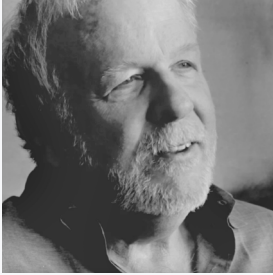


A MESSAGE FROM **OUR FOUNDER**

To all Oceanites supporters and friends,

As I write, the COVID pandemic rages and, while a vaccine may be in sight, it's hard to imagine any of us returning to some semblance of normalcy until, perhaps, the summer or fall of next year. Against this background, all of us connected with Oceanites are grateful for your support that has sustained us through these difficult months.

We are soldiering through and sustaining our important work, and we trust you'll respond as you always have to this, our year-end appeal. Many, many thanks for your unflinching attention to us!

Sure, we may ultimately have a vaccine for COVID, but there is and will be no vaccine for climate change. The penguins we study are avatars for the existential issue of our time and the need to get more and more people engaged, thinking and dealing with our expected, vastly warmed future. That's what keeps me and all of the Oceanites team pumped and moving forward!

This is my annual report to all of you on progress we've made, despite the pandemic, and on plans for the coming year. Oceanites is now 33 years old, our Antarctic Site Inventory is 26, and our Antarctic continent-wide MAPPPD database enters its fifth year of operation. And we have just published our fourth annual *State of Antarctic Penguins* report.

Yes, thinking about our vastly warmed future and whether we'll adapt or not. As we have described, this is what all of us biological creatures face, penguins or humans. Will we continue to have food to eat? A good home? An environment free of disease? The ability to keep producing kids and grandkids?

We continue to expand our outreach to get more and more people into the discussion about life's vitals and how to adapt to what will be a changed future. Penguins remind us how awesome it is to be alive — and reinforce the responsibility all of us should feel toward our fragile planet.

We're proud to be your penguin, Antarctic, and climate change 'eyes and ears' and, now, more than ever, your continued, generous support will keep our unique scientific work and penguin-oriented public outreach going.

Many thanks!

As always, onward, upward!



Ron Naveen
President, Oceanites, Inc.





REAL DATA, REAL IMPACT

Our various activities continue to positively affect both the long-term conservation of Antarctica and the worldwide discussion of climate change and adaptation to our vastly warmed future:

Antarctic Site Inventory

The 2019-2020 Antarctic Site Inventory (ASI) season was Oceanites' 26th consecutive field season collecting penguin and seabird population data in the Antarctic Peninsula. The ASI has now completed more than 2,100 census visits at more than 250 sites. The 2019-2020 ASI field season was assisted by support from the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Hurtigruten, Inc., Poseidon Expeditions, and public contributions. We are proud to have remained the only NGO with an active science program and the only NGO committed to monitoring penguin and seabird population changes in the vastly warmed Antarctic Peninsula.

MAPPPD

Our Antarctic continent-wide penguin database called MAPPPD serves as the repository of data from the ASI as well as data from other Antarctic researchers, creating the most comprehensive, publicly available database on Antarctic penguin populations. It is the single, best source of all Antarctic penguin data and is relied upon by all Antarctic Treaty nations, stakeholders and NGOs.

Long-Term Monitoring

A year from now, we intend to inaugurate a Stratified Long-Term Antarctic Peninsula Monitoring Plan relying on dedicated vessels and drone technology to fill penguin population data gaps and assist the development of conservation measures by Antarctic Treaty nations.

Analyzing Tourism

Oceanites has continued to consult with major Antarctic tour operators, helping them to analyze and determine whether tourism is having a long-term impact on gentoo penguin population changes in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Advising Krill Fishing Companies

We remain a trusted advisor to Antarctic krill fishing companies, advising them on their voluntarily imposed no-fishing buffer zone during the penguin breeding season.

CCAMLR

For the sixth consecutive year, Oceanites participated as an invited, expert observer at the annual (and virtual) meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which regulates krill and toothfish fishing in the waters surrounding Antarctica. Oceanites reported on all of its activities and released its fourth annual State of Antarctic Penguins report.



SOAP 2020

Our new *State of Antarctic Penguins 2020* report (oceanites.org/soap2020) describes an Antarctic penguin population that is down nearly 7 percent, compared to 2019, with 5.8 million breeding pairs identified nesting at 698 sites across the entire Antarctic continent. Of particular concern, this year's findings point to continuing or notable population declines in three Antarctic penguin species: emperor penguin populations down 16 percent; Adelie, down 5 percent; and chinstrap penguin counts down 11 percent. In contrast the gentoo penguin population is up by 6 percent.

Based on this and prior annual Oceanites reports and those of other scientists, the Antarctic penguin population, particularly in the Antarctic Peninsula, continues to decline with many climate change and climate-related factors potentially involved, including: a potentially shifting or shrinking krill stock; the amount of krill fishing and higher exposure to fishing interference during the penguin breeding season; competition for krill with whales and seals; penguins' winter foraging ranges and other nonbreeding season impacts; and rising temperatures and retreating sea ice due to global warming.

SPREADING THE WORD

Oceanites continued distributing the online e-book *Ron Counts Penguins* (oceanites.org/ron-counts-penguins/), which encourages kids to become passionate about the environment, beginning in their own backyards.

The award-winning documentary about our work, *The Penguin Counters*, is now available for free viewing if you're an Amazon Prime member!

**Your support
enables us to
continue ALL
of these activities!**



BUILDING UPON OUR WORK

Your support will help us create a better world for our children and grandchildren.

At this crucial time, Oceanites is more determined than ever to expand our outreach on penguins, climate change and our more hopeful message of climate change adaptation. We ask for your continued, generous support to keep our unique scientific work and critical public outreach going strong. This is the most critical issue of our time! With the new year approaching, it's the perfect time to envision a better future for our world. We can all help create it, and we invite you to be a part of our mission.



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