



# OCEAN TRUST

*SUSTAINING THE OCEANS & COMMUNITIES DEPENDANT ON THE SEA*

## SUSTAINABLE OCEANS PARTNERSHIP

### Our Mission

We are connected to the sea by the food we eat, the coastal communities where we live, and the livelihood of families who depend on the sea. Fishing and fish farming families are the first to see changes in the ocean and coastal zone, and make real sacrifices to restore a balance in the marine environment. So solutions for sustainability need to work for the resource as well as the coastal communities tied to the sea.

### Our Partnership

Ocean Trust is an award-winning ocean conservation foundation building science, conservation and industry partnerships for the sustainability of the oceans. Our partnership provides results oriented programs and science-based assessments to sustain fisheries, wildlife and the environment.



### An Award Winning Approach

Ocean Trust's partnership presents a credible approach that is distinguished by several top conservation awards (2009 Texan of the Week, 2008 Texas Environmental Excellence Award, 2007 Gulf Guardian EPA Award, 2006 National Wetlands Conservation Award, 2006 Coastal America Award, 2005 Department of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award, 2005 Leadership recognition at White House Cooperative Conservation Conference, 2004 NOAA Environmental Hero, 2000 *Seafood Business* Person of the Year).



### Substantive Results Oriented Programs

Through partnerships established with government, foundation and industry sponsors, Ocean Trust has taken a positive, results-oriented approach that brought together commercial, sports and local environmental interests to lead the restoration of marine resources and coastal estuaries that serve as nursery and habitat areas for important fishery, shellfish and wildlife resources like shrimp, crab, oyster, clams, scallops, salmon, sturgeon, sports fish and migratory waterfowl throughout the United States including the largest wetland estuary restoration in North America. Some recent projects include:



- Winter Flounder Restocking: East Hampton, New York
- Oyster Shell Recycling: Triangle Cities, North Carolina
- Mangrove Reserve Restoration: Cortez, Florida
- Stabilization of Bay Scallop Populations: Panama City, Florida
- Bahia Grande Estuary Restoration: Brownsville, Texas
- Mangrove Propagation at Ocean Trust Nursery, Brownsville, Texas
- Ghost Fish Net Removal: Columbia River, Oregon
- Salmon Streambed Enhancement, Bellingham, WA
- Thornapple River Restoration, Grand Rapids, MI



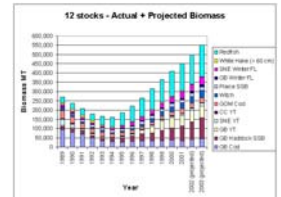
## Marine Wildlife Restoration

With support from its members, Ocean Trust continues to provide support and maintenance for the second largest Gulf of Mexico sea turtle restoration camp in Mexico where biologists protect and monitor nesting activities of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle. In the Gulf of California, Ocean Trust worked with Mexican shrimp industry and environmental groups to reach an agreement to protect the endangered California harbor porpoise.



## Seafood Sustainability Profiles, Workshops & Research

The Ocean Trust partnership also monitors and provides guidance on the status of resources and sustainability of seafood with straight-forward summaries of the latest fisheries science and assessments of media articles and campaigns related to the sustainability of the ocean. Ocean Trust offers Seafood Sustainability Profiles for select species following a science-based approach to seafood assessments on the management, status and ecosystem considerations of stocks using internationally and nationally vetted standards. Ocean Trust also sponsors workshops with well-established organizations like CCAMLR, Seafood Science Technology Society, and others to enhance fisheries compliance monitoring and the application of science and technology for seafood sustainability. Our dollars are spent on developing solutions like deck hopper gear to enhance the value and sustainability of domestic shrimp products.



## Solutions for Sustainability

While other organizations advocate product boycotts as a solution, Ocean Trust's conservation partnership has consistently offered solutions to promote the sustainability of marine resources and the coastal communities who depend on the sea. For every species, there are multiple stocks and sources worldwide which are not distinguished in seafood choice campaigns. Where problems do exist, this approach does not solve issues in fisheries and can adversely impact local fishing communities that make the real sacrifices for the sustainability of the resource. Instead of negative attacks, we offer positive solutions:

- When shrimpers were confronted with sea turtle impacts, Ocean Trust helped set up and still maintains a restoration partnership for the most endangered sea turtle
- When shrimp farmers were challenged with mangrove impacts, Ocean Trust helped farms set up projects to incorporate mangrove conservation into farm operations as a biofilter
- When Give Swordfish A Break ask chefs to stop buying swordfish, Ocean Trust showed stocks were rebuilding and set guidelines to protect breeders and allow for continued sale
- When concerns surfaced with the California harbor porpoise, Ocean Trust help industry reach consensus with environmental groups on a program to protect the endangered species
- When illegal fishing on Chilean sea bass was raised, Ocean Trust established a program to enhance funding for enforcement and monitoring of the legal sea bass fishery



## Model Partnerships in Fisheries, Wildlife & the Environment

Ocean Trust's track record demonstrates its commitment to move beyond public campaigns and focus on positive conservation partnerships that bring people together for the protection of fish, marine wildlife and the environment. Our goal is to sustain the oceans and the coastal communities that depend on the sea.

