



annual report 2007

HEALTHY OCEANS – HEALTHY PLANET

# greetings

## [ A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ]

*Global Climate Change, Collapsing World Fisheries and Marine Protected Areas* have all been headlining the news over the past year. Although it is gratifying to see the study of these environmental issues gaining the public recognition that we in the scientific community feel they have needed for many years, it is important to remember that we cannot appropriately resolve a problem until we determine the underlying nature of the problem. Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute has dedicated the last 44 years to understanding human interactions with the ocean and its inhabitants and seeking solutions to minimize impacts. As we look ahead, the health of our world's oceans will depend increasingly on our base of knowledge and skills for finding solutions to allow human and animal populations to thrive together.

We view the environment not as a collection of individual species having narrowly-defined requirements, but as an integrated web of relationships among species and their habitats, collectively comprising a complex, diverse and changing ecosystem. It is only through long-term study, sometimes over decades, that we can hope to comprehend the factors that contribute to the changes underway. We see changes in the environment as more than measurements of increases in ocean temperature or decreases in ice cover – rather, these changes illuminate the forces that may alter predator-prey relationships,

foraging strategies, migratory behavior, reproductive success and overall species fitness. Our long-term studies provide vital data needed to predict and evaluate both the short-term and long-term fate of species of concern and to suggest solutions that benefit both animal and human populations.

The Institute's 'Healthy Oceans-Healthy Planet' philosophy reflects our understanding that we are dependent on the oceans and that we share a responsibility to do our part to minimize the challenges that face them. As habitats change and human populations grow worldwide, what we do has never been more important. Ultimately, though, our success depends on your generous contributions. I thank all of you who have supported us over the years. I hope those of you just learning about our research will join with us by supporting our outstanding scientists and their efforts to train the next generation of researchers and educators in these important scientific investigations. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue on our mission: *"to return to the sea some measure of the benefits derived from it."*



Don Kent  
President

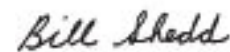
## [ A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ]

Back in 1963, a year before SeaWorld opened, my father, Milton Shedd, founded Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute in an effort *"to return to the sea some measure of the benefits derived from it."* That mission statement drafted over 40 years ago represented the Institute's commitment to understanding how we humans can enjoy the oceans' bounty while committing to its conservation. That mission is even more important today. I have always taken great pride in being a part of the Institute and am so pleased to be the incoming Board Chair. The heart of the Institute is its scientific staff and they and the other staff members deserve all the support we can give them.

The Institute was one of my father's great passions. I feel very strongly that HSWRI has lived up to his expectations. On a personal level, I am an avid fisherman and dedicated conservationist and I find the work of the Institute to be consistent with my ethic as both a user and a steward of

the environment. The science generated by the terrific scientists at the Institute helps us to better understand our relationship with the oceans.

My father always felt that as a family we benefited from the oceans and that we needed to look at ways we could give back. I encourage all of you to become involved with this great organization – one which is dedicated to making sure our children will enjoy healthier, more abundant oceans and all of the benefits derived from them. I can think of no better way of giving back.



Bill Shedd  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



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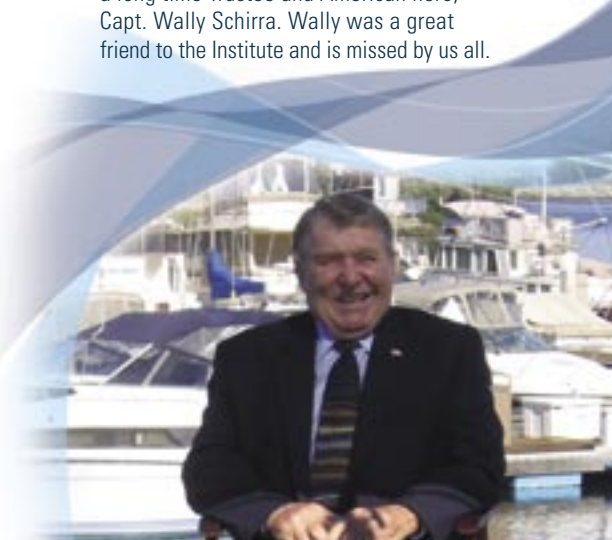
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## [ IN MEMORIAM ]

Last year the Institute said good-bye to a long time Trustee and American hero, Capt. Wally Schirra. Wally was a great friend to the Institute and is missed by us all.



