



Reef Check Foundation

Annual Report 2014

Our Mission: Empowering People to Save Reefs and Oceans

It took half a million years for corals to build coral reefs like the Great Barrier Reef, but we have managed to seriously damage many of them in just the past 30 years. In California, abalone are almost gone and big fish are now rare on most rocky reefs. Reef Check's core programs focus on education and training of kids and adults about the value and importance of reef life through immersion learning; research on the health of reefs and how to restore them; and conservation activities such as the establishment and support of marine parks.

Overall Successes

of 2014

- Established a new Google Earth-based database with pop-up charts for all tropical and California survey data – now in beta release at data.reefcheck.org/
- Redesigned the Reef Check website for launch in 2015.



Reef Check Network showing locations of 10,000+ surveys in 90+ countries and territories since 1997.



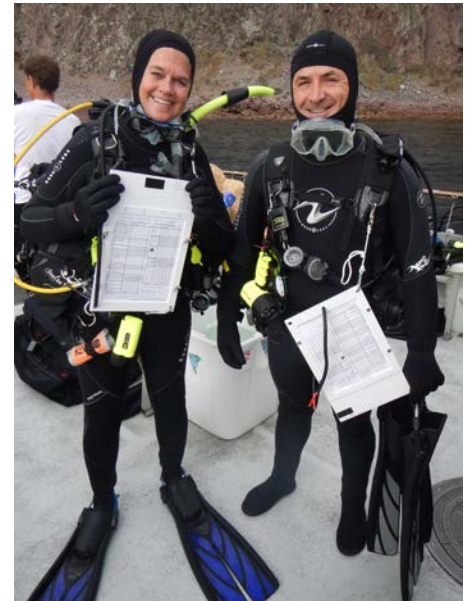
Reef Check discovered the “best reef” in Haiti in an area where previous researchers had reported no coral reefs. The reef located west of Jeremie features 50 to 60% living coral due to sufficient herbivores to curb algae growth.

Tropical Program Successes

- Started new programs in Turks and Caicos, Taiwan, Negros, Philippines and the Bahamas.
- Completed a 3-year-long, first-ever survey of the entire coast of Haiti and discovered the "best reef" in the country in an area where previous researchers reported no important reefs.
- Helped the government of Haiti to set up seven new Marine Protected Areas and recommended the establishment of 18 more.
- Received a cash prize of \$25,000 in the prestigious, global St Andrews Prize for the Environment competition.
- Designed a new kids/youth training program and tested it in the Caribbean.
- Documented that blast fishing has been stopped in large areas of the Central Philippines – a collaborative effort with many partners.

California Program Successes

- Trained and re-certified 240 volunteers and held the first community training in the north coast region where we are part of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) baseline monitoring program. With a new regional manager in Fort Bragg, this group will grow over the next year.
- Reef Check volunteers monitored 73 reef sites throughout California including 8 new sites in the north. We completed the MPA baseline monitoring in southern California and reported our findings that will serve as a benchmark for future MPA evaluation and adaptive management.
- Added three new staff to help train more volunteers and better use social media to educate about and advocate for reefs.
- Launched a Speakers Bureau to better engage the public, especially schools.
- Presented California results at two international Conferences:
 - International Marine Conservation Congress, Glasgow, Scotland: reported how citizen scientist divers monitor California's MPAs and how their involvement in marine conservation research informs marine management and builds a science-based stewardship ethic.
 - 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress, Merida, Mexico: showed how involving fishing communities in Baja California, Mexico in the monitoring and management of their resources can achieve sustainable fisheries and livelihoods.



