



**MTE**  
MARINE LABORATORY

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**2012**  
ANNUAL REPORT

TODAY'S RESEARCH | TOMORROW'S OCEANS





## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,



As Chairman of the Board of Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium for the past two years, I have had the great pleasure of being closely involved with the organization during a transformative visioning process that will guide the Lab's future for the next decade.

I'm pleased that during my tenure, the Board unanimously approved Mote's *2020 Vision and Strategic Plan*, which will guide the Lab and Aquarium's future research directions and also provides a sustainable path forward that will be supported by new initiatives such as the Legacy Society, which honors those who have included Mote in their estate planning.

The time and hard work given by Trustees and staff members on planning for the future has been much appreciated and will no doubt pave the way for a renewed emphasis on conservation and the sustainable use of our natural resources to the benefit of us all.

Mote Marine Laboratory is at a critical juncture in its 57-year history. Not only are we embarking on a renewed course forward with a strong foundation and a clear path, but we are also looking forward to an impending change in leadership for the first time in nearly 30 years.

In May 2013, Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, who has been leading Mote since his appointment as President and CEO in 1986, will become President Emeritus and Dr. Michael P. Crosby, who has been Mote's Senior Vice President for Research since 2010, will take the helm. As President Emeritus, Dr. Mahadevan will continue to be a strong advocate and ambassador for Mote to enable a smooth transition to new leadership.

As my tenure as Chairman of the Board comes to an end, I'm glad I've had the opportunity to witness first-hand Kumar's advocacy for Mote and the fact that he is the organization's most ardent champion. And as Mote moves forward in the coming years under Dr. Crosby and with its *2020 Vision and Strategic Plan*, I'm confident that the Lab is in good hands. Thank you all very much for your invaluable support of Mote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert E. Carter  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO'S DESK

Dear Friends,



Each year, our Annual Report allows us to take stock of where we've been — it offers an opportunity to look back on the previous year and tally our accomplishments and call attention to our latest research findings and to the many ways we interact with the community.

As always, the Mote staff and volunteers have had an impressive year and we couldn't be prouder of their many accomplishments. The numbers alone are impressive:

- Mote researchers were awarded more than \$9 million in grants, contracts and cooperative agreements — often competing with researchers at larger institutions and universities for prestigious grants from organizations such as the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Our foundation assets grew to \$13.8 million.
- Our scientists published 85 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals — the hallmark of scientific accomplishment — and in popular media and textbooks and books, including 14 related to public policy.
- We developed new international partnerships with researchers in Japan, Israel and other nations.
- We were awarded two new patents.
- More than 17,000 people participated in our school and public programs, the Mote Mobile and other traveling exhibits reached more than 260,000 people and we expanded our educational offerings with new offices in Boca Grande and Punta Gorda.
- We executed a new partnership with the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) as part of an undergraduate science program.
- We hosted 50 high school interns and 170 college interns — both new records.
- We welcomed 352,270 visitors to The Aquarium at Mote as we wrapped up our first temporary exhibit (Penguin Island) and opened our newest (Sea Lions: On the Water's Edge).
- Some 1,600 area residents volunteered at Mote, donating 212,500 service hours, for a value of \$4.6 million.

As we close out the books on 2012, I am readying for a move to a new chapter in my work here at the Lab as President Emeritus — a role that will allow me to continue doing what I love most: Telling people about the work we're doing here and advocating on behalf of the organization. I am pleased that Dr. Michael P. Crosby will assume the role of President and CEO and am positive that great things will continue to happen at our preeminent institution.



When I joined Mote as a Senior Scientist and Benthic Ecologist in 1978, I had no idea that I would one day be leading this great organization – working with you to grow from a small field station with a dozen or so staff to an institution with many world-class scientific leaders and wonderful people.

When I stop to take stock, I'm amazed at what we've been able to accomplish together. When I became co-interim director with Dr. Richard Pierce in December 1983 and full-time CEO and Director in 1986, our annual operating budget was about \$2 million, there were 52 staff members, about 35 volunteers and we had no foundation assets. Today, our annual operating budget is more than \$17 million, we have 192 staff members, including 31 Ph.D.-level scientists who are leaders in their fields, 1,665 volunteers and foundation assets of more than \$13 million.

Today, our main 10.5-acre campus on City Island in Sarasota includes an aquarium that is one of the most-visited attractions in Southwest Florida. Our operations include the 200-acre Aquaculture Park in eastern Sarasota County, research field stations on Pine Island in Charlotte Harbor and Summerland Key in the Florida Keys, satellite offices in Punta Gorda and Boca Grande and a second public outreach exhibit dedicated to coral reefs in the Eco-Discovery Center in Key West.

Our estimated economic impact to the surrounding community is in excess of \$70 million. But our impact on the world's oceans has been much greater and is immeasurable by any financial accounting.

One of the things I've been most proud of during my time at Mote has been our dedication to combining outreach and education with our scientific research. The Lab's namesake, Bill Mote, always stressed to me the importance of sharing our work with the community and I'm proud that we've been able to do that.

In fact, our mission and our progress over the last 34 years could not be realized without the teamwork and efforts of our talented, passionate staff and dedicated corps of 1,600 volunteers, including our Board of Trustees, Advisory Council and Keys Advisory Board. They are our greatest assets.

As I look back on my time at the Lab, what still thrills me the most is that as a graduate student in India in 1970, I knew about Mote. When I moved to Anna Maria Island in 1975, I aspired to, and was fortunate enough to become, part of the Mote family in 1978.

Being its leader for almost 30 years was something I never dreamed of doing back then. Now, I'll still be living in a community that can be described only as paradise – Sarasota – and supporting Mote's progress. The next 100 years can be Mote's best. Under Dr. Crosby's leadership, I'm sure we will be off to a great start and not miss a beat as we move forward.

It is my fervent hope that marine laboratories such as Mote will always exist as places where people can learn about the sea. After all these years, my excitement for the sea, our last frontier, has not waned. I hope, with Mote's help, you can say the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kumar Mahadevan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.

President & CEO

# 1

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 1:

Significantly increase Mote's ability to conduct world-class research with an emphasis on conservation, sustainable use and the environmental health of marine and coastal biodiversity, habitats and resources... by developing and implementing multi-institutional and/or multi-discipline national or international marine research initiatives.



Dr. Arthur Guilford (left), Regional Chancellor for USF Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM), and Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, Mote President and CEO, sign a new partnership agreement that will bring some USFSM students to Mote's Sarasota campus.

## SHARING THE COMMITMENT TO OUR OCEANS

Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium is one of the few remaining organizations dedicated to marine research that operates independent of any governmental or university umbrella. Since 1955, our independence has allowed us to set our research agenda based on the importance of protecting and sustainably utilizing the oceans' vast — but finite — resources. Today the challenges and threats facing our oceans are enormous and the investment needed to address them is no less significant.

