



**CAPTAIN'S
LOG NO. 81**



**SEA SHEPHERD
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**



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SEA SHEPHERD remains on the frontlines, defending marine life through direct-action campaigns that combat illegal exploitation and protect ocean ecosystems.

Thanks to our dedicated donors, we've launched bold missions, safeguarded endangered species, and confronted illegal fishing worldwide.

With every campaign, our crews face immense challenges, yet their determination never wavers. This year's Captain's Log reflects on our victories, struggles, and the critical work ahead—featuring powerful stories, impact reports, and firsthand accounts from those on the frontlines.

Together, we are turning the tide for the ocean and all who depend on it.



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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE



I was just 18 when I stepped onto my first Sea Shepherd ship. I didn't know yet how much the ocean would shape my life—or how far I'd go to defend it.

Today, I lead our crew in the Upper Gulf of California, where the vaquita porpoise—the most endangered marine mammal on Earth—fights to survive in waters riddled with illegal fishing gear. We monitor the area day and night, side by side with the Mexican Navy, using radar, sonar, and thermal drones to detect poachers before they can kill.

Thanks to formal agreements with the government of Mexico, Sea Shepherd now operates in several marine protected areas in the country. This collaboration allows us to act fast, respond in real time, and protect vulnerable species where enforcement was once impossible.

This model is working. And it's expanding.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is the single greatest threat to ocean life—including whales—and we're out there confronting it head-on.

These next 12 pages are not a report. They're a dispatch from the frontlines. They're what action looks like—because of people like you.

We need you in this fight.

— François Van Sull
Campaign Director, Operation Milagro

MISSION REPORT

VAQUITA DEFENSE

The vaquita is an endemic species of porpoise found only in a small region in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California. Illegal fishing is responsible for the decline of this species, whose numbers have plummeted to fewer than a dozen individuals.

STILL BREATHING. STILL WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

The **vaquita porpoise is the most endangered marine mammal on the planet**, and its survival is directly threatened by illegal fishing.

Gillnets set for totoaba—a large, endangered fish whose swim bladders are smuggled to China—kill vaquitas as bycatch. They drown silently, just beneath the surface.

Sea Shepherd is the only organization with a **permanent presence** in the Vaquita Refuge.



95%

REDUCTION
IN ILLEGAL FISHING IN ZTA

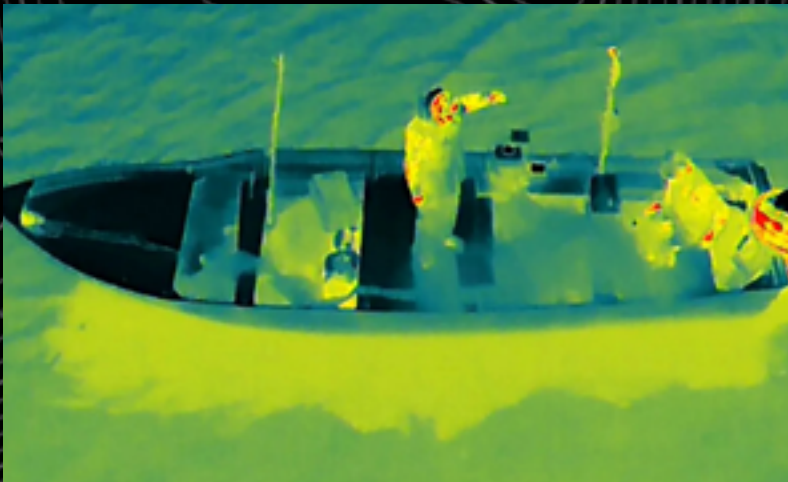
Our ship *Seahorse* patrols the waters 24/7 with sonar, radar, drones, and fast boats. In 2025, *Bob Barker* is joining the campaign—doubling our reach and expanding enforcement throughout the region.

Our constant presence, combined with Mexican Navy enforcement, has reduced illegal fishing by 95% in the refuge's most sensitive zone.

These ships and their crews stand up to some of the most ruthless and well-financed poachers in the world—and have driven them out of the vaquita's last stronghold. But keeping them out takes relentless pressure. ■



THE BLACK MARKET TRADE: KILLING THE VAQUITA



A kilo of dried totoaba bladder can sell for **\$50,000**. That's why illegal skiffs flood the Vaquita Refuge at night, laying gillnets that kill everything in their path.

Sea Shepherd stops them.

We use radar, drones, and fast boats to track poachers in real time. With Navy officers onboard, we intercept or report for immediate response.

And we've added more reach: Sea Shepherd provides and maintains two **Seahawk interceptor vessels** for the Navy. Each one carries a **thermal drone with a 5-mile range**, giving each patrol a 10-mile footprint of live surveillance.

