



SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

DEFEND. CONSERVE. PROTECT.



**CAPTAIN'S
LOG** **NO. 76**
2018

LETTER FROM

THE HELM



2018 was an incredible year for stopping marine poachers at sea, preventing the extinction of the world's most endangered cetacean and removing tons of plastic debris from beaches and destructive fishing gear from the Ocean.

After four decades of intervention to defend and protect marine wildlife in our Ocean, Sea Shepherd has never been stronger or more effective than we are now. We continue to be on the front lines in the war against poaching. Our initiative of partnering with governments for the purpose of intervention and enforcement is attracting the attention of more and more governments around the world.

Every year Sea Shepherd grows stronger as a global movement dedicated to defending Oceanic eco-systems and marine wildlife from the smallest phytoplankton to the largest whales. What we do is unique. Our record of aggressive non-violent effective interception of poachers is unblemished. We have never caused nor sustained a single injury. Considering the hostile waters that we navigate and the violent poachers we confront, this speaks to the professionalism of our officers and the dedication of our courageous volunteer crew.

People often ask me what I consider to be Sea Shepherd's most significant achievement. The answer is simple: our evolution from a small organization into a global movement with thousands of volunteers from dozens of nations.

Over the years we have fielded hundreds of campaigns and expeditions, shutting down thousands of illegal operations in every sea on the planet. We have been successful because of the extraordinary passion of our volunteers and the generous and passionate support of each and every person who contributes to the operation of our ships and campaigns.

We are the world's largest non-governmental marine conservation navy. We go where even government navies refuse to go, from the unforgiving waters of the Southern Ocean to chasing poachers straight into Chinese territorial waters. We go where the crimes are being committed, we document and gather evidence, and we physically intervene where and when we can be effective.

We are the Shepherds of the Sea. - *Paul Watson*

NEW SHIP ALERT

THE WHITE HOLLY

In 2018, Sea Shepherd received a generous donation from philanthropist Benoit Vulliet, a new vessel- The M/V White Holly. This newest addition to Neptune's Navy will allow us to be more effective in the fight to save the most endangered marine mammal in the world, the vaquita porpoise. The M/V White Holly is a former U.S. Coast Guard Buoy Tender. Benoit originally acquired the M/V White Holly for oceanographic research but decided to donate her to Sea Shepherd in order to assist in the protection of marine wildlife and their habitats.

The vessel undertook major refit work in Fernandina Beach, Florida with the intentions of joining Operation Milagro V in 2019. Captain Paul Watson states, "Coast Guard Buoy tenders have low freeboard and large working decks, just what our dedicated volunteer crew members need to pull illegal nets efficiently from the sea. The ship is also very fuel efficient, which means we will be able to stay at sea for longer periods while ridding the vaquita refuge of illegal gillnets."

Sea Shepherd looks forward to utilizing this newest ship to continue defending, conserving, and protecting our oceans.



OPERATION MILAGRO V



VAQUITA PORPOISE



In November 2017, Sea Shepherd launched Operation Milagro IV. This campaign's mission is to fight the extinction of the vaquita porpoise, the most endangered marine mammal in the world. To provide the best protection, Sea Shepherd deployed three vessels to patrol the Upper Gulf of California: M/V Farley Mowat, M/V John Paul DeJoria, and M/V Sharpie. We also re-joined forces with the Mexican Government, upholding agreements with the Environmental Secretariat, Navy, Fisheries Department, Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection, and the National Commission of Protected Areas.

With a full force, our crew continues the battle to save the vaquita as we patrol for poachers, remove illegal fishing gear, and release entangled wildlife. The Sea of Cortez is the main fishing ground for illegal poachers seeking the totoaba fish, but the gillnets used are death traps for the vaquita and other marine life in the area. Sea Shepherd improved operations by adding revolutionary technologies such as night vision drones, sonars, and radar. These additions were a great help in advancing efficiency to locate and remove these killing nets. The removal of illegal nets has been internationally recognized as the most urgent and effective method to protect the vaquita porpoise from its imminent extinction.

In March of 2018, our crew came across an illegal gillnet with a live school of totoaba. As our crewmembers worked tirelessly to separate the illegal fishing gear, they were able to rescue all 25 fish that were minutes away from death. The totoaba is highly sought after due to its valuable swim bladder, which is worth upwards of 100,000 USD on the black market in Asia. Although poachers in the Gulf of California see only a fraction of the street price, the financial motive drives their illegal activity.