But independence doesn't mean we face these challenges alone.

Instead, our independence allows us to form strategic partnerships with other groups so we can maximize limited resources as we join forces to help raise awareness about environmental issues, study problems and seek scientific-based solutions and even educate new generations of scientific leaders.

### MOTE & THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SARASOTA-MANATEE (USFSM)

In 2012, Mote and the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee signed a new agreement designed to create closer ties between the two organizations.

Beginning in the fall of 2013, USFSM students will take classes and perform laboratory studies in Mote's Ann and Alfred Goldstein Marine Mammal Research and Rehabilitation Center utilizing new classroom and laboratory space designed by Fawley-Bryant Architects and completed by Willis A. Smith Construction. This partnership will link the growing USFSM undergraduate science degree programs with both innovative basic research and applied science and technology programs taking place at Mote. Some classes and labs will even be taught by Mote researchers and will provide students with real-life, hands-on research experiences that will prepare them for their future careers.

### JAPAN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE (RIHN), SARASOTA BAY WATCH & MOTE

Mote is part of a global study undertaken by RIHN about how grassroots community groups and local scientists working in the same region, along with policymakers and others are blending traditional and scientific knowledge and techniques to restore, conserve and sustainably utilize natural resources. RIHN is looking at the partnership between Mote and Sarasota Bay Watch focused on the relationship between local citizens and "resident scientists" in restoring bay scallop populations.

The international program, with 11 core projects located in different communities around the world, is formally titled "Formation of Local Environmental Knowledge Systems for Creation and Sustainable Governance of New Commons." It is designed to find and encourage bottom-up solutions to





Mote's Jim Culter and Dr. Mayuko Shimizu of Japan's Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) participate in a Sarasota Bay scallop search.

environmental problems by combining and analyzing study findings from around the globe and looking at the transfer of knowledge at local, regional, national and global levels.

#### OTHER NOTABLE PARTNERSHIPS UNDERTAKEN IN 2012:

- The Lemon Bay Conservancy, Mote and Bonefish Tarpon Trust are working on a juvenile tarpon habitat restoration project in Placida, Fla.
- Mote is partnering with the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences – China's national fishery science research institution – for studies of restocking and aquaculture. Next year, the collaboration will allow a postdoctoral researcher from China to come to Mote's world-class aquaculture research park as part of the program.

# 2

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 2:

Ensure the long-term prosperity of the research enterprise through focused staff recruitment and nurturing programs... by establishing new fully-funded, two-year post-doctoral fellowship positions.

## GENERATION NEXT

In order to support the next generation of men and women who will one day lead scientific discovery, Mote must be able to offer an environment that fosters their independent scholarship and unique professional advancement.

It's about making a strong commitment to attracting, nurturing and retaining the best and brightest scientists by investing in focused recruitment and professional development programs that will support a succession plan for the next generation of world-class scientists.

### THE MOTE POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Instead of leaving young investigators to fend for themselves in a complicated landscape of grant applications and research permit processes while also establishing their own scientific direction, this program offers fellows two years of

funding and mentorship – the crucial support they need to establish firm footing in the research community. In 2012, Mote's first two Post-Doctoral Fellows – Dr. Jayne Gardiner and Dr. Erinn Muller – joined Mote's research staff and completed the first year of their fellowship.

Dr. Erinn Muller's studies focus on coral reef ecosystems. In 2012, she published findings in the peer-review journal *Global Change Biology* suggesting that some coral disease outbreaks might not be contagious as previously believed but instead be caused more by environmental stressors such as changes in climate.

Disease outbreaks have significantly reduced coral populations in the Caribbean, which is home to 8 percent of the world's corals and 66 percent of coral diseases. These reefs, which shelter thousands of aquatic species, provide important economic benefits from tourism but are also



Mote Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Erinn Muller (top and bottom left), is focused on studies of coral reef ecosystems.

Mote Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Jayne Gardiner explains her research of shark senses to former First Lady Laura Bush. (bottom right)

important hurricane barriers protecting coastal areas from storm surge.

This research could help provide more accurate models for how coral cover will change over time and help human communities react to these changes. Says Muller: "This work not only gives us new knowledge to build stronger models – it also gives us more reasons to consider and address human impacts on corals and their natural environment."

Dr. Jayne Gardiner's studies in 2012 have focused on how sharks use sensory cues to find their way "home." As a sensory biologist, Gardiner is expert at looking at how marine animals like fish and even sea turtles use their senses to navigate their natural environments. Her main project is investigating how blacktip sharks in Terra Ceia Bay move back and forth from these important nursery grounds.

"We know that blacktip sharks remain in this area for the first several months of their lives and will return if they leave – as Mote showed that they did ahead of a tropical storm a few years ago," Gardiner says. "But if we don't know what the cues are that they depend on to return home, we can't fully understand how changes to environment will affect this behavior – or how changes will affect overall shark populations."

In her study, sharks are outfitted with acoustic tags and receivers are placed around the bay to record the sharks' comings and goings. Gardiner tagged several sharks and moved them to other locations and found that most sharks were able to return. The next step will be to block different senses to see which cues are most critical to their behavior.



# 3

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 3:

Translate and transfer science and technology development to positively impact human society and the marine environment... by developing new science and technology intellectual property products (patents, patent submissions, commercial enterprise spin-offs) and by increasing public experiences for marine conservation connections and impressions.

## INTELLECTUAL INVESTMENTS

Making an investment in the future of our oceans means that Mote works hard to create new technologies and tools to support ocean conservation. These tools are important in helping us gather ever-better information about ocean health or even refine what we can learn about the animals we work with.

But investing in the development of new technologies is only one small part of Mote's commitment to our oceans. It's also important that we translate what we're learning to the public. The Aquarium at Mote Marine Laboratory plays no small role in that effort with 352,270 visitors in 2012!

The Aquarium offered several new exhibits in 2012 to help share the stories of our scientific successes. One of them showcases our nationally recognized Ruth DeLynn Cetacean Osteological Collection, which holds more than 650 bone specimens from 17 species of dolphins and whales. The collection, which is used to help us understand more about the lives and deaths of dolphins and whales, was honored in 2011 with accreditation from the nationwide American Society of Mammalogists. The society called the collection's scientific value "unsurpassed."

The new exhibit also showcases the exceptional work of Ruth DeLynn, the Mote adjunct scientist and volunteer who founded the Osteological Collection and has curated it for more than 30 years.

### PATENTS

Identifying Wastewater: In 2012, Mote received a patent for a new instrument that detects surrogates of human waste — substances that indicate waste may be present.