This is what it looks like when enforcement is active, equipped, and unrelenting. ■



MISSION REPORT

SEA LION RESCUE

Caught in the same deadly nets pushing the vaquita porpoise to the brink of extinction, sea lions in the area need urgent rescue—Sea Shepherd's permanent presence offers a vital lifeline.

ENTANGLED. SUFFOCATING. SAVED.

Sea lions in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California are increasingly found entangled in the same illegal gillnets set for totoaba that have pushed the vaquita to the brink of extinction. These plastic mesh lines slice into their necks, restrict movement, and cause severe infections. Some survive with painful wounds. Others die slowly—unless help arrives in time.

Thanks to our agreements with the Mexican government, Sea Shepherd now co-leads quarterly rescue operations with licensed Mexican veterinarians and local partners, and has the resources and support to respond quickly in an emergency. Our ship serves as a mobile base for the entire operation—equipped to support sedation, disentanglement, and on-deck treatment. Sea

Shepherd crews assist in locating entangled animals, securing them safely, and helping return them to their colony once stabilized.

The work is dangerous. But the impact is clear:

The same nets that kill vaquitas are being removed. Lives are being saved. And local communities are now calling us—not fearing us. ■



| PARTNERSHIP WITH MEXICO

In recent years, Sea Shepherd's partnership with the government of Mexico has evolved into one of the strongest conservation alliances in the world.

Under the leadership of Sea Shepherd CEO **Pritam Singh**, this collaboration has expanded through formal agreements that now allow Sea Shepherd to potentially operate in **every protected marine area in Mexico**. We are currently focused on the Upper Gulf of California and Bajos del Norte's Scorpion Reef (see page 8 for more).

Our crews work alongside the Mexican Navy, environmental agencies, scientists, and inspectors—sharing ships, intelligence, and enforcement capacity.

This model delivers results: faster response times, deeper trust, and greater protection for endangered species.



In 2024, **Pritam Singh** was **awarded the Ohtli Award**, Mexico's highest honor for a foreign national, in recognition of his role in building this alliance.

Together, we've proven what's possible when NGOs and governments don't just cooperate—but fight side by side for the same mission, and for the animals who depend on it. ■

MISSION REPORT

ANTARCTICA DEFENSE

THE SMALLEST CREATURES. THE GREATEST LOSS.

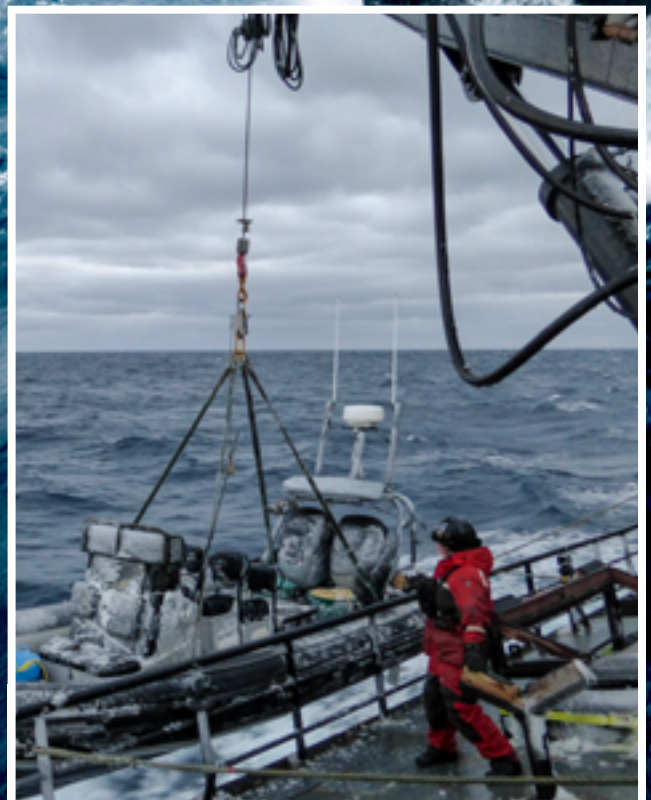
Krill are tiny—but they feed the largest animals on Earth. **Whales, seals, penguins, fish, seabirds—all rely on krill to survive.**

But these animals now face direct competition from humans. Not for food, but for **fish oil supplements and industrial feed.**

Factory fishing vessels are vacuuming up krill by the ton in Antarctic waters. Most of it is turned into omega-3 capsules or feed for farmed animals and fish—while marine wildlife starves.

