state and federal dollars.

The Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate is supporting this exciting new research and educating the public about coral conservation. Haven't gotten your plate yet? Please log onto www.mote.org/4reef to find out how you can!

THANK YOU

The past year has been an exciting one for our Development office. We have a new Vice President, Glenda Wright, who came on board in May. Under Glenda's solid leadership, we have significantly increased our annual fund income, our membership renewals and major gift donations. The year ended with an increase in all of those areas over our 2006 numbers, and I believe we will see continued success in 2008.

If you have not been to Mote recently, let me encourage you to make plans to come out. Our new "Deep Sea Diner" is a big hit with the visitors, and, of course, we always have exciting things going on in the aquarium and research areas. Mote's staff and volunteers are always happy to spend time talking with visitors about our current activities as well as the plans for future exhibits.

As Chairman of the Development Committee, I would like to offer a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed to Mote this year. Each and every dollar has made a difference in our ability to further marine research and provide educational opportunities for children and adults alike. Please feel free to contact us anytime for information about making a donation or about Mote in general.

Ronald A. Johnson
Chairman, Development Committee

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American Museum of Natural History, NY

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National Museum of Natural History, DC

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Green Turtle Publications, Islamorada, FL
Erich Mueller Ph.D.
Caribbean Marine Research Center, Bahamas

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NOAA/Great Lakes Environmental
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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FL

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Director, Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program, MD
MARINE MAMMAL
& SEA TURTLE RESEARCH (CON'T)

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Sentiel Butch Rommel Ph.D.

St. Petersburg, FL

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University of Alabama, Birmingham

Lori Schwacke Ph.D.

NOAA's National Ocean Service, SC

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Jeanette Wyneken Ph.D.

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Queensland, Australia

Gary Litman Ph.D.

Children's Research Institute, FL

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Queensland, Australia

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Massachusetts Division
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Sarasota, FL

Jim Woods Ph.D.

Sarasota, FL

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Boston University Eye Research Lab,
Marine Biology Lab, MA

William Ellis Ph.D.

Department of Biology,
University of South Florida, FL

FINANCIALS 2007

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,460,134	\$ 2,239,250
Accounts receivable	302,864	202,495
Research grants receivable	1,980,221	2,206,379
Bequest receivable	3,344	-
Pledges receivable	147,587	271,587
Inventory	202,423	194,352
Prepaid expenses and other assets	57,769	79,021
Investments	-	20,760
Land	7,498,190	7,498,190
Construction in progress	11,894	371,509
Property and equipment, net	25,356,385	25,012,986
Beneficial interest in the net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	<u>12,956,351</u>	<u>12,452,304</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 50,977,162</u>	<u>\$ 50,548,833</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 958,108	\$ 655,641
Accrued payroll	579,837	539,133
Memberships relating to future periods	480,959	525,115
Due to Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	-	9,719
Funds advanced on research programs	3,312,471	2,336,434
Line of credit	8,139,671	7,391,125
Notes payable	<u>2,247,223</u>	<u>2,401,345</u>
Total liabilities	<u>15,718,269</u>	<u>13,858,512</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	21,538,915	23,393,826
Temporarily restricted	4,801,542	4,447,772
Permanently restricted	<u>8,918,436</u>	<u>8,848,723</u>
Total net assets	<u>35,258,893</u>	<u>36,690,321</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 50,977,162</u>	<u>\$ 50,548,833</u>