As Operation Milagro continued to disrupt the poachers, the level of violence escalated. In December of 2017, our drones were targeted on two separate occasions. While conducting a night survey on the M/V John Paul DeJoria, our drone spotted multiple skiffs. Upon further investigation of their suspicious behavior, numerous gunshots were fired at the drone resulting in it being shot down. Six days later the crew continued our surveillance of poachers from above, when shots rang out across the sea. After reviewing the drone footage, one of the individuals within the skiff was spotted firing a hand gun in broad daylight. In the past, poachers have attempted to strike Sea Shepherd's drones with rocks, bricks, and even fish. However, this was the first time that the drones have been shot at.

Following this attack, each of our patrol vessels were joined by Mexican Enforcement Officers. These officers have the ability to make arrests, prevent

poaching in the refuge, and ensure the proper disposal of dead totoaba fish. This addition proved necessary when, shortly after their arrival, the M/V Sharpie was attacked by two fast approaching skiffs, firing shots at our crew. The officers onboard fired warning shots to deter the poachers and the vessel returned safely to port. Fortunately, no crewmembers were harmed. Thanks to the addition of armed officers, security was improved allowing Sea Shepherd to continue our work protecting the vaquita refuge for the rest of the campaign.

Operation Milagro IV was one of the most effective Sea Shepherd campaigns to date. In 2018, we removed 385 deadly pieces of fishing gear, more than all previous Operation Milagro campaigns combined. Our efforts saved the lives of 854 animals. Since the mission first began in 2016, Sea Shepherd has removed over 900 pieces of fishing gear. We have also saved over 3,400 animals, including a humpback whale, turtles, totoaba fish, sharks, and many other species. This does not include the thousands of animals protected by the removal of nets from their habitat.

The Sea of Cortez is one of the most biologically diverse bodies of water in the world. We are protecting a wide variety of species that live there, as well as the critically endangered vaquita porpoise. For as long as there are illegal nets in these waters, Sea Shepherd will be there to pull them out.



OPERATION MAMACOCHA



IUU FISHING

In September 2018, Sea Shepherd introduced our new high seas maritime patrol campaign- Operation Mamacocha. The M/V Brigitte Bardot patrolled a highly threatened region of the Eastern Tropical Pacific for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Biodiversity Corridor is a well-known migration path for hundreds of species. The area encompasses the waters off the shores of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. It includes the Galápagos Islands and Marine Reserve, Cocos Island, Malpelo Island, and Coiba National Park, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

This area is also a hotspot for the ocean's top predators- sharks. Most of these countries have full or partial bans on shark fishing, yet millions of sharks and shark fins continue to mysteriously land on shore. Operation Mamacocha took Sea Shepherd's high-speed interceptor vessel on a mission to investigate fishing operations and address the alarming decline in shark populations in one of the world's most important marine ecosystems.

In collaboration with environmental watchdog Skytruth, we used satellite technology to locate vessels and confirm that they were using their Automatic Identification System (AIS). If they were not, we sent the M/V Brigitte Bardot to investigate whether the ship was engaging in illegal activity. We performed reconnaissance, obtaining photo documentation and the names of the vessels.

Any evidence of shark finning was given to our regional state partners for prosecution. Currently, Sea Shepherd is moving forward with legal action against multiple fishing fleets that were discovered to be illegally longlining for sharks. Our crew also intercepted a notorious Chinese fishing fleet that is currently under investigation for their contributions to the transshipment of over 6,000 sharks.

A large portion of these have been officially listed as threatened or endangered on the IUCN Red List. This is the largest seizure of sharks that has ever occurred in the waters of the Galápagos Islands.

During this first run of Operation Mamacocha, Sea Shepherd covered nearly 640,000 square miles of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor and investigated over 100 fishing vessels. Sea Shepherd's success using new strategies to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing will help to ensure that this incredibly biodiverse stretch of ocean is protected. With our continued efforts, our goal is to end the illegal shark fin trade for good.



Photo Credit: Simon Ager



seashepherd.org/mamacocha

OPERATION TREASURED ISLANDS



RESEARCH

In 2018 Sea Shepherd launched a new seaworthy campaign, Operation Treasured Islands. While aboard the M/V Sharpie, our crews patrolled the largest marine national park in North America, the Revillagigedo Archipelago. This region is one of the most biodiverse and important marine habitats on the planet, with hundreds of migratory species using these waters on their journey to the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor. Although this area is remote, poaching continues to pose a threat to the marine life that inhabits these rich waters.

Throughout this campaign, Sea Shepherd partnered with Mexican authorities including the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Commission of Marine Protected Areas, the Navy, and the Marine Secretary. Our crew conducted surveillance operations over a total of 58,000 square miles of the national park in order to ensure the safety of local marine life.

