



A MESSAGE FROM **OUR FOUNDER - Ron Naveen**

To all Oceanites supporters and friends,

What a year this has been! The pandemic continues to impact everything we do. Thankfully now, as opposed to this time last year, vaccines are available.



As a result of the ongoing pandemic, our 2020-21 field season was massively disrupted. However, we expect to be up and running for the coming 2021-22 season. Argentina and Chile are in the process of opening up, and the Antarctic touring companies with whom we work are taking all of the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of everyone onboard.

Given what's happening worldwide, all of us connected with Oceanites are grateful for your financial support. It is because of your generosity that we have been able to keep doing our important work in this very difficult time.

Happily, we can report ongoing success in our efforts to advance science-based conservation in the Antarctic and in a parallel effort championing an increased awareness of climate change and its potential impacts. Part of our outreach and messaging has focused on climate change adaptation as viewed through the lens of Antarctic penguins.

As we know, the ravages of COVID are merely a precursor to what we'll face as Earth's climate continues to warm. There won't be a vaccine for climate change. We are increasingly focused on studying penguins as 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. Indeed, this is what keeps me and all of the Oceanites team energized and moving forward!

This is my annual report to all of you on the progress we've made despite the pandemic, and on plans for the coming year. Oceanites is now 34 years old, our Antarctic Site Inventory is 27, and our Antarctic continent-wide MAPPPD database enters its sixth year of operation. Our recent State of Antarctic Penguins report continues to inform everyone concerned with the long-term conservation of Antarctica's five species of breeding penguins.

Adelie and chinstrap penguin numbers continue to decline, while gentoo penguins are adapting and increasing. The fair question to ask is whether we will be like gentoos and adapt (or not) to our vastly warmed future. For all of us biological creatures, 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?

It is crucial that more and more people get 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.

We trust you'll respond as you always have to this, our year-end appeal. Many, many thanks for your consistent and generous support! As always, onward and 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, MAPPPD & SOAP

Though complicated by the pandemic, Oceanites' Antarctic Site Inventory collected new data for a 27th consecutive field season, over which time frame the project has amassed more than 2,100 census visits at more than 258 sites. Our 2021-22 field season is expected to begin in December.

Antarctic Site Inventory data plus data from other sources then flow into the Antarctic continent-wide penguin database — MAPPPD — that Oceanites maintains, which now contains 4,510 records from 748 sites, and 121 data sources of on-the-ground colony counts and satellite photo analyses. In the past year, the number of records in MAPPPD has increased by 20% and the number of data sources by 2%. Oceanites greatly appreciates the growing use of our open-sourced, publicly available data repository by the entire Antarctic community.

Of particular note, Oceanites continues to closely track the significant trends in the vastly warmed Antarctic Peninsula, where Adélie and chinstrap penguins have declined and Gentoo penguins have increased.

The MAPPPD database serves as the predicate for Oceanites' State of Antarctic Penguins reports, the most recent of which notes that the five Antarctic penguin species totalled 5.77 million breeding pairs and highlights further chinstrap and Adélie penguin declines.

Related & Future Projects

Oceanites continues 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. As well, we continue to consult with Antarctic krill fishing companies, advising them on their voluntarily imposed no-fishing buffer zone during the penguin breeding season. Looking forward, post-pandemic, we hope 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.

CCAMLR

For the seventh 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. We reported on all of its activities, including our most recent State of Antarctic Penguins report.



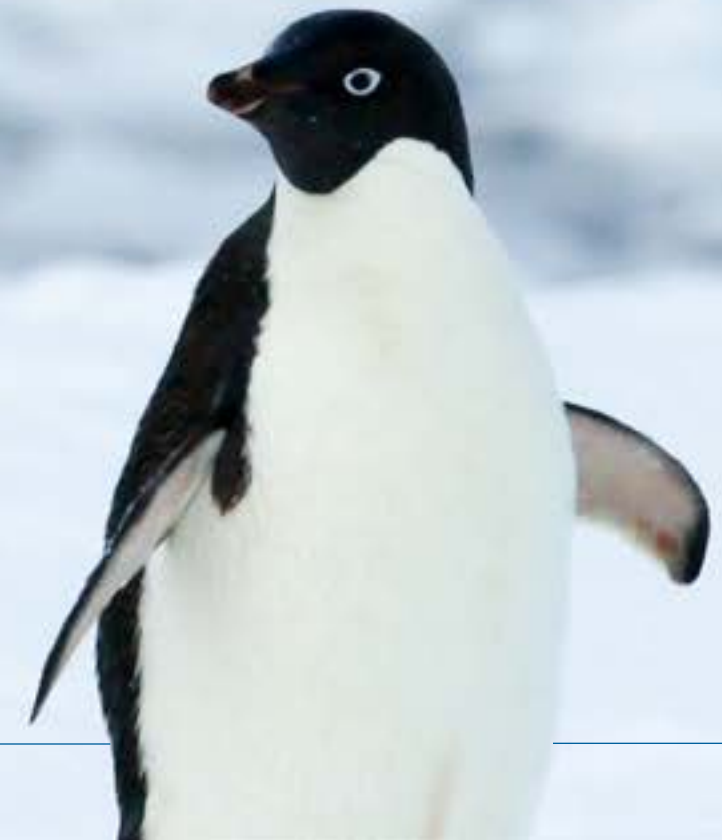
PENGUINS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Critically, our data and reports highlight the suite of factors that, it is hoped, when analyzed, will add to the trove of scientific data and analyses already available, and explain more precisely the population changes being detected. These factors include: a potentially shifting or shrinking krill stock; the location of krill fishing vis-à-vis the foraging range of breeding penguins; the foraging range of juvenile penguins post-breeding season; the foraging range of overwintering gentoo penguins; the winter foraging ranges of Adélie and chinstrap penguins; competition for krill with whales and seals; and, rising temperatures and retreating sea ice due to global warming.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

We also can report great success with our climate change outreach, expanding the number of people conversant with the existential issue of our time. We have now made freely available three eBooks —Ron Counts Penguins, Ron Camps With Penguins, and Ron's Power Lunch, which can be downloaded at: <https://oceanites.org/ron-counts-penguins/>

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.

Your support will help us create a better world for our children and grandchildren. At this crucial moment, Oceanites is more determined than ever to further 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 interface 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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