The instrument, developed by Mote's Chemical and Physical Ecology Program, detects optical brighteners — dyes used in



The Ruth DeLynn Cetacean Osteological Collection is being used to teach visitors to The Aquarium at Mote about our research.

laundry detergents — using a process called fluorescence. Because these dyes are associated exclusively with human sources, they provide a reliable method of detecting water pollution caused by septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants. In addition to detecting human wastes, it can also be adapted to detect oil and dispersants in seawater.

Sturgeon Gender Test: Mote scientists have a patent pending for a blood test they developed that can reveal the gender of sturgeon at a younger age than ever before — a major step forward for sturgeon aquaculture and for conservation in the wild. The new gender test could help Mote and other sturgeon aquaculture facilities focus on raising females to produce more caviar. It could also help scientists determine the gender of wild sturgeon — crucial information for conservation because reproducing females are especially valuable to endangered sturgeon populations.

# 4

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 4:

Deliver responsible marine conservation and sustainable use-focused public service to local, regional, state, national and international communities ... by increasing the number of presentations by Mote educators and scientists to policy makers and elected officials and by increasing the number of students served through Mote's educational programs.

### INVESTING IN OCEAN LITERACY

Our commitment to supporting public education about our marine environment begins with children – but it doesn't stop there. In addition to the many programs we offer that are geared toward the young, we offer programs to provide adults with life-long opportunities for public engagement in marine science.

But those are just two of our constituencies. We also believe in the importance of the scientific exchange that takes place through publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals and articles in popular media (there were 85 in 2012) and by sharing our findings with resource managers and policy makers through public testimony and specially arranged tours – in 2012 we provided policy briefings and testimonials to elected officials on 89 occasions.

Former First Lady Laura Bush toured Mote Marine Laboratory in January to meet Mote's world-class research scientists and encounter some of Florida's most iconic marine species. Mrs. Bush met Mote's resident manatees Hugh and Buffett, the world's only manatees trained to participate in research, and visited Mote scientists who are shedding new light on the sensory biology and behavior of sharks – top predators that play crucial roles in ocean ecosystems. She also met Mote researchers leading renowned studies of coral reef ecosystems, which are impacted by ocean acidification and disease.



In 2012, Mote reached nearly 20,000 children and adults through our many education programs.



Mote outreach efforts sometimes include explaining our scientific studies to special visitors – in this case, former First Lady Laura Bush.





## REHABILITATION & RELEASE

"M\*A\*S\*H" Star and Animal Advocate Loretta Swit, famed for her role as Major Margaret Houlihan of "M\*A\*S\*H", is a passionate animal advocate who was drawn to Mote in July after learning that we were treating a stranded dolphin named Edna.

The dolphin, which had stranded on a Longboat Key beach, was treated for two months in Mote's Dolphin and Whale Hospital and released just offshore.

Ms. Swit even helped spread the word about Mote's animal rehabilitation programs by recording a special public service message discussing the importance of supporting Mote's animal rehabilitation efforts.

Mote also treated a tiny sea turtle patient nicknamed "Stanley." The turtle, weighing in at just under 5 ounces when it arrived at the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital, came to Mote after being rescued from a canal in Marco Island. Stanley's case was unusual: Loggerhead sea turtles at this stage of life would normally be found far offshore in clumps of seaweed called *Sargassum*. How Stanley remained behind is unknown. After five months of treatment, Stanley was ready for release to the wild.

After being rehabilitated at Mote, two Kemp's ridley sea turtles – the most endangered sea turtle species on Earth – were tagged with special tracking devices before release, allowing their case histories to contribute to a major research study by Mote and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

"Allison" and "Squeaky," juvenile Kemp's ridleys, were rescued in October from Lee County waters in Charlotte Harbor after being harmed by toxins from Florida red tide. Researchers tagged them with satellite transmitters as part of an ongoing study of how Kemp's ridleys use Charlotte Harbor waters.



Animal advocate and "M\*A\*S\*H" star Loretta Swit visits a dolphin patient at Mote. The dolphin was later returned to the wild.



Stanley was one of our smaller sea turtle patients. In all, the hospital treated 39 turtles, including 16 with fibropapilloma tumors. Fifteen turtle patients were returned to the wild and eight remained hospitalized at the end of 2012.

## SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

Mote Marine Laboratory is proud to wrap up a year of remarkable marine research, new scientific partnerships around the globe and exciting expansions to our education and outreach efforts in 2012. Mote is dedicated to today's research for tomorrow's oceans and to informal science education and outreach for people of all ages. This winning combination sets Mote apart from its peers worldwide and makes the Lab and Aquarium a perfect Southwest Florida gem.

In 2012, Mote's researchers brought in more than \$9 million in grants, contracts and cooperative agreements on a wide range of studies critical to the region's environment and also supporting Southwest Florida's economy.

Our efforts resulted in 85 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and in popular media, as well as new books and book chapters. Mote scientists also expanded their international partnerships with researchers in Japan, Israel and other nations and developed new vital partnerships in our own community.

Mote continued its mission to foster science and ocean literacy. Our school and public programs reached more than 17,000 people, and our Mote Mobile and other traveling exhibits reached more than 260,000 people. Mote laid the foundation for new education programs starting in 2013 in Charlotte County and Mote hosted 50 high school interns and 170 college interns — both new records.

The Aquarium at Mote welcomed an estimated 360,000 visitors, partly due to the success of our limited-time exhibit Penguin Island, which wrapped up in April 2012. In December, Mote debuted its new limited-time exhibit: Sea Lions: On The Water's Edge.

Another 1,600 area residents volunteered at Mote, sharing their time and expertise as Aquarium docents, behind-the-scenes contributors and even research assistants in the Lab. In all, they donated 212,500 service hours, for a value of \$4.6 million. Other significant efforts are highlighted here.

- MOTE FEATURED IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON THE GULF OF MEXICO

Mote's 57-year history of marine science and education was featured during January in a special issue of an international journal about Gulf of Mexico research.

Mote's unique story — from its founding by famous "Shark Lady" Dr. Eugenie Clark in 1955 to its world-class marine research today — is now published in *Gulf of Mexico Science*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to disseminating knowledge about the Gulf and surrounding areas. The journal is distributed across the U.S. and as far away as Australia and New Zealand.



Dr. Michael Crosby, Senior Vice President for Research at Mote Marine Laboratory, Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, President and CEO of Mote, Dr. Eugenie Clark, Founding Director of Mote, Dr. Yair Rotstein, Executive Director of the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, Dr. Mina Teicher, Vice-Chair of BSF's Board of Governors. Photo by Northrup Digital Imaging.

- MOTE HOSTS U.S.-ISRAELI SCIENTIFIC LEADERS

Scientific leaders from Israel and the U.S. — members of the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation's Board of Governors — met to advance research between the two nations in February at Mote. BSF is an independent organization founded in 1972 that supports leading research projects between the U.S. and Israel.