# scientists

Our researchers are the heart of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. Individually and collectively, our scientists are the foundation of the Institute's creativity, scientific accomplishments and world-wide reputation.

They are responsible for:

- developing and implementing the research and conservation initiatives of the Institute.
- mentoring young scientists and students.
- interacting with the public, policy makers and the broader scientific community.
- generating revenues through grants and contracts that are essential to the continued existence of the Institute.

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# milestones 2007



## [ AQUACULTURE ]

- Through the use of sophisticated recirculating seawater systems, the Institute is demonstrating how a large number of fish can be grown in a small space. This technology, now supported by a grant from the USDA, enables year-round spawning of high-quality eggs. New intensive rearing protocols have yielded record levels of larval survival that will allow our hatchery to produce in excess of two million juvenile white seabass each year.
- Using funding provided by the National Sea Grant Program's National Marine Aquaculture Initiative, the Institute commenced an offshore demonstration project to culture striped bass and California yellowtail in two different cage types – the traditional circular surface cage and a diamond-shaped, submersible sea station. These two species have never been cultured in offshore waters of the Eastern Pacific. Working in cooperation with the largest Mexican-based tuna farm off the coast of Baja California, the Institute has already stocked cages with fish and initiated an associated fish health and environmental monitoring program.
- The Institute produced more than 25,000 juvenile California yellowtail in 2007 and is the only hatchery in North America that is producing this species. California yellowtail, known as hamachi in sushi restaurants, is one of the prime candidates for the expansion of commercial aquaculture in the United States. The entire world's supply of hamachi served in these restaurants is derived from cultured yellowtail. The Institute's efforts with this species open the potential for a domestic supply of commercial yellowtail. Specifically, the project will address the economic and production issues for yellowtail from egg to market size.



## [ BIOACOUSTICS ]

- HSWRI scientists, in collaboration with the Zoological Society of San Diego and SeaWorld San Diego, are measuring the hearing of polar bears. The information is needed by management agencies to assess potential impacts of human-made noise on the bears in their arctic habitat and may be useful for designing mitigation tools. Virtually nothing is known of the hearing of any large carnivore. This study is making a contribution to our basic understanding of mammalian sensory biology. How much does the environment shape hearing? Are morphological features like size the most important determinants? This kind of information is vital to the conservation of polar bears and other large carnivores in a changing world.
- Three long-term studies on endangered terrestrial birds in California and New Mexico were completed this year. The research on Mexican Spotted Owl, California Gnatcatcher, and Least Bell's Vireos, conducted in collaboration with the Department of Defense and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have provided important information on the natural (e.g., rainfall) and human-caused factors (e.g., aircraft noise) affecting populations of these threatened and endangered birds. HSWRI scientists have shown the relative magnitude of human contributions to the noise environment and provided recommendations for how impacts might be managed.