Sea Shepherd also contributed to 8 revolutionary research projects while hosting scientists on board. This included 17 guest scientists from renowned institutions including the University of California Davis, the Interdisciplinary Center of Marine Sciences, the marine conservation group Pelagios Kakunjá, Whale Sharks Mexico, and the University of Baja California Sur. The projects included shark, whale shark, manta ray, and marine mammal research, as well as general marine life surveys and the study of Revillagigedo's deep-water kelp forests. Their findings will contribute to the conservation of the archipelago's biodiversity.

With Operation Treasured Islands, we have not only protected this marine habitat from illegal activities, but also increased our understanding of the species that reside within it. Our research will assist with future monitoring and preservation of this beautiful national park and the animals that call it home.



Photo Credit: Christian Vizl



seashepherd.org/treasured-islands

OPERATION VIRUS HUNTER



SALMON FARMING

For the third year, Operation Virus Hunter returned to the coastal waters of British Columbia, where approximately 100 disease-spreading salmon farms are placed in the migratory routes of wild salmon. Sea Shepherd also monitored the salmon farms in Washington State for the first time.

This campaign started with Hereditary Chief George Quocksister Jr from the Laichwiltach nation ordering an injunction against the multi-national salmon farming company "Marine Harvest." This issue was brought to light to the First Nations Hereditary Chief after underwater images of the pens revealed not only sick and mutilated Atlantic salmon, but also several species considered illegal by-catch.

Sea Shepherd worked in collaboration with biologist Alexandra Morton and the First Nations peoples to investigate 39 salmon farms. Throughout this campaign we collected more than 150 water samples and 59 pieces of farmed salmon tissue. Preliminary analysis undertaken with those samples showed that Piscine Orthoreovirus (PRV) was present in 100% of the farms where the samples were collected. This virus can be transmitted to wild salmon with highly dangerous effects and is proven to be especially deadly to Chinook Salmon, which are in severe decline. This species is the main food source for the critically endangered population of Southern Resident Orcas, which is down to only 74 individuals.

In 2018, after months of negotiations, we celebrated a huge victory for wild salmon when the province and the 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis and Mamallilikulla First Nations announced the removal of fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago. In addition, all Atlantic Salmon will now need to be tested for PRV and infected fish will not be allowed in these waters. Operation Virus Hunter has played a key role in this outcome by supporting First Nations and biologist Alexandra Morton in their battle against salmon farms since 2016.



seashepherd.org/virushunter

SEA SHEPHERD SCIENCE



RESEARCH

Operation Clean Waves and Operation Divina Guadalupe IV were the main research expeditions for Sea Shepherd this year, as we continue to collaborate with different scientists, laboratories, and universities to study marine ecosystems and how to better protect them.

One of the world's most threatened nations from the effects of climate change is Kiribati, which lies 1000 miles south of Hawaii. This community faces a dying coral reef, high salinity levels in their soil and drinking water, and countless plastic items washing up along the shores of Fanning Island. The Operation Clean Waves crew set sail on the R/V Martin Sheen to conduct research and provide support to the local residents. Together we investigated coral restoration possibilities, implemented a plastic management system, and helped install 50 water filtration kits that can produce water for 5,000 people for the next 10 years.

Last fall, the R/V Martin Sheen sailed to the remote island of Guadalupe, a paradise for the elusive Cuvier's beaked whale. Sea Shepherd continued our research with CONABIO (Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity) and Scripps Institution of Oceanography to study this rare species of cetacean. During Operation Divina Guadalupe IV, we observed 16 animals never seen before as well as new calves. We also used underwater microphones for the first time in order to understand which other species inhabit these waters. The information gathered will be crucial for continuing to provide protection for these animals in this unique marine ecosystem.

During 2018, another milestone was achieved with the creation of the Sea Shepherd Science Department. Our latest addition will ensure that research campaigns continue to focus on studying and protecting marine species. This research also allows for data collected to be shared with the scientific community.



Photo Credit: Cherie Bridges



seashepherd.org/clean-waves

OPERATION JAIRO



SEA TURTLES

Nicaragua

In October 2018, Sea Shepherd returned to Central America to protect sea turtle eggs, hatchlings, and nesting mothers. Our dedicated crew patrolled nightly along the beaches of Padre Ramos in Nicaragua, which is home to nesting sites for Pacific Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Green, and occasionally Leatherback sea turtles.

Sea turtles and their eggs are commonly poached for commercial sale throughout Latin America. In Nicaragua, it is illegal to kill sea turtles and poach their eggs, but unfortunately the country's government does not have the necessary resources to stop the poaching, leaving the sea turtles vulnerable and unprotected.

Operation Jairo crew members patrolled the beaches each night in order to identify poachers, protect nesting mothers, and bring eggs to a hatchery to incubate. This allowed the baby sea turtles to be born in a safe environment and returned to the ocean where they belong.