Mote, which has a long history of research in Israel beginning with Dr. Eugenie Clark, reinvigorated its efforts in the region in 2011 with the creation of its own Mote-Israel Cooperative Marine Research Program. This



program (which is independent from BSF) is designed to support research initiatives that benefit the environments of both nations, fund travel between U.S. and Israel for researchers and support postdoctoral research scientists.

- **MOTE NAMES NEW CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER**  
Mote appointed Tom Waters of Sarasota as our new Chief Advancement Officer. Mr. Waters, who assumed the new role in April, is leading the organization's fundraising and brand development efforts. Building a strong endowment for Mote, which is an independent nonprofit 501c(3) organization, is a key step in achieving the long-term financial support required to achieve the core goals of *Mote's 2020 Vision and Strategic Plan*, which was unanimously adopted by Mote's Board of Trustees in 2010 and implemented in 2011. Mr. Waters came to Mote from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, where he served as the Foundation's Vice President of Development and Donor Services.



Researcher Kat Nicholaisen works with manatees Hugh and Buffett on hearing studies.

- **NEW STUDY FINDS MANATEE HEARING GOOD DESPITE BACKGROUND NOISE**  
A new study on manatee hearing by Mote and collaborators showed that these marine mammals can sense a wide range of pitches despite loud background noise.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Experimental Biology*, demonstrates that manatees can

hear frequencies produced by boat engines, pointing to new questions about how manatee hearing operates in the wild and why these mammals remain vulnerable to watercraft.



Biologist Erich Bartels plants coral fragments on a reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

- **LARGEST REEF RESTORATION PROJECT PROGRESSES IN FLORIDA AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
Scientists transplanted nursery-grown staghorn and elkhorn corals to degraded reefs in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands with the goal of transplanting up to 10,000 of the corals as part of the largest marine restoration project of its kind in the world in conjunction with our partners at numerous organizations. Experts hope that the transplanted young corals will thrive and reproduce, helping to recover populations of these two threatened species.

Mote is a key partner in The Nature Conservancy-led project conducted in conjunction with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and others and has been growing corals in an underwater nursery in the Lower Keys for several years. In this project, they planted 600 coral fragments representing 10 different genotypes at four different reef sites during April and May 2012. Studies six months later showed that 91 percent of the fragments survived and, on average, grew from about 6 inches at time of planting to 14 inches. Mote scientists found no signs of significant disease or bleaching and only minimal breakage and damage from marine predators.



Dr. Nick Whitney releases a whitetip reef shark after outfitting it with a tag to track its movements.

- **“LAZY” SHARK MIGHT REALLY TRAVEL FAR**  
A notoriously “lazy” shark might secretly be a great ocean voyager, according to a study released in June by scientists from Mote, the Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology and James Cook University in Australia.

The study, featured on the cover of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Biogeography*, ended nearly a decade of research using DNA to study the distribution of whitetip reef sharks (*Triaenodon obesus*). This species has puzzled scientists because it spends a lot of time resting on the bottom and seems to travel very little, but it is found throughout the tropical Pacific and Indian Ocean – a wider range than many sharks that swim long distances.

Whitetip reef sharks are considered “near threatened” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and are caught as bycatch by line and trawl in several fisheries, but no management plan for them exists throughout most of their range. Learning how populations mix and spread could help reveal what threats they face and provide knowledge to support conservation.

- **NEW REPORT CALLS FOR NEW PROTECTIONS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**  
“Beyond the Horizon”, a two-day workshop of scientists and stakeholders convened at Mote in 2011, resulted in a new vision statement for the Gulf of Mexico that stakeholders hope will help build consensus for new protected areas in one of the nation’s most important bodies of water.

The report – called *Beyond the Horizon: A Vision for the Gulf of Mexico on the Second Anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill*, along with the proceedings from the two-day workshop – were released by organizers during Capitol Hill Ocean Week, which examines the role of the ocean in the shaping of our nation.

The workshop proceedings and report call for:

1. Performing a full-scale risk assessment to determine goals and actions for managing the Gulf.
  2. Supporting peer-reviewed scientific study of the fine-scale physical and ecological connections between the sunken shorelines and barrier islands – the Gulf’s so-called “special places.”
  3. Working with the Gulf’s many users to establish the criteria that will ultimately determine how different marine protected areas within the Gulf should be used.
  4. Developing plans for regulation, enforcement and monitoring.
- **GENETIC GIFT FROM BACTERIA MIGHT BE HELPING CORAL REEFS**  
Coral reefs might be getting a major boost from bacteria that share good genes, reported researchers who found the first evidence that genetic packets from these bacteria help pave the way for “baby” corals to grow.  
The study, presented during the “12th International Coral Reef Symposium” in Cairns, Australia, is a key advance in understanding the processes underlying coral reef growth and health. Reefs depend on intricate relationships between corals and many marine microscopic life forms, including the symbiotic algae within coral tissues and beneficial bacteria living on and near the reef. Most of these relationships are still being described by researchers.





Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick was elected co-chair of the National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee.

- **MOTE SCIENTIST TO CO-CHAIR NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HARMFUL ALGAE**

The National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee (NHC) elected Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick — a leader in research on Florida red tide and human health at Mote Marine Laboratory — as co-chair. The NHC brings together those from research organizations, government agencies, communities and other groups to focus on harmful algal blooms while raising national-level awareness of bloom-related issues. NHC coordinates the U.S. national program on harmful algal blooms, Harmful Algal Research and Response: A National Environmental Science Strategy.

- **MOTE OPENS NEW BASE OFFICE FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

In July, Mote announced plans to open a new office in Charlotte County, thanks to a generous donation by Regions Bank.

The Mote Punta Gorda office, located at 1401 Tamiami Trail, houses two new science educators who will develop and provide new marine education programs to the community beginning in 2013. The positions are funded through a generous grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District.

- **MOTE STUDY SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON SEA TURTLE HEARING**

Loggerhead sea turtles have low-frequency hearing that might detect underwater noise from human activities,

reported Mote scientists in the first published study of a behavioral hearing test for sea turtles.

The study was published in August and awarded “Editors’ Choice” by the *Journal of Experimental Biology*. Until this study, the few hearing studies with sea turtles relied upon a test called “auditory-evoked potential” or AEP, which uses sensors to measure the brain’s response to sounds — a process similar to hearing tests for human infants. Published research using AEP has suggested that three species of sea turtles hear a limited range of low frequencies, but more research was needed to verify that AEP results — an indirect measure of hearing ability — were accurate.

To ground truth AEP results, Mote scientists and collaborators trained a nearly 200-pound loggerhead sea turtle named “Montego” to answer the question: “Did you hear that?”

