



*Sea  
Turtle  
Restoration  
Project*

2008  
Annual Report

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Dear Friend of the Sea Turtles and the Oceans,*

*Although many of us live far from the beaches where sea turtles nest, and have never traveled the high seas along their migratory routes, we have been brought close to these incredible creatures through the work of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project, as you have been.*

*As the board of STRP's sponsoring nonprofit, Turtle Island Restoration Network, we are honored to be a part of this important community and to be a part of the victories that have been achieved this past year.*

*From the Kemp's ridleys' nesting beaches on Texas shores, to the foraging grounds of loggerheads and leatherbacks off the US West Coast, from important nesting beaches in Papua New Guinea to the waters off Central America rich with turtles and other sea life, your role as a member of this community has helped make the world's oceans and beaches safer for sea turtles, the marine animals that swim beside them, and ultimately, for human beings.*

*We are pleased to report on the Sea Turtle Restoration Project's achievements this past year. We thank you for being a part of this vital work to protect and restore populations of sea turtles – and the oceans themselves – to vitality and health.*

*Sincerely,*

*Board of Directors*

*Carole Allen*

*Rick Misuraca*

*Debbie Sivas*

*Andrew Harris*

*Steven Katz*

*Todd Steiner*

*Donna Howe*

*Susan Sakmar*

# 2007 VICTORIES – DECISIVE ACTION

## FIGHTING TO REVERSE THE LEATHERBACK EXTINCTION CRISIS

*The Pacific leatherback sea turtle stands at the brink of extinction. Since 1980, the leatherback's population has declined more than 95%, to fewer than 5,000 nesting females. That's why STRP and our community partners continued to take decisive action in 2007 to control industrial fishing – the most critical threat to leatherbacks – and protect every individual leatherback possible from harm.*

- STRP led a coalition that successfully stopped a fishing industry proposal to allow devastating drift-gillnet fishing into the protected Leatherback Conservation Area, where Pacific leatherbacks forage for jellyfish off the Northern California and Southern Oregon coasts.

- STRP also successfully fought off a fishing industry proposal to allow longline fishing in these coastal waters for the first time. Keeping longlining out of these US waters provides a necessary foundation for our long-term work to encourage other nations to limit longlining.

- In a proactive measure intended to make protecting the leatherback the highest priority in policy decisions regarding the Leatherback Conservation Area, we filed a petition calling for designating this area as "critical habitat". The National Marine Fisheries Service has reviewed this, determined the petition has merit and has begun a detailed legal review.

- To achieve international protections for leatherbacks, we continued to work to bring about a Pacific-wide moratorium on industrial longlining and gillnetting. As we work towards this broad policy change, we are also pursuing immediate solutions that will protect leatherbacks. We have proposed a Leatherback Biological Corridor in the key Pacific Ocean migration areas at a United Nations "Law of the Sea" meeting.

- To protect prime leatherback nesting beaches, we are working in Papua New Guinea with nine coastal villages to create a Conservation Deed Trust, a legal locally-controlled regulation, in order to protect nesting leatherbacks and other marine resources. Through this process we are inspiring new activists in the Southern Pacific to protect the marine fish and wildlife that have nourished their communities for millennia.

- In Costa Rica, through an international grassroots campaign

in partnership with our sister organization PRETOMA, we successfully compelled President Oscar Arias to annex threatened lands adjacent to Playa Grande, the best remaining leatherback nesting beach in the Eastern Pacific, into Las Baulas National Marine Park.

## PROTECTING SEA TURTLES THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFECYCLE

*Sea turtles have migrated through the earth's oceans since the time of the dinosaurs, but today, scientists consider all seven species to be threatened or endangered. STRP is working through targeted actions to protect sea turtles and their habitats, and to inspire communities to take action to address critical issues that affect these magnificent ocean travelers.*

- STRP WORKED WITH OUR SISTER ORGANIZATION PRETOMA to monitor six sea turtle nesting beaches on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast by stationing biologists at each beach, and coordinating volunteers throughout the summer. In total since their inception, these programs have protected more than 450,000 sea turtle eggs and released more than 300,000 hatchlings to the sea.