FINANCIALS 2007

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED ACTIVITIES

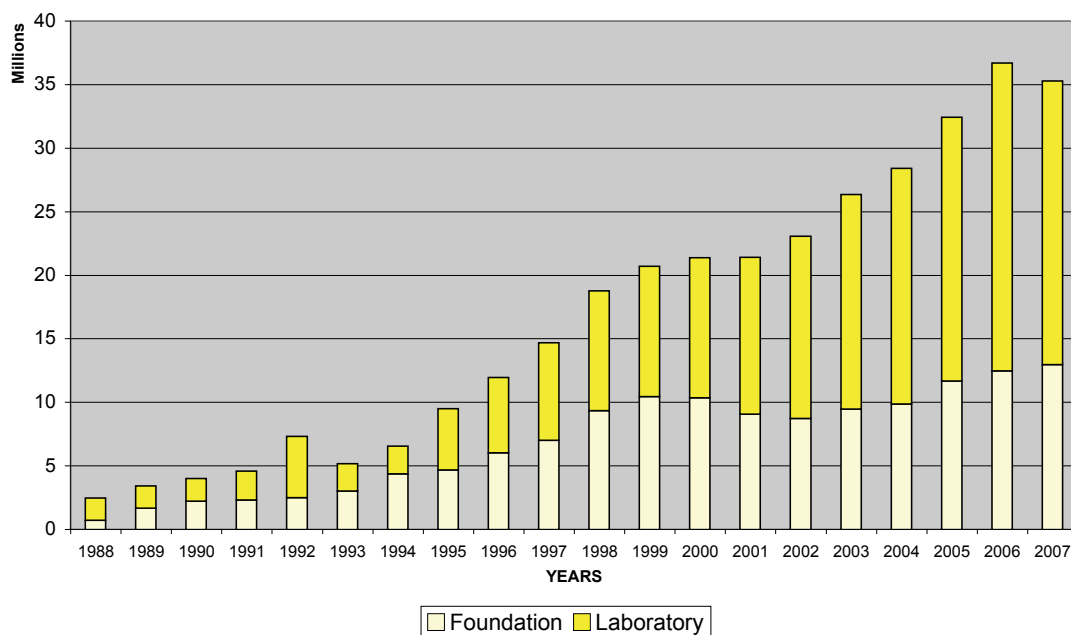
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets		
Program revenue		
Research grants		
Federal	\$ 4,041,901	\$ 5,205,113
State	3,724,890	3,025,517
Other	3,794,965	2,648,707
Aquarium		
Admission fees	2,341,301	2,268,239
Gift shop	1,125,193	1,135,028
Other	286,585	295,147
Memberships	832,741	795,917
Education	786,750	628,571
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	968,074	853,388
Other programs	307,253	372,222
Contributions	1,317,413	993,809
Contributions-non cash	419,114	7,036,612
Grants from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	414,825	392,483
Investment income	86,186	71,779
Realized loss on investments, net	(24)	(767)
Realized gain (loss) on disposal of assets	2,028	(89,119)
Insurance settlement	15,000	-
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>996,344</u>	<u>1,240,280</u>
Total unrestricted revenues and support	<u>21,460,539</u>	<u>26,872,926</u>
Expenses		
Program services		
Research	12,966,326	13,584,906
Education	949,311	896,484
Aquarium	3,891,654	3,824,223
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	947,187	846,289
Other	699,973	685,761
Supporting services		
Administrative and general	2,738,269	1,658,363
Fund raising	<u>1,122,730</u>	<u>1,044,212</u>
Total expenses	<u>23,315,450</u>	<u>22,540,238</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets before extraordinary item	(1,854,911)	4,332,688
Extraordinary item- loss from fire	-	(780,061)
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ (1,854,911)</u>	<u>\$ 3,552,627</u>

FINANCIALS 2007

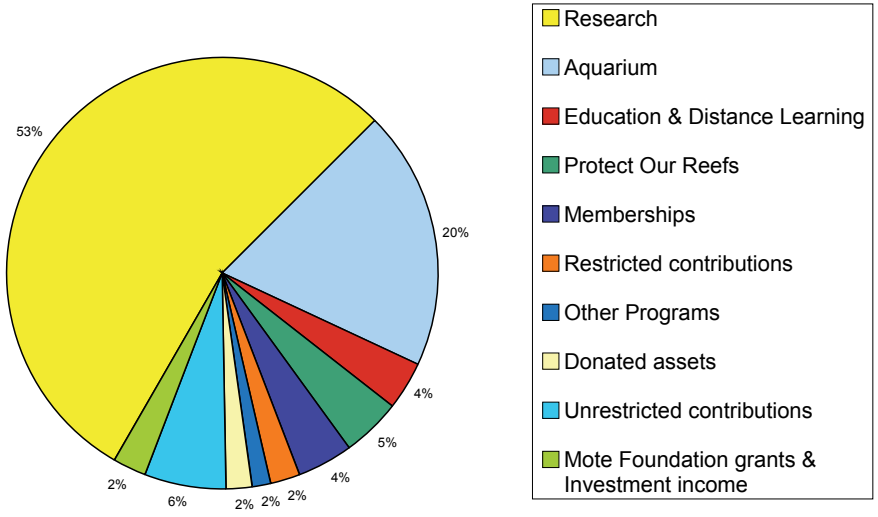
	2007	2006
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions		
Construction	\$ 359,121	\$ 702,576
Aquarium	419,778	384,206
Other programs	124,025	87,624
Unrealized loss on investments, net	556	1,030
Investment income	11,800	4,020
Change in net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	434,834	599,127
Grant from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	-	230
Net assets released from restrictions	(996,344)	(1,240,280)
 Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	 353,770	 538,533
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions for endowment fund	500	2,000
Change in net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	69,213	179,178
 Increase in permanently restricted net assets	 69,713	 181,178
 Increase in net assets	 (1,431,428)	 4,272,338
 Net assets at beginning of year	 36,690,321	 32,417,983
Net assets at end of year	\$ 35,258,893	\$ 36,690,321