Our crew was outnumbered twenty to one, as dozens of armed poachers hunted for nesting mothers each night. In Nicaragua, sea turtle eggs are sold for consumption, with nests yielding three dollars per dozen. Although this amount may seem minimal, every nest the crew protected was a loss of profit. This caused many of the poachers to become hostile towards our volunteers.

Throughout this campaign, the crew had multiple confrontations with local poachers- including an attempted robbery by machete. Following the first violent attack, Sea Shepherd hired armed guards to patrol alongside our volunteer crew, providing further protection as they walked the beach each night. When not patrolling or working in the hatchery, the crew conducted local beach cleanups. Thousands of sea turtles die each year from plastic waste in the oceans and along beaches, with young sea turtles and hatchlings being the most vulnerable. The plastic debris can cause entanglement, amputation, choking, and suffocation. By cleaning these beaches, our volunteers give sea turtles and all species of marine life in the area a better chance of survival.

Despite multiple attacks from poachers, the crewmembers worked tirelessly for three months in Nicaragua, with 44 relocated nests and 3906 eggs saved. Thanks to our crew and the help of local volunteers, these eggs have now incubated in the hatchery and thousands of hatchlings have made their way safely into the ocean. This campaign was considered a great success! Sea Shepherd plans to return to Nicaragua in 2019 to continue our efforts protecting and defending sea turtles.

Caribbean

In July 2018, Sea Shepherd partnered with the Antigua Sea Turtle Conservation Project (ASTP) to conduct an intensive three-week survey of marine turtle nesting activity. Barbuda's remote beaches are nesting sites for endangered Hawksbill, Green and Leatherback turtles.

Sea Shepherd crew and ASTP scientists were stationed aboard the M/V Brigitte Bardot where they documented nesting activity during the peak hawksbill season. The crew conducted nightly foot patrols, boat surveys, and nightly drone checks using thermal imaging to cover the entire coast. The team observed 101 mother sea turtles crawls with 74 successful nesting attempts.

Using the M/V Brigitte Bardot's small craft to access remote beaches, our team encountered 20 sea turtles. Each animal was tagged, measured, and biopsied for ongoing genetic and stable isotope studies. Data from the surveys has been shared with local management agencies and regional bodies to strengthen sea turtle protection measures in this important habitat. These patrols also assisted with stranded hatchlings and sea turtles, ensuring their safe return to the ocean. The Operation Jairo campaign helped promote awareness and conservation of turtles in Barbuda. It also allowed us to work closely with members of the local community and various organizations including the Members of the Barbuda



Council, the Antigua and Barbuda Fisheries Division, and Antigua State College (ASC). The Barbuda Council welcomed the campaign's efforts, recognizing the importance of marine conservation in rebuilding a resilient community on the island.



seashepherd.org/jairo

OPERATION 404



DOLPHIN CAPTIVITY



Since 2003, Sea Shepherd crewmembers have documented the ruthless slaughter and capture of wild dolphins in Taiji. Despite International coverage bringing this brutality to light, Japan has shown no intentions of stopping the dolphin hunt. While we continue to have Cove Guardians on the ground in Japan, we have also launched Operation 404, our campaign focused on the captive industry as a whole.

More than 5,000 whales and dolphins have died in captivity since the 1950's, with an estimated 2,913 currently imprisoned worldwide. Dolphins are captured and forced into numerous industry schemes such as entertainment shows, trainer for a day, swim with dolphin programs, assisted therapy, or photography options. These intelligent animals are forced to live in tiny tanks no bigger than most swimming pools. These attractions cause unrelenting physical and mental trauma, adversely affecting their health which results in their untimely death.

Despite these facts, this industry will continue to capture and imprison wild dolphins until there is no longer a financial motive to do so. The captive cetacean industry is fueled by greed, with dolphins selling for \$150,000 each to

aquariums worldwide. Japan is not the only culprit, Russia and Cuba also hunt wild cetaceans for the sole purpose of commercial sale.

Operation 404 is a campaign that focuses on all companies associated with captivity, from travel websites that sell tickets, to the marine parks that promote swim with dolphin attractions. By focusing on the corporations as a whole, not just one piece of the puzzle, we can truly impact the dolphin industry.

For over a year, Sea Shepherd has been working undercover documenting dolphinariums around the world. In 2018, our undercover footage of Zoo Aquarium de Madrid exposed animal cruelty by revealing multiple dolphins being forced to perform despite being sick or injured. Veterinarian experts and legal teams are currently working to enact regulations that will ensure proper care of animals at this facility. We have undercover teams conducting investigations in marine parks around the globe, looking for signs of cruelty. This documentation will be used to change laws, apply public pressure, and ultimately end captivity.