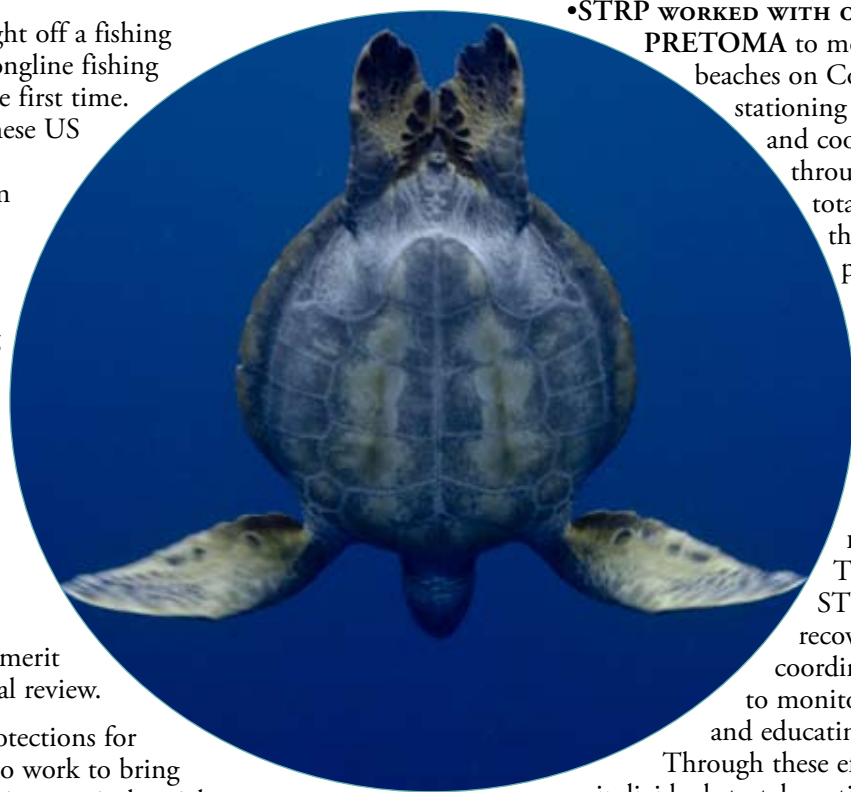
- IN 2007, MORE KEMP'S RIDLEYS NESTED ON THE TEXAS COAST THAN EVER RECORDED BEFORE.

Through our Gulf Office, STRP is protecting the recovering Kemp's ridley by coordinating dozens of volunteers to monitor nesting beaches directly; and educating thousands of people.

Through these efforts, we are engaging individuals to take action through our campaign to expand the successful shrimp-fishing closure of near-beach waters and create a year-round Kemp's Ridley Marine Reserve.

- AFTER STRP and a partner organization filed an official petition to list loggerhead sea turtles on the US West Coast as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, the US government announced that the petition had merit. This hard-won decision means that the US government will give the petition a thorough, formal review.

- STRP RELEASED A REPORT ENTITLED *BOILING POINT: The Impact of Climate Change on Sea Turtles and the Urgent Need to Take Action*, which compiles emerging research on the impacts of temperature change and sea level rises and their impacts on sea turtles.