TOTAL NET ASSET GROWTH 20 YEARS 1988-2007

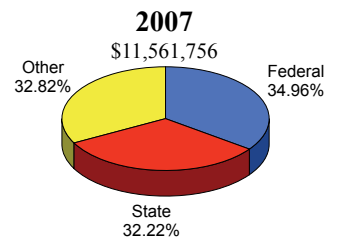
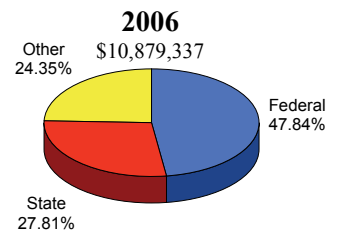
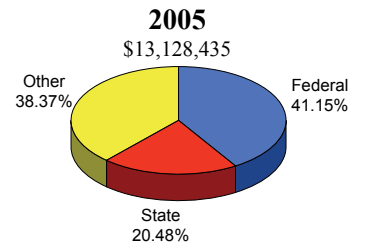
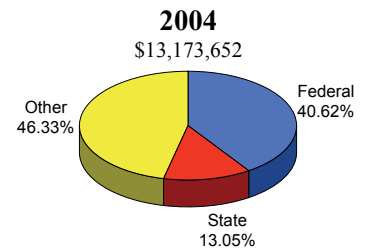


FINANCIALS 2007

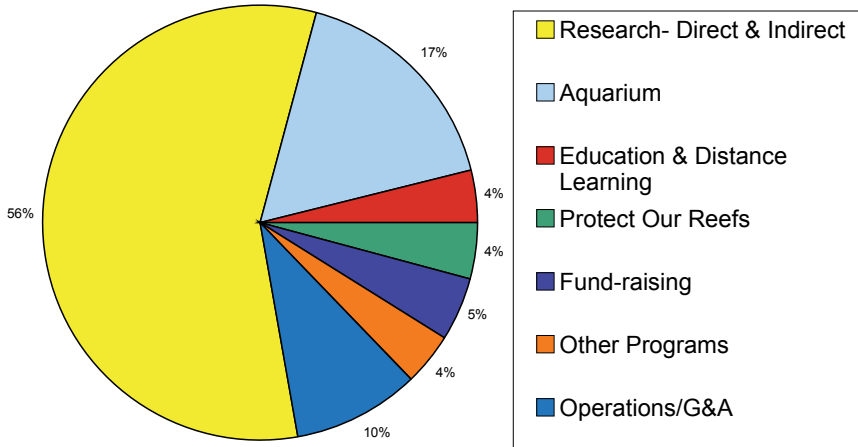
Mote Marine Laboratory
REVENUES 2007
Total \$21,379,975



Research Revenues



Mote Marine Laboratory
EXPENSES 2007
Total \$23,315,450



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<http://www.mdpi.org/marinedrugs/list07.htm>
- Fonnesbeck, C.J., H.H. Edwards, and **J.E. Reynolds, III**. A hierarchical covariate model for detection, availability and abundance of Florida manatees at a warm-water aggregation site. *Environmental and Ecological Statistics*. In press.
- Fuhs, V.S.** 2007. *Spatial relationships of spinner dolphins, (Stenella longirostris) mother-calf pairs, Island of Hawaii*. M.S. Thesis. Western Illinois University. 37 p.
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(continued)

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COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

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Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL)
Florida Department of Agriculture (Tallahassee, FL)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Tallahassee, FL)
Florida Department of Health (Tallahassee, FL)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Imperiled Species Management (Tallahassee, FL)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Stock Enhancement Research Facility (Port Manatee, FL)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (Charlotte Harbor, Florida Keys, St. Petersburg, FL)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute Pathobiology Lab (St. Petersburg, FL)
Florida Gulf Coast University (Fort Myers, FL)
Florida Institute of Oceanography (St. Petersburg, FL)
Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, FL)
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)
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)

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

(continued)

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)
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)
University of South Alabama (Mobile, AL)
University of South Florida (Biology, 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)
University of Western Illinois (Moline, IL)
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (Gloucester Point, VA)
WGCU (Fort Myers, FL)
Waddell Mariculture Center (Columbia, South Carolina)
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)

FIN

Main Campus and Public Aquarium

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Field Stations

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Public Outreach

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