- **SEA TURTLE NESTING BREAKS 31-YEAR RECORD ON LOCAL BEACHES**

Sea turtle nesting on beaches from Longboat Key through Venice broke a 31-year record. A total of 2,462 loggerhead sea turtle nests and seven of the more rare green sea turtle nests were documented by Mote’s Sea Turtle Patrol — a group of scientists, interns and more than 300 volunteers who monitor 35 miles of local nesting beaches May 1-Oct. 31.

The season also brought significant challenges: Tropical Storm Debby destroyed more than 920 nests, washed away the yellow stakes used to mark many nests and depleted Mote’s supplies used to document and protect nests on local beaches. Despite this setback, nesting continued after Debby and the strong numbers helped offset losses from the storm.

- **SEA TURTLE TAGGING IN 2012**

Mote’s Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program tagged 321 loggerhead sea turtles nesting on local beaches with flipper tags and microchips for identification. Of these, 57 had been tagged at least once before and seven turtles from Casey Key were fitted with satellite tags to track their migrations at sea.

- NEW SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM,  
NEW SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE

New solar-energy systems were installed at Mote to help launch our new Sustainable Energy Initiative.

One new system of 126 photovoltaic panels, valued at about \$115,000, was donated by Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc. and was installed by RegionSolar. The system supplements electrical power at Mote's nationally recognized hospitals for dolphins, small whales and sea turtles.

A second 30.2-kilowatt system provided by local donor and solar-energy supporter Jim Lampl was installed Mote Aquaculture Park — the Lab's environmentally responsible fish farm and research facility in eastern Sarasota County.

The solar installations kicked off Mote's Sustainable Energy Initiative, which is designed to allow for more solar power and other environmentally responsible practices at our Lab, hospital facilities and The Aquarium.



Dr. Nick Whitney explains the movements of a great white shark that had been tagged with an accelerometer.

- MOTE SCIENTIST TAGS GREAT WHITE WITH ACCELEROMETER

A great white shark was tagged for the first time with a fine-scale motion sensor on Sept. 13 by a Mote scientist during a joint research expedition with OCEARCH off Massachusetts. The shark was nicknamed "Genie" after Mote's founding director, famous "Shark Lady" Dr. Eugenie Clark.

The female great white, which weighed more than 2,500 pounds and measured nearly 15 feet long, was tagged and released during the expedition. Mote's accelerometer revealed that Genie swam very level after release. She started with frequent tail beats of lower power, and then she resumed a stronger, more typical swimming pattern with more force behind each tail beat. During the last few minutes before the tag came off (as it was designed to do, so Mote scientists could retrieve its data), Genie was very active — she might have been swimming in strong currents or chasing prey.



Mote studies of manatee mating herds are helping to unlock the genetic history of Florida manatees.

- MANATEE MATING HERD DOCUMENTED BY MOTE SCIENTISTS AT SIESTA KEY

Mote scientists were able to document a group of mating manatees spotted in September off Siesta Key for genetic studies.

Mating herds occur when males try to mate with females that are ready to conceive. Often, as the female tries to evade her male suitors, large groups of up to 20 manatees will end up in shallow waters along beaches.

Scientists in Mote's Manatee Research Program took photos of the herd to identify the individual manatees and collected DNA samples. Using these techniques, Mote scientists hope to unlock the mysteries of manatee mating — for instance, which males are the most successful sires? And do females choose



individual partners? DNA samples also help reveal the genetic diversity of manatee populations; diversity is important because it helps populations adapt and survive changing conditions.



Beggar, a Sarasota Bay dolphin known widely for his habit of begging food from boaters, was found dead. A necropsy revealed that he had suffered from multiple boat strikes over the years and that he had ingested fishing gear. Feeding wild dolphins is illegal under federal law.

- **BEGGAR THE DOLPHIN FOUND DEAD**  
One of Sarasota's most well-known and ill-fed dolphins was found dead near the Albee Road Bridge in Sarasota in September. Known as "Beggar," the bottlenose dolphin was fed illegally by many people — an example of how human behavior can sometimes hurt wild animals. Beggar was one of the most studied wild dolphins in the world as scientists from Mote and federal and state resource managers worked hard to lessen the amount of attention humans paid to this dolphin in order to help the dolphin return to more normal behavior patterns.

Beggar was just one animal recovered in 2012 by Mote's Stranding Investigations Program — a 24-hour response service for sick, injured and dead marine mammals and sea turtles. In all, staff responded to:

10 dolphins in Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Four of the dolphins were alive and six were found dead. Four of this year's dolphins had signs of fishing gear interactions, such as fishing line on or inside their bodies.

52 sea turtles in 12 Florida counties. 28 were found alive. Eight had evidence of fishing interactions, 11 were struck by boats and two had signs of likely boat strikes.

- **RED TIDE BLOOM FORMS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATERS**

As part of Mote's ongoing research to watch for and respond to Florida red tide blooms, Mote scientists discovered a new bloom in the fall of 2012. In conjunction with our state and national research partners, Mote scientists respond to such blooms with increased monitoring and public outreach designed to protect public health from the harmful effects of a bloom as well as unlock the mysteries of how and why blooms form and whether there are any methods that can be used to lessen their effects on humans and marine life.

Mote also worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to create a new Facebook page designed to help educate the public on Florida red tide issues and ongoing research projects. (Online at [facebook.com/FLHABs](https://facebook.com/FLHABs))

- **MOTE AND GIRLS INC. PARTNER TO BRING GIRL POWER TO SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
Mote began a brand-new educational partnership with local nonprofit, Girls Inc. in October designed to share science with girls by introducing them to marine animals, environments and real mentors — female scientists at Mote.

The new partnership is designed to support girls in STEM education: science, technology, engineering and mathematics — an important step toward opening more STEM careers to girls. Women filled fewer than 25 percent of U.S. STEM jobs in 2009, even though they held nearly half the nation's total jobs, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economics and Statistics Administration.

The Mote-Girls Inc. program launched this fall thanks to support from Mote Trustee Mary Lou Johnson. It is also supported through a generous donation by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation.



Dr. Kevan Main (right) was inaugurated as president of the World Aquaculture Society.

- **MOTE SCIENTIST DECLARED PRESIDENT OF WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY**  
The world's largest aquaculture organization inaugurated Dr. Kevan Main — a pioneer in sustainable aquaculture at Mote — as President.

The World Aquaculture Society, which advances progressive and sustainable aquaculture through members in nearly 100 nations, instated Main's leadership during its annual meeting, co-organized this year by the European Aquaculture Society and held in Prague, Czech Republic.

- **CORAL DISEASES MIGHT NOT BE CONTAGIOUS, NEW STUDY SAYS**  
Sick corals might be stressed but not necessarily contagious — an important finding for predicting disease outbreaks on threatened coral reefs, according to research by Mote and partner scientists who have completed the largest-ever study about the spatial distribution of coral diseases.

The study was published in October in the peer-reviewed journal *Global Change Biology*. Results show that three common diseases don't tend to spread from coral to coral, suggesting instead that disease outbreaks might owe more to environmental stressors such as climate change.