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## 2007 VICTORIES – DECISIVE ACTION



### WILD OCEANS – PROTECTING MARINE WILDLIFE FROM HARM

*Throughout the oceans, the marine animals that swim alongside sea turtles, and the habitats that they all share, are in trouble. STRP's goal is to protect them all, and create healthy, wild ocean ecosystems. Often, solutions aimed at addressing threats to one species or habitat have a wide benefit that cuts across species lines.*

• **IN 2007, STRP SUPPORTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS** in their efforts to oppose the introduction of sea-floor mining in the waters off Papua New Guinea. This potentially dangerous new form of mining would impact sea turtle feeding areas, and traditional fishing grounds. We worked with the local communities and helped to develop a coalition and address the mining company – Canada-based Nautilus, Inc. – through a full-page newspaper ad. Through community insistence, a complete review of the ecological impacts of the mining is underway.

• **IN COSTA RICA**, we compelled the government to stop allowing illegal landing of shark fins at private docks in Costa Rica, ending a loophole utilized by international vessels conducting illegal longline fishing in nearby waters.

• **WORKING WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**, STRP is using environmental law to protect endangered species. In 2007, this tool helped us compel a review of the Atlantic white marlin's population status, so that it may receive better protections against longlining. We initiated a formal federal review to determine if the black-footed albatross should receive the protections of the Endangered Species Act. We also filed a lawsuit seeking better management of marine mammals that are threatened by global warming, including polar bears, walruses and sea otters.

### GOTMERCURY.ORG – THE OCEAN AND HUMAN HEALTH CONNECTION

*Swordfish and tuna are dangerously high in mercury, a potent neurotoxin. They are key targets of longline fishing, which also kills sea turtles. STRP is working to build public awareness of the dual threats – to sea turtle populations and to human health – of eating this seafood, and inspire people to take action.*

• **IN 2007, AFTER WE SUCCESSFULLY CALLED ON THE USDA TO DROP CANNED TUNA** from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program, the agency agreed to drop the type highest in mercury - albacore. Now, we will continue to call for all tuna to be dropped from all federal food programs.

• **WE BUILT PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY** present in tuna and other sushi in New York and Chicago by preparing and publicizing a comprehensive report that showed that 50% of sushi tested was over the FDA's safe limit.

• **WE DEVELOPED A VOLUNTEER CORPS OF MORE THAN 100 TO MONITOR** whether the seafood outlets were complying with California's Prop. 65 Toxics Right-to-Know Law that requires mercury warning signs. We completed the monitoring and sent a report to the state for further action on poor levels of compliance.

### BUILDING THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPACITY

*In 2007, the Sea Turtle Restoration Project expanded in three key areas in order to better reach people around the world to inspire them to take action for sea turtles.*

• **WE GAINED NEARLY 1,500 NEW CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS FOR THE ORGANIZATION** through issue-based mailings and communications.

• **WE CRAFTED A GUIDING VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE ORGANIZATION**, through community-building stakeholder meetings, and are beginning to develop a distinct brand for the organization.

• **IN A MOMENTOUS STEP FOR THE ORGANIZATION**, we established our first public headquarters on National Park land at the Point Reyes National Seashore, just a few miles inland from the Pacific leatherback's summer foraging grounds.

### STRP in Numbers 2007:

300,000 hatchlings raised and released on Costa Rican beaches.

6,000 public comments generated to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council against the expansion of destructive industrial fisheries into the Leatherback Conservation Area.

125,000 square miles of nutrient-rich ocean still protected as the Leatherback Conservation Area during peak migration, off the California and Oregon Coasts.

224 scientists from 39 countries STRP coordinated to sign a letter to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council opposing the above rollbacks.

9 coastal communities (representing 3,500 people) in Papua new Guinea developing conservation deeds to help protect sea turtles and their marine environment.

128 confirmed Kemp's ridley nestings on Texas beaches.

258 miles of Texas beaches now monitored and patrolled by volunteers, an effort coordinated by STRP's Gulf office director.

1,200 Texas students heard from our Gulf Office Director about sea turtles and marine conservation issues at in-school teaching programs.

100 volunteer monitors organized by our Gotmercury.org program to check 332 restaurants and supermarkets' compliance with mandated California mercury-in-seafood warning signs.

