

## Ron Naveen Founder, Oceanites and Antarctic Site Inventory

Ron Naveen has been going to Antarctica for more than 30 years — what amounts to at least six years in real time, and counting penguins for Oceanites and his Antarctic Site Inventory project for 23 of those years. He founded [Oceanites](#), a US-based, nonprofit science and educational organization, in 1987 and began the Antarctic Site Inventory in 1994. Significantly, the Antarctic Site Inventory is the *only* nongovernmental, publicly supported, scientific research project working in Antarctica and the *only* project monitoring penguin population changes across the entirety of the vastly warmed Antarctic Peninsula. In 2016, the Mapping Application for Penguin Populations and Projected Dynamics (MAPPPD) went live, an open access decision support tool that The Lynch Lab, Stony Brook University, and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) designed specifically for Oceanites as a one-stop shop for information on penguins in the Antarctic. The *State of Antarctic Penguins 2017* report is the first major output from MAPPPD.

Everyone concerned with Antarctica's future conservation substantially relies on the data and analyses Oceanites has fostered — including diplomats, other Antarctic scientists, and the environmental community, to expedition tour operators and concerned citizens. Inventory results and analyses are reported annually at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. In 2006, Antarctic Treaty Parties began adopting site-specific management guidelines that rely substantially on the Antarctic Site Inventory database. As well, Oceanites serves as an independent, expert observer at the annual meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and its Scientific Committee, which oversees and regulates fishing activities in Antarctica. In regard to Antarctic Peninsula krill fishing, Oceanites is assisting the voluntary efforts of krill fishing companies to avoid fishing near to where penguins are breeding or foraging.

Penguins are Ron's marquee animals and they're constantly prancing across his dreams, reminding him how awesome it is to be alive. They also reinforce the responsibility he feels to think more positively and proactively about our fragile, warming, watery planet, and to continue Oceanites' invaluable work well into the future.