- **NEW WEB SITE FEATURES MOTE CAVIAR**  
In November, Mote unveiled a new Web site featuring Mote Farm-Raised Caviar. The site, [motecaviar.com](http://motecaviar.com), tells the story of Mote's Earth-friendly production of Siberian sturgeon caviar, provides caviar basics and showcases new recipes developed by top restaurants and caviar purveyors.

- **THIRD SIESTA KEY CRYSTAL CLASSIC DECLARED A SUCCESS**  
The Siesta Key Crystal Classic Master Sand Sculpting Competition was a hit for its third year in a row, culminating with an awards ceremony on Nov. 11. The competition, featuring 24 of the world's top master sand sculptors, raised funds to benefit sea turtle research and conservation at Mote.

- **ART OF MARINE SCIENCE: OCEAN ACIDIFICATION**  
Ocean acidification — a serious threat to marine life and a complex puzzle for both research and public outreach — got easier to understand this fall thanks to an educational ad campaign, a video game and creatively packaged candy.

These projects earned the highest scores in "The Art of Marine Science," a special exhibit in The Aquarium at Mote created through a partnership between Mote and the Ringling College of Art and Design.

- **"SEA LIONS: ON THE WATER'S EDGE" DEBUTS AT MOTE**  
Sea lions Stella, Rose and Kitty debuted Dec. 1 in Sea Lions: On The Water's Edge — a new limited-time exhibit in The Aquarium at Mote.

The exhibit allows visitors to get close to Patagonian and California sea lions and learn about their astounding double lives on land and at sea and will highlight innovative health studies Mote scientists will conduct with the sea lions during their visit.





## THE LEGACY SOCIETY



Dr. Jayne Gardiner (left), Mote Post-Doctoral Fellow whose studies include research on sharks, and Dr. Eugenie Clark, Mote founder who is also known as "The Shark Lady," during a special dinner for Mote's Legacy Society.

When Dr. Eugenie Clark opened a small marine research lab in 1955, she had no idea that the venture would turn into a world-class, independent, marine research facility also dedicated to public outreach and education.

But 57 years after Genie Clark opened the Lab, Mote continues to conduct world-class, groundbreaking research through a wide range of initiatives and programs including studies of sharks, dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, coral reefs and on developing ways to restore healthy fisheries and produce seafood using Earth-friendly methods, and much more.

Mote celebrated its oceanic accomplishments — as well as those who support them — during a special Oceanic Evening event in 2012 themed to highlight the launch of the Mote Marine Laboratory Legacy Society.

Fittingly, the event honored Dr. Clark and celebrated her contributions to Mote's legacy as a founder and, today, as a donor. "Mote has meant so much to me over the years. I can't believe that what we started has grown into this big scientific laboratory that has meant so much for Sarasota, so

much for the west coast of Florida and so much for marine biology and science in general," says Dr. Clark. "I'm glad that I'll be able to leave something to Mote when I'm gone so its work can continue. Ever since I have had a will drawn up, I've put Mote in it."

### WE THANK ALL OF OUR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

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For information about The Legacy Society, please call 941-388-4441.



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AIG Matching Grants Program  
American Express Gift Matching Program  
ArcelorMittal Matching Gifts Programs  
Bunge North America Foundation  
ChevronTexaco Matching Gift Program  
ExxonMobil Foundation, Inc.  
GE Foundation Matching Gift Program  
IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program  
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies  
Kraft Foods Matching Gift Foundation  
Merck Partnership for Giving  
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Matching Gift Program  
Pella Rolscreen Foundation  
Pfizer Foundation  
PG & E Matching Gifts Program  
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
Regions Financial Corporation  
Edward and Elyse Rogers Family Foundation  
The Vanguard Group Matching Gift Foundation



# FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
 DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011  
 (SUMMARIZED COMPARATIVE TOTALS ONLY)

	2012 Consolidated Total	2011 Consolidated Total
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,594,258	\$ 2,146,235
Accounts receivable	1,675,104	2,145,120
Due from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	12,217	21,086
Bequest receivable	70,000	33,187
Pledges receivable	32,942	32,942
Inventory	3,095,999	3,076,969
Prepaid expenses and other assets	103,854	106,815
Donated assets held for sale	107,200	79,250
Beneficial interest in life estate	56,700	-
Patents, net	65,902	48,915
Land	7,498,190	7,498,190
Property and equipment, net	18,028,200	19,668,108
Beneficial interest in the net assets of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	<u>13,760,360</u>	<u>13,406,501</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>47,100,926</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>48,263,318</u></b>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ 724,098	\$ 638,285
Accrued payroll	842,871	765,415
Memberships relating to future periods	656,200	672,873
Funds advanced on research programs	3,242,434	2,653,062
Line of credit	4,768,406	4,518,406
Notes payable	<u>5,157,744</u>	<u>5,380,963</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>15,391,753</u></b>	<b><u>14,629,004</u></b>
Minority Interest in MESI	<u>1,244,410</u>	<u>1,328,624</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	15,753,504	17,878,361
Temporarily restricted	5,970,841	5,725,344
Permanently restricted	<u>8,740,418</u>	<u>8,701,985</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>30,464,763</u></b>	<b><u>32,305,690</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>47,100,926</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>48,263,318</u></b>

*The Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities included are excerpts from our complete set of financial statements audited by Kerkering, Berberio & Co., P.A., for the years ended Dec. 31, 2012 and 2011. The complete set of audited financial statements can be obtained from Dena Smith, Chief Financial Officer or downloaded from [www.mote.org/2012audit](http://www.mote.org/2012audit).*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

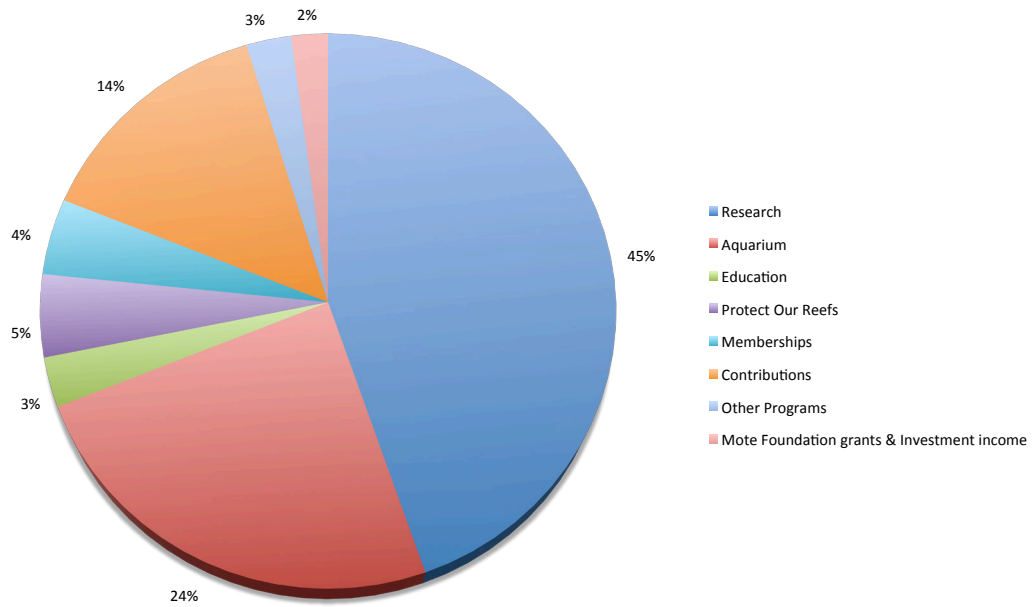
MOTE MARINE LABORATORY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011  
(SUMMARIZED COMPARITIVE TOTALS ONLY)