19 – percent of seafood outlets found to be out of compliance with the mercury-in-seafood warning sign requirement in California.

8,000,000 low-income mothers and children will no longer receive mercury-contaminated canned albacore tuna as part of the USDA's Women, Infants and Children food program nutrition supplements, due to pressure from GotMercury.org.



## WAYS TO GIVE

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project relies on the contributions of dedicated individuals, progressive businesses, and forward-thinking foundations to make our work possible. We also leverage tremendous volunteer support and donations of in-kind services and goods to use our contributions as effectively as possible. Please call our offices at 1-800-859-SAVE to make a contribution or for more information.

### Join us!

One of the easiest ways to take action for precious marine species and the oceans is to join Turtle Island Restoration Network through a tax-deductible donation of \$35 or more, or join our STARS program and make a monthly gift of \$5 or more. STARS may change their gift amount or end their automatic contribution at any time. All our members receive newsletters, a bumper sticker, and opportunities throughout the year to take action to protect marine species. To join, call us at 1-800-859-SAVE or visit the STRP website at [www.seaturtles.org](http://www.seaturtles.org).

### Donate Your Vehicle

Do you have a vehicle that you plan to sell or are no longer using? If so, consider donating your extra car, boat or recreational vehicle through STRP's Vehicle Donation Program. Through this nationwide program, you can avoid the difficulties of selling a used vehicle – and benefit sea turtles as the same time. Most donations are eligible for a tax deduction.

STRP is working with a carefully chosen, highly-regarded partner, Donate For Charity, which handles the whole process for us. STRP receives 70-80% of the net proceeds from your donation. To arrange a pickup nationwide, or learn more, call 1-866-392-4483 toll free.

### Leave a Legacy for the Oceans

By making a bequest or other estate gift to the Sea Turtle Restoration Project you will make a statement of hope about the future of the oceans and help ensure our ability to protect sea turtles, salmon and their habitats far into the future.

If you have already made a provision in your estate plans for STRP, please let us know. If you wish, we will recognize your generous plans to support the earth's oceans.

### Wild Ocean Society

The Wild Ocean Society is a group of donors who give \$1,000 or more each year to help marine species and their ocean and inland habitats. By joining The Wild Ocean Society now, your gift will be doubled through a Challenge Grant, providing STRP twice as much funding for our work to save sea turtles. Please contact us for more information about the benefits of joining the Wild Ocean Society or to arrange to make a gift.

## Turtle Island Restoration Network Consolidated Financials For the Period 1/1/07-12/31/07\*

### Revenue

Grants	\$870,423
Contributions	360,703
Gross Merchandise	3,979
Other Income	153,835
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,388,940</b>

### Operating Expenses

Programs	\$989,333
Membership Services	61,184
Management/General Expenses	103,897
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$1,154,415</b>

### Change in Equity

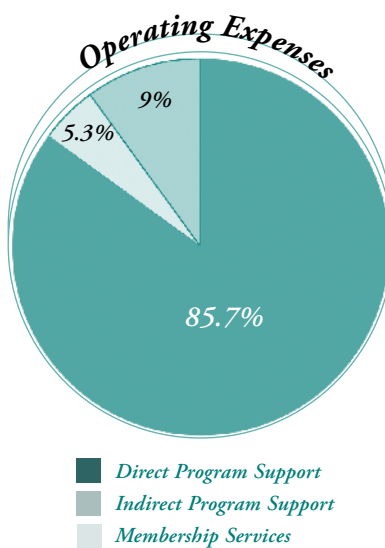
Equity, Beginning of Year	\$1,270,512
Equity, End of Year	\$1,503,529
Equity, Unrestricted	\$1,019,586
Equity, Restricted	\$483,943

### Operating Expense Allocation

Direct Program Support	85.7%
Indirect Program Support	5.3%
Membership Services	9%

### Revenue Distribution

Turtle Island Restoration Network	11%
Sea Turtle Island Restoration Project	76%
SPAWN	13%