## [ ECOLOGY ]

- Long-term ecological studies on both coasts of the U.S. and around the world continued in 2007. Multi-decadal studies such as these are critical for understanding ecosystem processes and predicting change. Surveying marine animal populations by land, sea and air, combined with remote sensing and tracking technology, allowed HSWRI scientists to evaluate population changes and habitat requirements of bottlenose dolphins and sea turtles in the Indian River Lagoon, fish and pinniped populations in the Southern California Bight, and whale sharks in the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans.
- HSWRI partnered with local universities to conduct the first significant radio-tracking of Indian River Lagoon bottlenose dolphins to assess micro-scale habitat use and behavior. HSWRI also assisted state and federal biologists with a survey of harbor seals in California, an exercise that is conducted once every five to 10 years.
- An unusually large number of threatened northern and Guadalupe fur seals stranded along the West Coast in 2007. HSWRI worked with members of the California Marine Mammal Stranding Network to track fur seal movements once the animals were released from rescue facilities to determine their source populations and other factors that might explain this phenomenon.
- The Institute joined an international team of scientists on an historic expedition on the Yangtze River in China, which resulted in the announcement of the likely extinction of the baiji (Chinese river dolphin), as well as disturbing news about the dramatic decline of the finless porpoise, the other small cetacean found in this river. HSWRI also participated in an international, multidisciplinary Antarctic expedition associated with the International Polar Year, aboard the Swedish icebreaker *Oden*.

## [ PHYSIOLOGY AND OCEAN HEALTH ]

- In partnership with the University of Central Florida Physiological Ecology and Bioenergetics Laboratory, HSWRI is making steady progress in answering questions related to how marine vertebrates cope with the impacts of global climate change. This research is conducted in our Florida laboratory and at field research sites from the Gulf of Alaska to South Africa. HSWRI studies integrate field studies and laboratory research using state-of-the-art instrumentation and HSWRI's innovative Mobile Energetics Laboratory. This research is made possible by our collaborative relationship with the Busch Entertainment Corporation's family of zoological parks and allows HSWRI scientists to implement controlled and safe experiments with large marine mammals, including threatened and endangered species—experiments that would be impossible in the wild.
- Infectious diseases, once considered of minor importance to wildlife populations, are now considered an important factor influencing populations of marine species particularly endangered species. Further, the ties between ocean health and human health are now widely recognized, and HSWRI programs are contributing

to understanding these linkages. A novel dolphin virus, closely related to parainfluenza viruses causing respiratory disease in cattle and humans, was discovered by the Center for Marine Veterinary Virology (Molecular Diagnostics Lab) in 2007. This joint-use laboratory is a collaboration between HSWRI, SeaWorld, the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program, and the University of Florida. A dolphin-specific diagnostic test was developed and used to screen several groups of dolphins, including free-ranging animals and those in managed collections; the virus appears to be widely distributed in dolphin populations.

- Institute scientists, in collaboration with researchers at SeaWorld and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution have documented several cases of a fungal disease in stranded dolphins that is transmissible between animals and humans. HSWRI scientists are also collaborating with a number of public and private research partners to examine the impact of non-infectious diseases, such as pollutant toxicosis, on species ranging from bottlenose dolphins to endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

## [ OCEAN SCIENCE LITERACY ]

- With HSWRI staff and facilities on both coasts of North America, we support marine research and education by providing access to study areas and organisms, serving as mentors, providing facilities and equipment in close proximity to research study areas, and fostering an atmosphere for life-long ocean learning through “hands on” science education.
- HSWRI scientists worked with Satellite High School, Florida, to develop a middle school teacher training curriculum in math, science, social studies and language arts focused on application of data from HSWRI's Atlantic Leatherback Project. The curriculum was presented at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference on Science in St. Louis, Mo.

- HSWRI sponsored four interns from Harvey Mudd College and Marine Technology Society in 2007.
- A series of live talk-backs from Antarctica with HSWRI researchers, other scientists and educators from the U.S., Chile and Sweden were held aboard the icebreakers *Oden* and *Palmer*.
- Institute scientists served as advisors to 29 graduate students and post-doctoral research associates from universities ranging from the University of Central Florida and the University of San Diego to the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur and the Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.