	2012 Consolidated Total	2011 Consolidated Total
Support, Revenue and Reclassifications		
Program revenue		
Research revenue		
Federal	\$ 2,447,627	\$ 3,492,213
State	1,768,753	1,752,218
Other	2,954,199	3,074,638
Aquarium		
Admission fees	2,890,633	2,624,824
Gift shop	1,211,966	1,114,245
Other	468,795	339,579
Fish and caviar sales	1,260,762	1,079,397
Memberships	838,570	704,851
Education	547,692	457,522
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	907,261	970,655
Other programs	490,151	618,405
Contributions		
Aquarium	211,333	292,723
Other programs	2,014,015	1,565,352
Non-cash contributions	454,138	741,357
Grants from Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	569,189	456,998
Investment income	9,670	11,395
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net	1,264	(770)
Realized gain (loss) on investments, net	798	(149)
Realized gain (loss) on disposal of assets	(179,826)	18,010
Change in net assts of Mote Marine Foundation, Inc.	353,859	3,228,101
Total support, revenue and reclassifications	<u>19,220,849</u>	<u>22,541,564</u>
Expenses		
Cost and expenses		
Cost of products sold	451,662	972,249
Processing and packing	116,140	111,353
Selling, general and administrative	17,967	31,314
Other	56,378	292,577
Program services		
Research	8,892,435	9,874,734
Education	656,272	688,355
Aquarium	4,086,969	3,830,021
Protect Our Reefs-License Plate	920,303	974,954
MAP facility operations	1,363,969	1,396,559
Other	882,300	843,861
Supporting services		
Administrative and general	2,100,825	1,809,285
Fund raising	1,600,770	1,173,792
Total expenses	<u>21,145,990</u>	<u>21,999,054</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets before minority interest	(1,925,141)	542,510
Minority interest in MESI	84,214	323,975
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>(1,840,927)</u>	<u>866,485</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>32,305,690</u>	<u>31,439,205</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 30,464,763</u>	<u>\$ 32,305,690</u>

The Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities included are excerpts from our complete set of financial statements audited by Kerkering, Berberio & Co., P.A., for the years ended Dec. 31, 2012 and 2011. The complete set of audited financial statements can be obtained from Dena Smith, Chief Financial Officer or downloaded from [www.mote.org/2012audit](http://www.mote.org/2012audit).

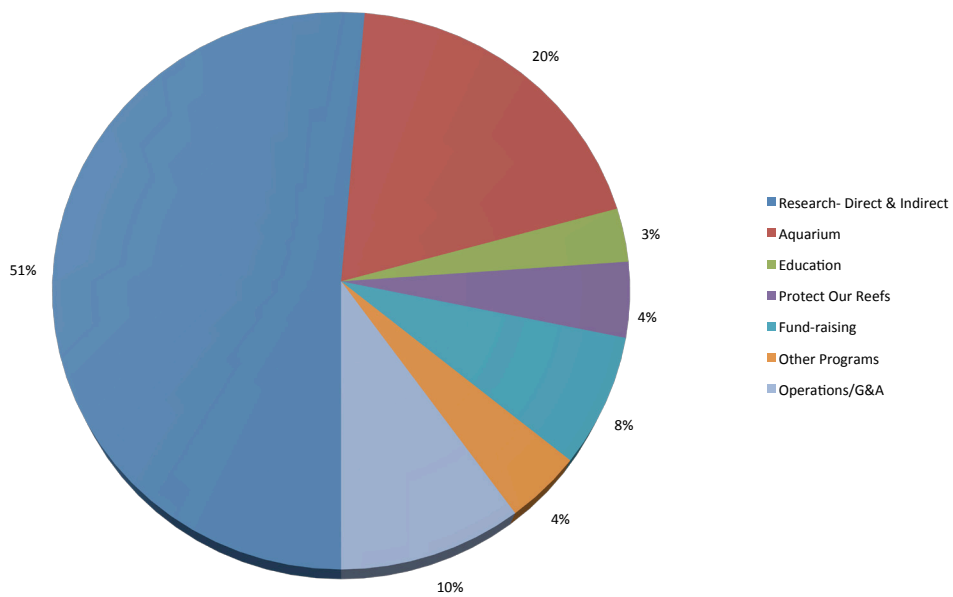
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Mote Marine Laboratory & Subsidiaries Revenue 2012\*



\* does not include MMF change in net assets

## Mote Marine Laboratory & Subsidiaries Expenses 2012\*



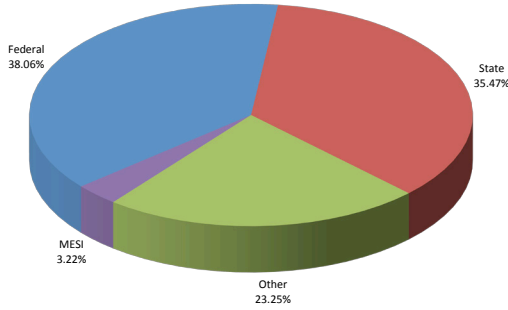
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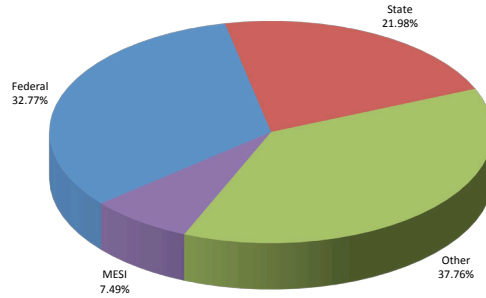
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Research Revenues

