



LIVE OCEAN

FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

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OUR VISION

A Healthy Ocean for a
Healthy Future

OUR MISSION

Scaling up Science,
Innovation & Outreach
for a Healthy Ocean



A Message from our Chair

Tēnā koutou,

Taking on the Chair role at Live Ocean is a tremendous honour. While I am new to this role, I've been inspired by the strong foundation built over the past five years – a platform created through the dedication and vision of those who came before me.

I'm cognisant I've joined at an important moment, not only in the organisation's journey, but as ocean health becomes increasingly urgent on a global scale.

Ocean protection and restoration has never been more important, yet right now in New Zealand we're seeing limited action and reluctance from key decision makers on the issue. It's a challenge that Live Ocean is prepared to take on – using our unique ability to reach more people and shine a light on what is out of sight and mind for many, we can bring urgency and demand better from those acting at the highest level.

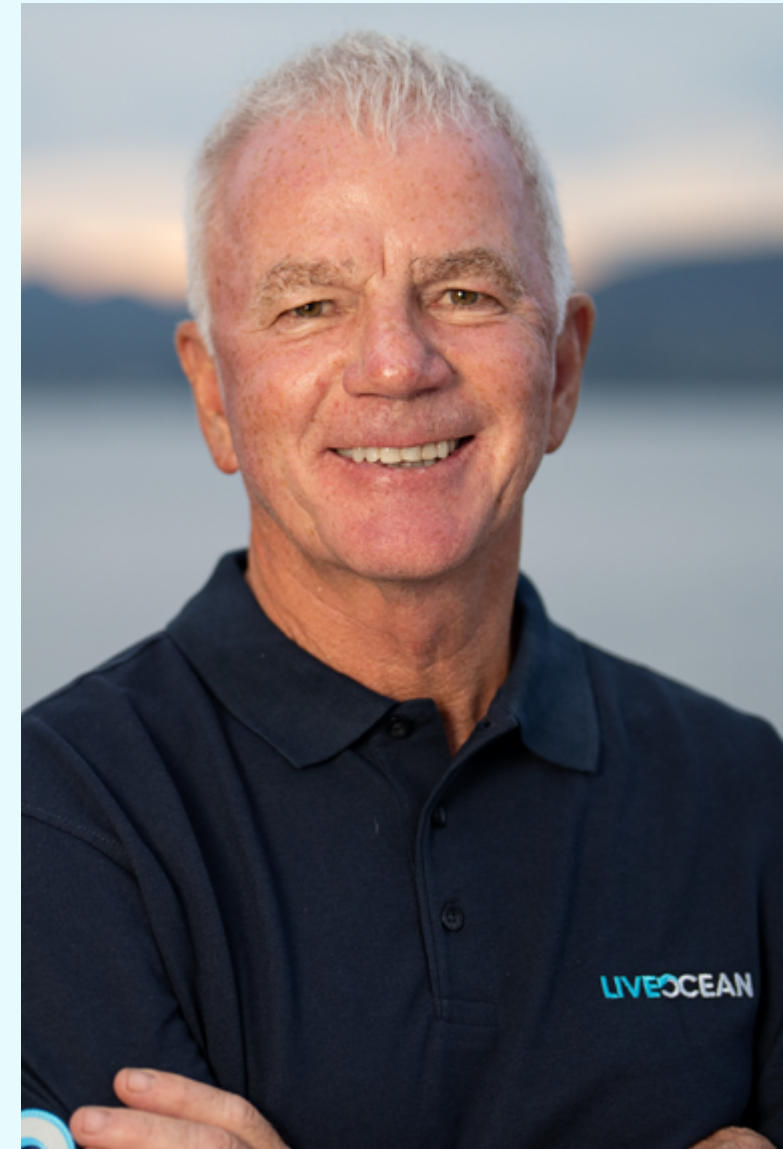
I also want to warmly acknowledge the incredible leadership of our outgoing Chief Executive, Sally Paterson, and former Chair, Miranda Burdon. Their passion and dedication have been central to Live Ocean's growth and impact. Thank you both for your tireless commitment and the strong platform you've built for the team to continue driving meaningful change.

That foundation is now delivering powerful results. Years of support for southern right whale voyages are providing fresh insights for our partner scientists — knowledge that will guide future protection. We've seen science and mātauranga working side by side to inspire rangatahi and deepen their connection to the moana. And with the launch of Citizens of the Sea, everyday ocean sailors can now collect eDNA samples, adding to a global picture of ocean health.