## [ FACILITIES EXPANSION ]

- In response to an urgent need for expanded research facilities within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge to support a range of research and conservation initiatives on the barrier island and Indian River Lagoon, HSWRI began renovations of its Coconut Point property. The renovated facility will act as a field station for sea turtle research as well as a base of operations for HSWRI's stranded animal rescue and research program. It will contain

laboratory space as well and offices for ten staff members and housing for existing researchers. Its vessel dock is already in use to support studies of free-ranging animals within the Indian River Lagoon. With federal and state funding support, HSWRI will complete renovations of the Coconut Point field research station in 2008.



# donors

## [ THE MILTON AND PEGGIE SHEDD ENDOWMENT CIRCLE ]

recognizes those who have contributed to our endowment fund which is designed to ensure our research programs for generations to come:

Jill and Bill Shedd  
Carol Shedd McCarren  
Terri and Frank Murru  
Peggie Shedd  
Terri and Steve Shedd

## [ THE CARL L. AND LAURA C. HUBBS LEGACY CIRCLE ]

recognizes contributors who are planning to leave lasting legacies through bequests and trusts:

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Linda and Jack Miller  
Linda Sue Shelton  
Tammy and Dr. Graham Worthy

## [ CREATING A LEGACY THAT RETURNS TO THE SEA FOR AN ETERNITY ]

You can play a significant role in assuring the success of our mission through planned giving in the form of a bequest or trust. Even persons of modest means can become donors and enjoy deep personal fulfillment – fulfillment that comes with establishing a legacy.

Your remembrance of HSWRI will provide our dedicated scientists with the necessary equipment and capital to continue vital marine research. Moreover, your bequest can help unlock some of the mysteries of the sea and ensure that we conserve our oceans for future generations to enjoy.

The Trustees and staff at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute respectfully request that you consider remembering the Institute and its research as you make important decisions about your estate. We believe your bequest should be looked upon as an investment in the future. Like other investments, your bequest should bring personal satisfaction.

Additionally, if you have property and/or appreciated securities that could be offered today to support our research projects, our staff would be happy to talk with you. Beyond knowing that you will “return to the sea some measure of the benefits derived from it,” you may also receive significant tax benefits.

To discuss your particular interests, please call Karen Terra in California at 619-226-3881 or JB Kump in Florida at 407-370-1650. If you have already included the Institute in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may properly recognize you.

We are extremely grateful to those individuals, foundations and corporations listed below who have generously provided support since July 2006.

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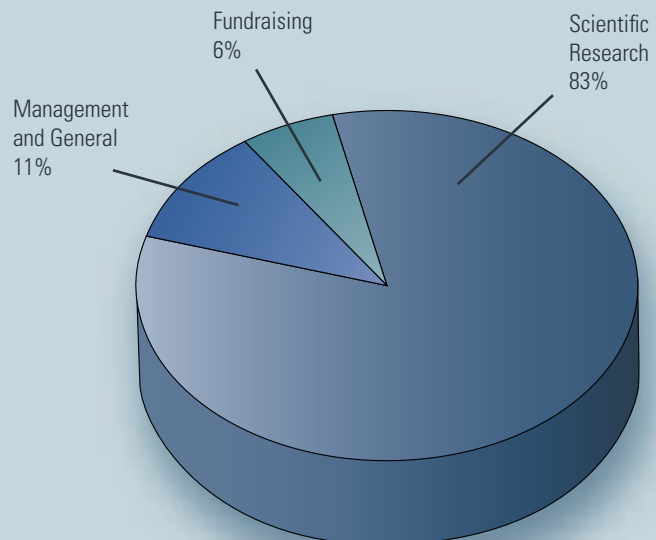
### [ CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE ]

#### [ REVENUE ]

Research Contracts and Grants	\$4,898,261
Unrestricted Gifts	1,103,496
Restricted Gifts	142,804
Other Revenue	201,697
<b>Total Support Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,346,258</b>

#### [ EXPENDITURES ]

Scientific Research	\$5,002,756
Management and General	644,867
Fundraising	378,730
<b>Total Charitable Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,206,353</b>





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