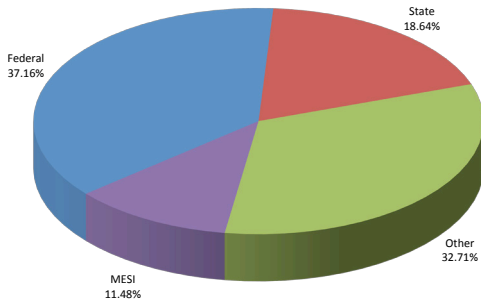
**2009 • \$8,246,739**



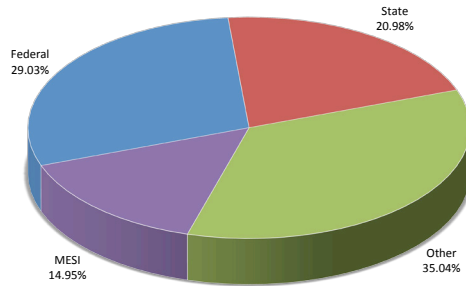
**2010 • \$7,913,115**



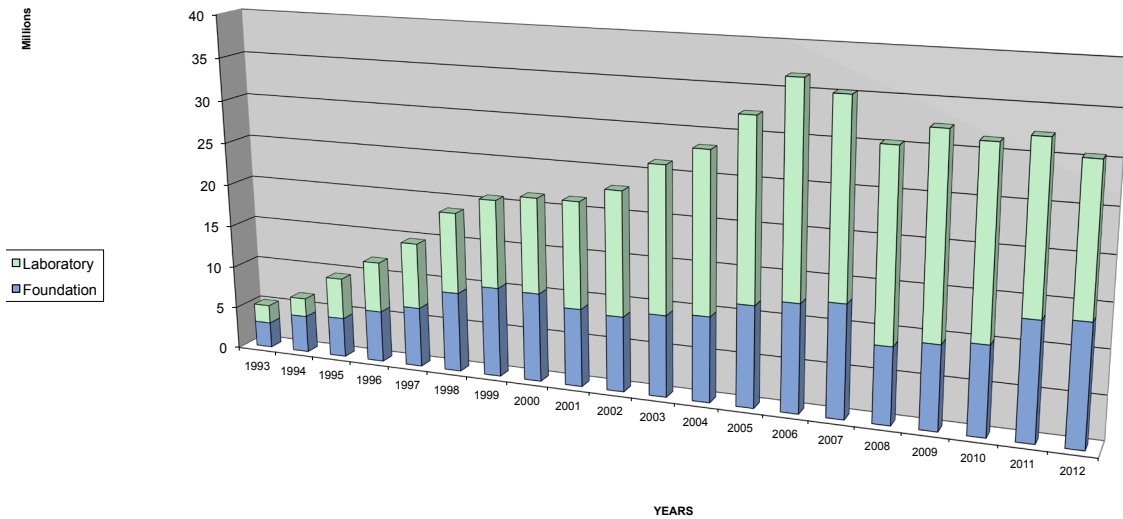
**2011 • \$9,398,468**



**2012 • \$8,431,341**



## TOTAL NET ASSET GROWTH • 20 YEARS 1993-2012



The Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities included are excerpts from our complete set of financial statements audited by Kerkering, Berberio & Co., P.A., for the years ended Dec. 31, 2012 and 2011. The complete set of audited financial statements can be obtained from Dena Smith, Chief Financial Officer or downloaded from [www.mote.org/2012audit](http://www.mote.org/2012audit).

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Staff publications are available in Mote's Arthur Vining Davis Library & Archives, or by contacting the librarian at [library@mote.org](mailto:library@mote.org). Web links have been provided for articles that are open access.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

Organization: 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit, Incorporated in 1955

Mission: To be a place “where one can learn about the sea”, dedicated to the advancement of marine and educational sciences through scientific research, education, and public outreach, leading to new discoveries, revitalization and sustainability of our oceans and greater public understanding of our marine resources.

Total Staff: 192 Staff  
Volunteers: 1,600 Volunteers contributing over 212,500 hours/year  
Memberships: 11,000+ Individual, 160+ Corporate  
Visitors to the Aquarium: 352,000 Annually  
Operation Budget: Overall: \$20.6 Million; Research \$11 Million  
Net Assets - Lab: \$21 Million  
Net Assets - Foundation: \$11.0 Million (Endowment)

Research Staff/Major Programs:

74 Research Staff (31 Doctoral Level) 85 Publications (14 public library)

Behavioral Ecology & Physiology	Marine & Fresh Water Aquaculture Research
Benthic Ecology	Marine Biomedical Research
Chemical Ecology	Marine Immunology
Coral Reef Restoration	Marine Microbiology
Coral Reef Science	Marine Stock Enhancement
Dolphin Research	Ocean Acidification
Ecotoxicology	Phytoplankton Ecology
Environmental Health & Monitoring	Sea Turtle Conservation & Research
Environmental Laboratory for Forensics	Sensory Biology & Behavior
Fisheries Habitat Ecology	Shark Biology & Conservation
Manatee Research	Stranding Investigations

22 Research Programs:

Aquarium Staff/Programs:

35 Staff(1 Doctoral Level)/ 8 Off-Site Aquariums / Dolphin, Whale and Sea Turtle Hospital (co-managed with Research Division )/ 60 Exhibits relating to Mote.

Education Staff/Programs:

16 Staff / 23 Education Programs:

Students Served: 17,000 Grades K-12  
170 College Level

Size of Properties: Main Campus: 10.5 Acres (Long Term Lease, City of Sarasota)

Mote Aquaculture Park: 200 Acres

Summerland Key: 1 Acre

Facilities/Buildings: Total Buildings/Structures: 31

Total Square Footage: 297,247

Air Conditioned Square Footage: 135,382

Seawater Systems:

- Research: 1,224,152 Gallons
- Exhibits: 614,680 Gallons

Florida Specialty License Plate:











#### MAIN CAMPUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Mote Marine Laboratory  
1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy.  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
Phone: (941) 388-4441

#### RESEARCH FIELD STATIONS (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

Mote Aquaculture Park  
12300 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
Phone: (941) 388-4541

Charlotte Harbor Field Station  
P.O. Box 529  
St. James City, FL 33956  
Phone: (239) 283-1622

Punta Gorda Office  
1401 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Phone: (239) 283-1622

Tropical Research Laboratory  
24244 Overseas Highway  
Summerland Key, FL 33042  
Phone: (305) 745-2729

#### PUBLIC OUTREACH LOCATIONS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

The Aquarium at Mote  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 365 days a year. (Admission charge)  
1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy.  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
Phone: (941) 388-4441

Boca Grande Office  
Summer/Winter schedules vary. Please call ahead. (Free)  
480 East Railroad Ave., Unit 7, Railroad Plaza  
(Mailing address: PO Box 870)  
Boca Grande, FL 33921  
Phone: (941) 855-9251

Mote Living Reef Exhibit at the NOAA Eco-Discovery Center  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday  
(Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free)  
35 East Quay Road  
Key West, FL 33040  
Phone: (305) 296-3551