These are just a few moments in a year rich with collaboration and progress. To everyone in our Live Ocean whānau — from project partners to donors, ocean champions and collaborators — thank you. Your commitment, energy and belief in Live Ocean and the mahi we support make everything we do possible.

The next phase is here. Momentum is building, and the ocean needs us all.

Ngā mihi nui,
Stephen Jones



From our Founders



Kia ora Live Ocean whānau,

What a year! It's one to remember in so many ways.

In November we marked five years since the launch of Live Ocean. It's been an incredible journey to grow an idea into an organisation playing a unique role in the race for a healthy ocean.

We're proud of what Live Ocean has achieved and excited to use the energy we've generated to take Live Ocean into its next stage.

Sailing commitments meant we spent significant time out of the country this year, and it was so good to return home and connect with Live Ocean's project partners and our supporters.

Live Ocean's earliest project was to highlight the plight of one of our most at-risk seabirds, the incredible Tōroa Antipodean albatross, and support those working to save them. So, it was really pleasing to see New Zealand introduce new legislation this year requiring our surface long-line fishing fleets to use seabird safe mitigation measures.

Another highlight was this year's collaboration with SailGP and the Black Foils to support kelp restoration at the Noises Islands in Tīkapa Moana Te Moanaui-ā-Toi. Now is the time to act if we're to reverse the declining health of this very special marine ecosystem and this project shows how sport and science can come together and deliver real ocean action.

We want to thank Sally Paterson and Miranda Burdon for their extraordinary leadership during Live Ocean's formative years.

Their dedication has been vital in getting us here. And we're excited to welcome Stephen Jones as Chair, who brings fresh energy and vision.

Thank you for your support this year and we ask you to stand strong with us. With your ongoing support and belief, our ambition for a healthy ocean and a healthy future can be realised.

Ngā mihi nui,
[Peter Burling + Blair Tuke](#)

Photo by: Josh McCormack

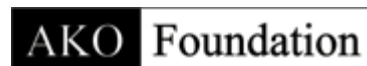
Thank you

This year we've felt the strength of the incredible Live Ocean whānau - our loyal partners and supporters who've backed us from the start, and the new faces bringing fresh energy to the mission.

We were especially pleased to welcome BNZ Foundation, Hugo Charitable Trust, NuGreen and One Frame to our supporter family, joining the many who've stood with us year after year.

Your commitment, trust and belief in a healthy ocean helps power everything we do. Together, we're turning ambition into action.

FLAGSHIP SUPPORTERS



MAJOR SUPPORTERS



The Renshaw
Family

CORE SUPPORTERS





Focus & Impact



FOCUS AREAS

Invest in research with a focus on climate resilience and blue carbon

Bridge the gaps between science, public opinion and action

Protection and restoration of key species and ecosystems

IMPACT GOALS

Aotearoa New Zealand's kelp forests are thriving and valued, with a clear role in the blue carbon landscape

Get the health of the ocean on the public and political agenda

Increase marine protection and restoration in New Zealand

Action for the Ocean



* Live Ocean Foundation is committed to funding and amplifying marine science, innovation and outreach that contributes to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Impact Highlights

Live Ocean impact since launching in 2019

20

MARINE CONSERVATION
PROJECTS SUPPORTED

\$4.5m

DIRECTED TO THE PROJECTS
WE SUPPORT

The cumulative amount directed to the projects we support has been reviewed and restated for FY2024-25 to \$4.5 million, to align with our agreed methodology.

Highlights from the 2024-2025 year



87%

FEWER ALBATROSS DEATHS

New Seabird Safe Rules commenced, and reporting data indicates a massive reduction - albatross deaths dropped from 124 in Jan- March 2024 down to just 16 in the same period this year.



850

RANGATAHI ENGAGED

Rangatahi around Aotearoa using science methods and sampling kits to measure marine biodiversity and other ocean health indicators.



16.9m

GLOBAL AUDIENCE

A global audience of close to 17 million watched the SailGP broadcast featuring a story about kelp restoration at the Noises Islands in the Hauraki Gulf. [Watch video](#)



Nationally

VULNERABLE

No longer 'Data Deficient'; Oceanic Manta Rays national threat classification in New Zealand was upgraded to 'Nationally Vulnerable' thanks to sightings data and knowledge gained by Manta Watch New Zealand.