Sea Shepherd is back in Antarctica to document this extraction, expose the fleet, and push for permanent marine protected areas. We're holding these vessels accountable—tracking their every move and making sure their take matches what the law allows.

This isn't a future crisis. It's unfolding now. And we're on the water confronting it. ■



A fastboat is readied to intercept industrial trawlers at sea.



Trawler hauls krill net after tracking whales to their feeding grounds.



Blood and offal stain Antarctic waters - fallout from industrial trawling.

WHALES NEED KRILL. YOU DON'T.

Most fish oil comes from krill—a vital food for **whales, penguins, and marine life.**

SeaVair delivers pure, algae-based omega-3—backed by ocean advocates **Ashlan & Philippe Cousteau.**

Every purchase supports **Sea Shepherd's mission at sea.**

**Choose plant-based.
Protect the food chain.**

Learn more at

www.seavoir.com/seashepherd



MISSION REPORT

SCORPION REEF

THE REGION'S LARGEST REEF IS NOW PROTECTED.

Scorpion Reef is the largest coral reef system in the southern Gulf of Mexico—home to sharks, sea turtles, and nesting seabirds. For years, it remained vulnerable, with little protection on the water and limited enforcement capacity.

That changed in 2024, when Sea Shepherd launched a **new permanent campaign**—an expansion of our partnership with the **government of Mexico**, built on over a decade of tactical development, real-time coordination, and frontline experience in the Vaquita Refuge.



Now, we bring our **cutting-edge defense model**—drones, fast boats, trained crews, and live monitoring—to a new frontline: **Scorpion Reef.**

With federal inspectors, Navy support, and Sea Shepherd crews working together, we are documenting illegal activity, removing ghost nets, and helping enforce the protections this reef has long needed.

This campaign is just beginning. But the reef is no longer alone. ■

MISSION REPORT

FAROE ISLANDS

ENDING THE SLAUGHTER



40 YEARS ON THESE SHORES. STILL FIGHTING.

For more than four decades, Sea Shepherd has been committed to raising international awareness to the slaughter of pilot whales and dolphins in the Faroe Islands. We've been instrumental in creating long lasting international pressure against the cruel and inhumane treatment of whales and dolphins passing through Faroese waters.

Each summer, entire pods are forcefully driven into shallow bays where they are killed—by hand—under legal Faroese sanction. Entire families, often numbering several hundreds, are wiped out and robbed from the ocean where they

serve such a critical role in upholding a healthy balance.

The bloody tradition is called the grindadráp. And for too long, it has been protected by local silence.

Sea Shepherd is persisting in changing that. Our crews return to the Faroes every year. We document and secure evidence of every hunt, from all possible angles. We share it with the world and with the Faroese community—not to shame, but to reveal and to push for change.

We know change will not come through pressure alone. It will come when enough people inside the Faroes begin to see the grind not as a national identity, but as national history.

Until then, we'll keep showing up. We'll keep documenting.

Because the next pod doesn't know what's waiting in Faroese waters. But we do. ■



IN MEMORY OF HENRY

Henry Shehan was 22—a passionate advocate for marine life. In 2024, he passed away unexpectedly.

To honor his legacy, his friends and family launched a **JustGiving campaign**, raising over **\$200,000** for Sea Shepherd.

These funds have repaired vital equipment, restocked mission gear, and kept patrols on the water.

Though Henry never crewed a ship, his impact is felt on every one. His name sails with us, and we **honor him by naming a Fastboat the “Shehan”.** ■



CHAPTERS IN ACTION



The work on land fuels the fight at sea.

**Join us.
Be part of this crew.**



Sea Shepherd Chapters are active across North America.

In 2025, cleanups and events are planned in:



- Portland
- San Diego
- New York City
- Toronto
- Chicago

This year, **World Oceans Day** anchored our land-based movement—with volunteers cleaning coastlines, raising awareness, and growing our ranks.

DONOR RECOGNITION

In 2024, thanks to a generous gift from the **Barker family**, Sea Shepherd launched a **second sentry-class vessel** in the Upper Gulf of California, patrolling vaquita habitat alongside the *Seahorse*. This vital donation is already saving lives.