## Thank You!

STRP thanks everyone who has contributed money or in-kind services. Your generosity ensures that we are able to continue our work protecting sea turtles and our rich marine biodiversity. The following list recognizes contributions of \$500 and above, as well as in-kind donations, received from January through December 2007:

### Individual Contributions

Carole H. Allen, John Alroy, Valerie M. Anton, Deena & Jeffrey Bellman, Mrs. Markley Cameron, Dr. Daniel B. Caplan, Barbara Crista, Thomas Crowell, Mary Hope Dillon, Wilson Durham, Lydia & William Edison, Edith Felk, Rav & Sandra Freidel, Curt & Diane Fuhrmann, Alison Fuller, Laurel C Fulton DDS, Jeanne L. Gordon, Martin Grob, Maureen Hackett MD, Dr. Bernard Harris Jr, John & Ruth Harris, Hunter M & Teresa L Harrison, Creighton R. Helms, Jennifer Hieger & Bill Heisel, Margaret E. Hough, Rebecca Jackrel, Steve Katz & Rachelle Averbach, George & Caroline Kinkle, Ariel H. & Abby Klein, The Estate of Mrs. Vivion C. LeBow, Tracy & Doug Lehrer, The Estate of Mildred Lillis, Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella, Juan Loaiza & Donna Howe, Timon & Lori Malloy, Mimi McMillen, Rick Misuraca, Oliver F. Moench, Dick & Laurie Morrison, Cathe & Jay Morrow, Cella & John O'Connor, Pamela M Pearson, Holiday Phelan-Johnson & Christopher Johnson, Joseph Pomento, Mr. Randolph Richardson, Alexis Roosa, Lillian & Paul Sakmar, Susan Sakmar & Kirk Hobbes, Michael & Naomi Silver, Debbie Sivas & Roger Pierno, Roberta Smith, Ilona V & Yuri Soboleva, Greg Sparks, Todd Steiner & Lynette McLamb, Lee Stough, Roger Strauch & Julie Kulhanjian MD, Linda Strumpf & Hal Siegel, Richard H Theiss, Christopher Tower, Lona Williams, Josephine E. Wood, Jean & Richard Zukin.

### Foundations and Corporate Donors

Elinor Patterson Baker Foundation  
The Brownington Foundation  
Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment  
Chrysalis Foundation  
The Educational Foundation of America  
Firedoll Foundation  
Peter T. Fredericks Fund  
Al Garren Fund  
Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund  
Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund  
Harris Family Foundation  
Merrill G. & Emita E. Hastings Foundation  
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation  
Houston Endowment, Inc.  
Johnson and Johnson Services Inc.  
Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation  
Richard Law  
The Lawrence Foundation  
Magnolia Charitable Trust  
Marisla Foundation  
Meadows Foundation  
New England Biolabs Foundation  
On Shore Foundation  
Patagonia  
Public Health Trust  
The Sandler Foundation  
Shield-Ayres Foundation  
Snorkel Bob Foundation  
The Spector & Lipson Charitable Gift Account  
Turtle Mountain, Inc.

### In-Kind Services

Damien Ase, CELCOR  
Bay Area Divers, Texas  
Bismarck Ramu Group  
Deutsch Design Works  
Edward Herreño  
John Hughes  
Nancy Kanady and Nelson Water Gardens, Texas  
Dr. Eric Kwa, University of Papua New Guinea  
Paul Lokani, The Nature Conservancy, Papua New Guinea  
Mike May  
Timo McNamee  
Mineral Policy Institute, Australia  
Mark S. Pollock  
Rachel and Jeff Rommel  
Seaspace  
SeaWeb (Papua New Guinea)  
Shark Project (Germany)  
Professor Richard Steiner, University of Alaska  
Jane and Steven Stones  
Tracie Teague

\*These figures are preliminary and unaudited