In addition, we have an on-going social media campaign aimed at companies that contribute to the captive industry. Sea Shepherd has announced a boycott against various corporations, participated in demonstrations, and have helped to educate the public about this issue. This campaign relies on our courageous supporters, volunteers, and selected crew members to carry out the fight against captivity.

This year 556 dolphins were slaughtered in Taiji with 241 captured for captivity.



SPECIES	QUOTA	DOLPHINS SLAUGHTERED	DOLPHINS TAKEN CAPTIVE
Pacific White-Sided	quota = 134	1	7
Striped	quota = 450	234	5
Pantropical Spotted	quota = 400	0	16
Bottlenose	quota = 414	15	164
Risso's	quota = 251	142	26
Pilot, Short-Finned	quota = 101	0	0
False Killer Whale	quota = 070	0	0
Rough-Toothed	quota = 020	0	18
Melon-Headed	quota = 200	164	5

OPERATION MJOLNIR



ICELANDIC WHALING

In May 2018, the world's most notorious whaler Kristján Loftsson, began repair work on his two remaining whaling vessels, Hvalur 8 and 9, in Reykjavik harbor. It then became clear that his company Hvalur hf, would resume the killing of endangered fin whales that summer.

In response, Sea Shepherd UK launched 'Operation Mjölirnir' (Thor's Hammer), a groundbreaking campaign that documented and exposed the entirety of the fin whaling season using cameras, drones, and live-streaming directly from the whaling station in Hvalfjörður, Iceland.

By the end of the season, Hvalur hf had harpooned 146 whales in Icelandic waters, out of a total quota of 191. Sea Shepherd documented 145 murdered whales over a 101-day period, including the illegal killings of an endangered blue whale and a rare blue / fin whale hybrid. It is estimated that 21 of these whales were pregnant. The 1500 tons of endangered whale meat were shipped to Japan to be sold for consumption.

Throughout this campaign, Sea Shepherd had thirty crewmembers working in small teams. They collaborated with photo-journalists and TV crews from around the world. Their efforts were featured on numerous programs including Nightline, ABC News, the Al Jazeera Media Network, and notably on the Horizon program 'Iceland's Controversial Whaler' which was presented by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation in Denmark, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands. This news coverage helped make Operation Mjölirnir a monumental success.

Kristján Loftsson is the sole reason this infamous whaling company continues to hunt fin whales. His company is now responsible for killing over 35,000 endangered whales. If Hvalur hf targets fin whales again in 2019, Sea Shepherd has pledged to escalate the campaign.



seashepherd.org.uk/campaigns/operation-mjolnir

OPERATION BLOODY FJORDS



FAROE ISLANDS GRIND

Sea Shepherd returned to the Faroe Islands in 2018 to continue documentation of their inhumane grindadráp hunts. In previous years, our tactics involved direct intervention, with our crews attempting to prevent the slaughter of pilot whales as the locals drove the pods onto the killing beaches. However, following numerous arrests of our brave volunteers, our strategies had to change.

Beginning in 2017, our crew documented and recorded the grindadráp hunts using photos, videos, and testimony to generate viral news reports. In 2018, Sea Shepherd continued to broadcast the brutality of the Faroe Islands with the help of TV crews and international media outlets. Our crew documented, photographed, and for the first time live-streamed a total of eleven grindadráp hunts. They also obtained evidence of the commercial sale of pilot whale meat and the killing of Fulmars, a type of sea bird in the Faroes Islands. Our crew's live-streams, videos and photographs led to hundreds of articles in the international media as well as various calls for boycotts of travel to and exports from the Faroe Islands.

As an incentive to end the mass killing of pilot whales, Sea Shepherd UK offered one million euros over a 10-year period if no cetaceans were hunted in the Faroe Islands moving forward. The Faroese rejected this offer on January 1st, 2019 when they slaughtered 70 pilot whales. Due to the Faroe Islands' refusal to stop their barbaric tradition, Sea Shepherd will be deploying crew in 2019 with a new campaign strategy.



seashepherdglobal.org/our-campaigns/bloody-fjords

For more information about Sea Shepherd and our campaigns to defend, conserve & protect the oceanic wildlife please visit: seashepherd.org

IUU FISHING



AFRICA

In 2018, Sea Shepherd continued our focus on ending illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing in some of the most exploited waters in the world. Off the coasts of Liberia, Tanzania, and Gabon, Sea Shepherd works with local governments to identify and arrest ships that partake in illegal fishing activity.

In African waters, it is estimated that 40% of fish are caught illegally. Experts agree that IUU fishing is one of the largest threats to our oceans. Fishing companies that engage in illegal fishing do not follow management rules or sustainable practices, therefore posing a huge risk to a balanced ecosystem. Sea Shepherd set out to address this important issue in 2018.