Their donation wasn't symbolic—it was operational. And it's already making an impact on the water. ■

BOB BARKER
SEASHEPHERD.ORG



To the Barkers and all who give:

Thank you for fueling the fight.
Your support drives every mission.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

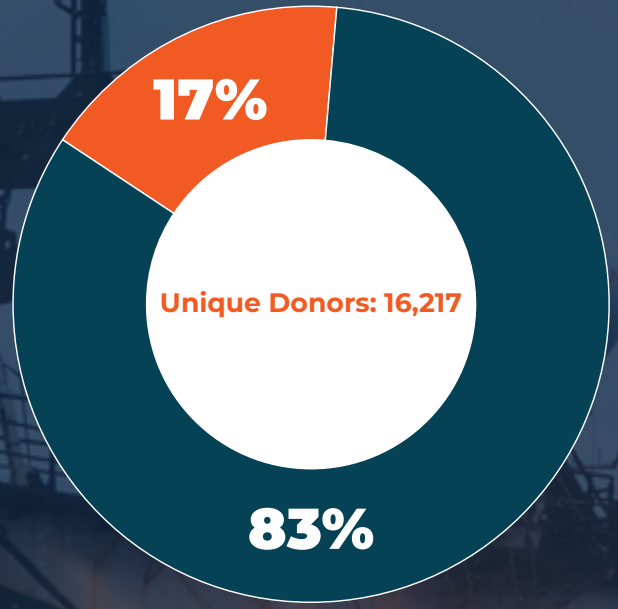
**83 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR
GO DIRECTLY TO THE MISSION**

Sea Shepherd is lean, fast, and mission-first. In 2024, **83% of every dollar** donated went straight to operations—fueling ships, rescuing animals, pulling nets, and running active campaigns around the world.



That's why Sea Shepherd consistently earns a **4-star rating**

from Charity Navigator—their highest score for financial efficiency, accountability, and transparency. ■



Admin + Fundraising

Program Spending

YOUR SUPPORT GOES TO FRONTLINE OPERATIONS:



ADVANCED RADAR

To identify illegal fishing operations



ADVANCED SONAR

To locate dangerous ghost nets



CAMERA GEAR

To share our story and raise awareness



SHIP MAINTENANCE & FUEL

To keep our fleet running at full capacity



PLANT-BASED MEALS

To sustain our crew on board



SAFETY GEAR

To protect our crew during dangerous missions



Fuel the Fight for Ocean Conservation

1. SCAN TO SUPPORT

Scan the QR code:
Make a quick and secure donation.

2. MAIL YOUR DONATION

Send checks payable to:
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
PO Box 7750, Woodbridge, VA, 22195



PLANNED GIVING

Protect the Ocean forever — leave a gift in your will or trust and power direct action to defend marine wildlife for generations to come.

WHY LEAVE A LEGACY?

Leaving a legacy with Sea Shepherd means making a **lasting impact** on the protection of endangered marine species and the fight against illegal fishing. Your support helps keep our ships on the front lines, **safeguarding ocean life** around the world.

Legacy giving powers essential initiatives, including:

- Ship patrols with vessels like the *Seahorse* and *Bob Barker*
- Advanced tools such as sonar, drones, and interceptors
- Rescues of vaquita, sea lions, whales, and dolphins
- Global campaigns where marine life faces the greatest threats

As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Sea Shepherd ensures that **your gift goes directly to defending ocean life**. Plus, your contribution may help reduce estate taxes. By leaving a legacy, you help protect the oceans for future generations.

WAYS TO GIVE

You can include Sea Shepherd in your estate plans in just minutes:

Bequest in your will or trust

Include a fixed amount, percentage, or remainder of your estate.

IRA Charitable Rollover (age 70½+)

If you're 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA. This counts toward your required minimum distribution and may reduce your taxable income.

Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

You can recommend a grant from your DAF or name Sea Shepherd as your successor beneficiary.

Beneficiary designation

Name Sea Shepherd as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance, or bank account.

Appreciated assets

Sea Shepherd accepts appreciated securities, stocks, personal property, valuables, and real estate.



JOIN THE OCEAN LEGACY CREW

When you include Sea Shepherd in your estate plans, you become part of the Ocean Legacy Crew — a growing community protecting the ocean long into the future.

Let us know you've made a commitment, and we'll welcome you into the Shepherds Forever Society, established in 2002 to honor legacy donors like you. ■

Suggested legal language:

"I give to Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oregon, EIN 93-0792021, the sum of \$_____ or _____% of the residue of my estate to be used for its general charitable purposes."

Sea Shepherd runs lean. A legacy gift helps keep poachers out and marine life safe — long into the future.

START YOUR FREE WILL



TRUSTED AND TRANSPARENT: OUR 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

At Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, we take pride in our commitment to transparency, accountability, and making a tangible impact on marine conservation. We're honored to have **earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator**, the highest possible distinction, reflecting our dedication to responsible stewardship of your support.



“ For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century, he is beginning to realize that in order to survive, he must protect it.”

—JACQUES COUSTEAU



SEA SHEPHERD

SEASHEPHERD.ORG JOIN THE FIGHT.