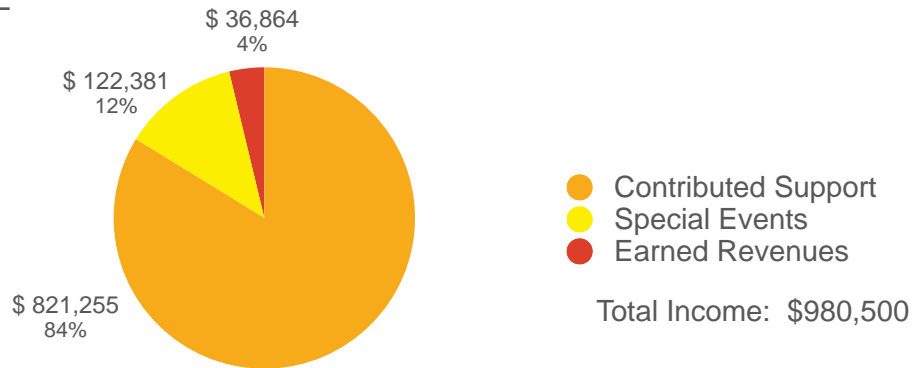
Goals

for 2015

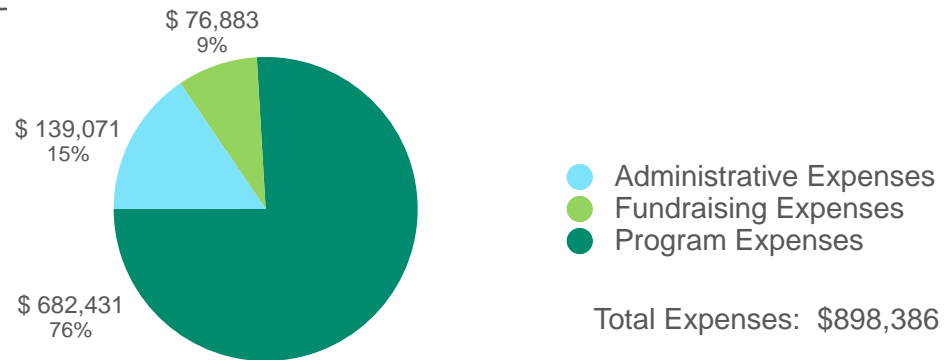
- Raise funds to provide small grants to pay for gas and boats as an incentive for tropical teams to carry out more surveys to fill in remaining large gaps in locations and time.
- Increase the number of countries with Reef Check teams.
- Assist the government of Haiti and the United Nations Environment and Development Programme to design and implement a network of Marine Managed Areas in Haiti.
- Continue to add more volunteers and sites in California and internationally to fill in gaps in location and frequency.
- Collaborate on "long-term" MPA monitoring in Central and Southern California.
- Publish results from most recent monitoring work.
- Set up formal kids' training programs in California.
- Complete move to new HQ.

Funding

Income



Expenses



Ending Net Assets: \$157,296

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Ocean Adventure Dive Company
Ocean Dive
Ocean Science Trust
OEX Dive and Kayak Centers
Omega Pointe Institute
Pagés BBDO
Palinuro Sub
Parco Nazionale Delle Cinque Terre
Patagonia
Pleasure Divers, Magnetic Island
Point Lookout Scuba Dive Charters
Porter Novelli
Poseidon Cruises
Pro Dive, Cairns
Precedence
Progetta Ghost
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Quicksilver Cruises
Quicksilver
Red Sea Diving Safari
Reef Encounter, Cairns
Reef Magic
Reef Teach
Remote Area Dive
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
ROBINSON Club Soma Bay
Royal Dutch Shell
Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation
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Santa Barbara Aquatics
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ScubaPro-Uwatec
Scuba Schools of America
Scuba World
Sea World
SEQ Catchments Ltd.
Sesto Continente
Seven Seas Scuba
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay
SIMA Environmental Fund
Sinai Divers
Sport7 Andora
St. Regis Monarch Beach
Sunferries, Townsville
Sunlover Cruises
Sunreef
Tegnue
The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel
Tides Foundation
Tropical Adventures Scuba & Travel
TUI Deutschland GmbH
TUifly
UnderWater World
United Nations Development Programme/
Global Environment Facility
United Nations Environment Programme
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World Resource Institute
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Many thanks to our volunteers, training facilities and partners around the world!



research

education

conservation