In Liberia, we assisted in the arrest of four vessels associated with illegal fishing. These charges included fishing without a license, utilizing illegal devices to attract fish, and fishing in restricted areas. One ship was known for plundering the Antarctic as an infamous toothfish poaching vessel and had been black-listed by several regional fishery management organizations.

In January of 2018, Sea Shepherd launched our first campaign in Tanzania. Early into the campaign, we assisted in the arrest of two illegal shark-finning vessels. In one case, it was discovered that the captain had been using an illegal firearm to threaten his crew when their catch was low.

Following these successful arrests, twenty-four vessels immediately departed Tanzanian waters, nineteen of which fled before receiving mandatory inspections. This signaled that these vessels were most likely participating in illegal activity and wanted to evade capture. The government of Tanzania has levied fines totaling over eight million dollars against these ships.

Sea Shepherd also spent several months monitoring an infamous smuggling route. Throughout these patrols, 27 dhows (traditional cargo boats) were arrested for smuggling illegal cargos of mangrove timber to be sold on the black market.

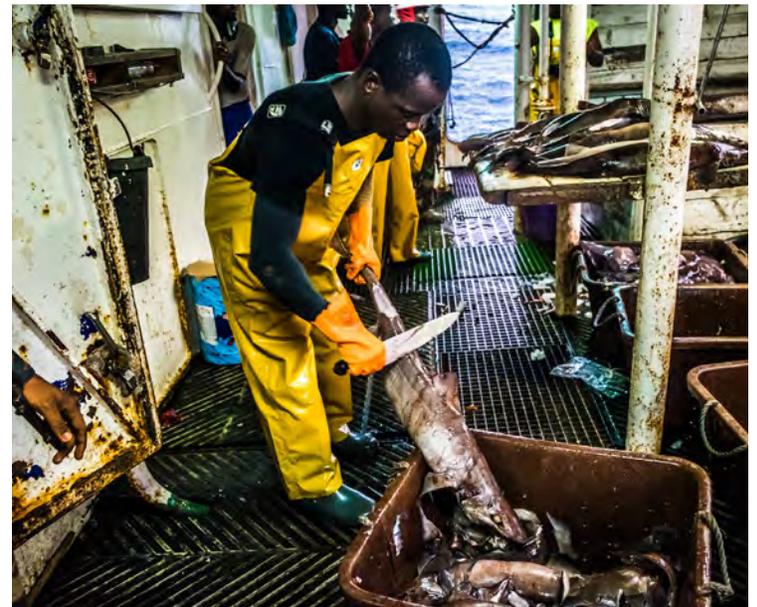
During our third year in Gabon, we arrested three vessels for illegally fishing in newly created marine protected areas. One was found to be fishing without a license and another was discovered with a finned tiger shark aboard. Following these arrests, poachers were successfully deterred from the area and no other transgressions have been detected.



As illegal fishing in Gabon was hindered, Sea Shepherd returned to São Tomé and Príncipe, where we assisted in the arrest of a European commercial fishing vessel found to be engaged in shark finning. The vessel was licensed to fish for tuna but was found solely with 4,000 pounds of sharks and their fins on board. Most of this catch consisted of blue sharks, which are classified as near-threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Sea Shepherd's mission to end illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing is an important way of restoring balance to our ocean's ecosystem. Our efforts are already proving to be successful, as local fishermen in Liberia are reporting that fish stocks are rising for the first time in ten years.

In order to protect our oceans and all marine life, we must make preventing and ending illegal fishing a top priority. Sea Shepherd continues to establish government partnerships around the world, ensuring the sustainability of our oceans.



CREW MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

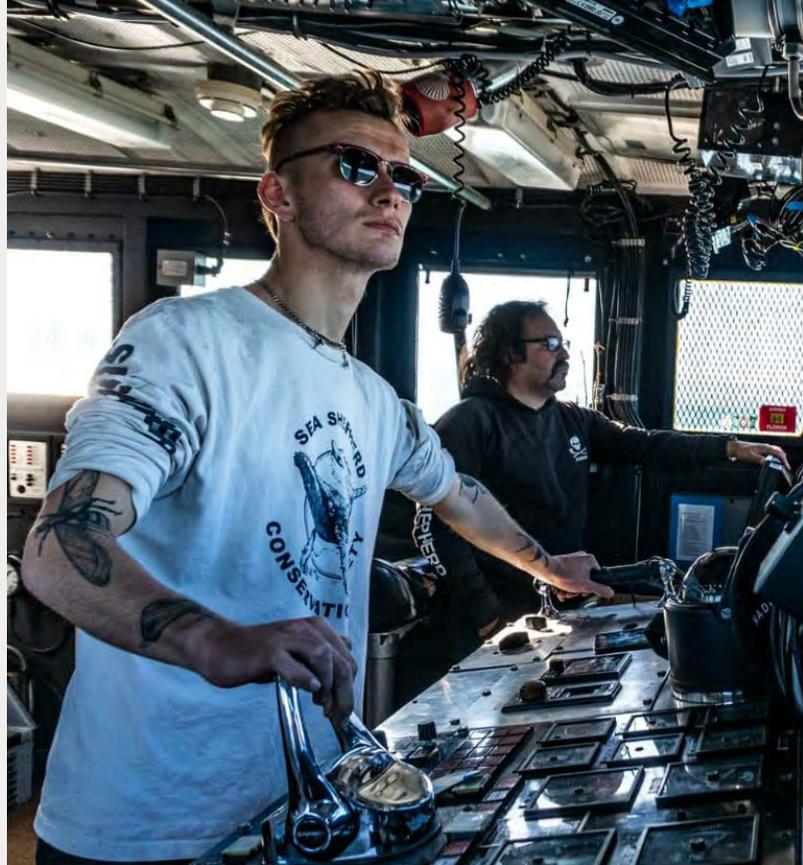
Jack Hutton was only 18 years old when he first discovered Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. He was sailing on board a ship when he saw a videoclip of the Sea Shepherd crew freeing a juvenile humpback whale who was trapped in an illegal fishing net. Feeling inspired to make a change in the world, he dropped out of college and volunteered for his first campaign.

Since joining Sea Shepherd, Jack has participated in multiple campaigns including Operation Milagro III and IV, Operation Jairo, and Operation Mamacocha. He is currently first mate on our Coast Guard cutter, the M/V Farley Mowat on Operation Milagro V.

Jack also oversees our drone program which helps our crew track poachers by using GPS satellite technology. The drones enable Sea Shepherd to spy on poachers as they drop nets or attempt to retrieve them. Once we have a visual confirmation that an illegal net has been deployed, our crewmembers react quickly. This technology gives Sea Shepherd the ability to save countless lives.

Jack has always loved flying drones and now he contributes his skill set towards ocean conservation. On Operation Milagro IV, Jack dodged bullets as he used drones to track down the hunters. His use of drone technology on this campaign resulted in Sea Shepherd removing more nets than ever before.

At just 21 years old, Jack has already become an inspiration to many. From a small town in Ireland to the high seas, Jack now spends his time saving the oceans and trying to make the world a better place. When not participating in a campaign, he is active as a spokesperson for Sea Shepherd helping raise awareness about our mission. Whether he is educating the public, flying a drone, or entertaining his crewmates, Jack continues to be a treasure to this organization.



“Operation Milagro is the only hope for this species. It will take a few brave people, facing the threat of violence to save the vaquita, and it will take the same on a greater scale to save our planet.”

ON-SHORE VOLUNTEER

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT



San Diego Ship Tour

Sea Shepherd's twenty chapters in North America had one of their most successful years in 2018. Chapter coordinators, along with their passionate and devoted On-Shore Volunteers (OSVs) exceeded all expectations, bringing great pride to the organization. Through outreach and education, the volunteers generated awareness for our cause, raised funds, and inspired future generations.

With the R/V Martin Sheen and M/V Farley Mowat passing through the West Coast, our San Diego, Seattle, and Vancouver chapters hosted ship tours in their port cities, with San Diego hosting a grand total of nine weekends! On the East Coast, the

Jacksonville chapter assisted with work on our newest vessel the M/V White Holly. The Tampa chapter also held several ship tours of the M/V Brigitte Bardot and the M/V John Paul Dejouria.

In order to spread awareness of our cause and raise funds for campaigns, the chapters attended VegFests, boat shows, local fairs, concerts, organized paint nights, and held benefits at vegan restaurants. Our chapters also spoke at local schools, educating future generations about our mission and inspiring them to take action to protect our oceans. This year, a special "Pints with Paul" fundraiser was hosted in several cities around the US, allowing our supporters to meet and mingle with Captain Paul Watson.

The chapters not only raise funds for upcoming campaigns, but they also house crewmembers and transport supplies, food, and other donated items for the crew. Some OSVs even became crewmembers for various campaigns.

The chapters also continued to support new legislation that would benefit the oceans and marine wildlife. They were involved in lobbying for a Bill against captivity in Canada, protecting endangered species in Florida, taking action to help the endangered Southern Resident orcas of Puget Sound, investigating the killing of seals near Seattle, and many other initiatives. They have also been hard at work advocating for a ban or reduction of single-use plastics in their communities.

Additionally, the chapters had a direct and positive

impact on their local environment by organizing beach and river cleanups. These cleanups not only help reduce the amount of trash going into our oceans but also connect us to the local communities by getting others involved and excited about marine conservation.

This year we officially launched the Portland Chapter. We also had several chapter-less groups establish themselves in Hawaii, Victoria Island, Catalina Island, Cleveland, Chicago, and the Space Coast of Florida, allowing us to reach a larger audience. Sea Shepherd plans to launch several new chapters in 2019.

Despite the fact that most of our On-Shore Volunteers have full-time jobs, they always find a way to make the time to help out their local chapters. We are incredibly lucky to have such passionate and dedicated individuals as part of the Sea Shepherd family. We could not defend the oceans without their help.



The New Portland Chapter



www.seashepherd.org/chapters

GET INVOLVED

IN OUR EFFORT

There are many ways **YOU** can support Sea Shepherd's vital efforts to ensure healthy oceans for future generations:

DONATE

Set up an automatic monthly donation as part of our **Direct Action Crew** at my.seashepherd.org/DAC

Set up a personal "**Be An Ocean Warrior**" Fundraising page at team.seashepherd.org

Donate online with a debit card, credit card, or PayPal - no gift is too small.

Submit your donation to your employer for a matching gift.

Remember Sea Shepherd in your will via the Shepherds Forever Society.

VOLUNTEER

Onshore Volunteers are always needed - see how you can help.

Volunteer to serve as a member of our **ground crews** or at sea as a member of our **campaign crews**.

Join one of our chapters throughout **North America**.

SUPPORT

Shop in the Sea Shepherd Online store for ethical merchandise.

Follow us and support us on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Youtube.

Search online using GoodSearch and shop using GoodShop.

MAKING SURE OUR OCEANS ARE HEALTHY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

JOIN & HELP DEFEND THE OCEANS

As a member of the Direct Action Crew, your monthly contribution allows Sea Shepherd to engage in direct-action tactics, plan and budget campaigns more effectively, and be the first to respond to an untimely disaster or emergency. With your ongoing support, Sea Shepherd can maintain the strength necessary to protect the oceans and all the animals who call the sea their home.

START PROTECTING THE OCEANS WITH US TODAY!

Become a Direct Action Crew member by simply filling out this form with your designated monthly gift amount, preferred payment (choose one), basic contact information, then sign and date.

Send the completed form back to our address listed below, or sign up for the Direct Action Crew online at seashepherd.org/DAC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN DEFENSE OF THE OCEANS!

P.S. As a member of the Direct Action Crew, you will receive a members-only T-shirt, 20% discount off all merchandise purchases at seashepherd.org and exclusive campaign updates from our crew at sea and on-shore!

SEND TO:
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
P.O. Box 8628 Alexandria, VA 22306



YES! - MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONATION

Sign me up for the Direct Action Crew. I understand that the amount indicated below will be electronically transferred every month from my bank or credit/debit card.

MY DONATION EVERY MONTH:

- \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$125
 Other \$ _____ Minimum of \$10 per month.

CHOOSE MY PAYMENT METHOD

OR

- from my checking account*
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Account Number:

Expiration Date:

only if applicable: Mastercard Visa Discover AMEX

CONTACT INFO (required)

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Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE (circle one)

S M L XL 2XL 3XL No Thanks!

*Note: Please fill out a check for your first donation. All recurring donations will be processed electronically thereafter. This option is available to US supporters only. Send to: Sea Shepherd Conservation Society P.O. Box 8628 Alexandria, VA 22306

MISSION

STATEMENT

OUR MISSION

Is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species.

Sea Shepherd uses innovative tactics to investigate, document and take action when necessary to expose and confront illegal activities in the world's oceans and on its shorelines. By safeguarding the biodiversity of our delicately balanced ocean ecosystems, Sea Shepherd works to ensure their survival for future generations.

YOUR SUPPORT

Is what drives our enforcement and conservation efforts, strengthens our resolve, and makes possible the successes we achieve...for the oceans!

AN OCEAN

OF THANKS

FROM US & OUR CLIENTS

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the Ocean Ambassadors listed below. Not only did they provide much-needed resources for Sea Shepherd, but they also opened up their homes for screenings and fundraising events, introduced Sea Shepherd to their friends and family in hopes of finding new supporters, and lent their voices and celebrity to spread awareness for the cause and to assist Captain Watson in battling his politically motivated charges.

Their commitment and dedication to Sea Shepherd is appreciated beyond words, and the endless effort they continually put towards this vital cause extends to every living creature in the sea. Thank you from the Captains, crew, staff, onshore volunteers and our clients – the whales, dolphins, tuna, sea turtles, seals and sharks.

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Aerosmith
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