445,546m²

SIGNIFICANT OCEAN AREAS

Nearly half a million square metres of ocean is now recognised as Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) thanks to information put forward by Lydia Green and Manta Watch New Zealand.



1,000

eDNA SAMPLES

1,000 eDNA samples were collected by cruising yachties helping to map marine biodiversity and ocean health by contributing to the Citizens of the Sea initiative while sailing in the 2024 Pacific Rally.



New Insights

SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES

With Dr Emma Carroll, University of Auckland as a key senior researcher, the world's first-ever circumpolar study of Tohorā southern right whales which involved 5 nations and saw 135 satellite tags deployed has led to a multitude of new insights about this sentinel species and how they're faring in a changing ocean.

Ocean Champions & the Power of Sport





Live Ocean Dip 2024

CELEBRATING WORLD OCEAN DAY

Participation in the annual winter dip spanned 12 regions across Aotearoa and beyond that another four continents. More than just a dip in the moana, Live Ocean lit up World Ocean Day this year with 13 national landmarks turning blue for 8 June 2024 to raise awareness for the global day of ocean celebration.



Jono Ridler

KIWI INVITED TO JOIN WORLD'S BEST FOR OCEAN HEALTH SWIM

The Swim4TheGulf legend joined top swimmers from nine continents who came together for Epic Swim Maui to shine a spotlight on ocean health. It was the first ever expedition swim around the Hawaiian island.

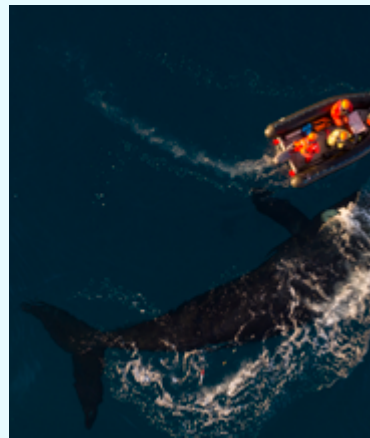


Black Foils

TOOK LIVE OCEAN TO UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL AUDIENCE

In season 4 the Black Foils NZL SailGP team raced at 13 venues around the globe with racing broadcast to an audience of 193 million - proudly carrying the Live Ocean brand prominently on Amokura's wing, showcasing Live Ocean as the team's charity impact partner.

We partner with exceptional **marine scientists, innovators and communicators** to drive action for a healthy ocean.



Outreach



that Connects

Rangatahi Connection & Knowledge

This year University of Otago scientists partnered with waka voyaging groups and schools around Aotearoa, weaving citizen science into the learning programmes with hundreds of rangatahi youth directly benefitting.

In collaboration with Te Toki Voyaging Trust, Dr Sally Carson’s team created a kete of science-meets-mātauranga activities to connect more rangatahi with the moana and provide them with tools to monitor its health. By providing waka groups with the science kit required and empowering them to deliver the programme, the long-term goal to scale up this citizen-science is being realised.

Te Hau Kōmaru Waka Festival at Kaiteriteri in April 2024 kicked things off, a TTVT winter voyage to Dunedin followed, while workshops to introduce the programme to the Tairāwhiti Voyaging Trust in Gisborne and Te Matau a Māui Waka in Napier were held in October and March.

Over 850 rangatahi were given the chance to experience coastal monitoring while also reconnecting with skills their voyaging ancestors relied on, helping build their understanding and connection to the ocean.

“We have a hui with the waka crew to train them how to use the monitoring kit and work alongside the crew and local Kaiako to develop lesson plans that fit with their waka Kaupapa and adjust the sampling procedures for their local environment.

Dr Sally Carson
University of Otago

850

RANGATAHI ENGAGED

Rangatahi around Aotearoa using science methods and sampling kits to measure marine biodiversity and other ocean health indicators.

3

WAKA VOYAGING
GROUPS INVOLVED

Tairāwhiti Voyaging Trust in Gisborne and Te Matau a Māui Waka joined Te Toki Voyaging Trust, increasing the number of voyaging groups now weaving marine science learning into the voyaging experience they provide for rangatahi.



APRIL 2024	Kaiteriteri Waka Festival Te Hau Kōmaru – Waka Festival, Kaiteriteri
JUNE 2024	School engagement with Te Toki Voyaging Trust Hinemoana, Dunedin
OCT 2024	Workshop with Tairāwhiti Voyaging Trust Gisborne
OCT 2024	Workshop with Te Matau a Māui Waka & Ātea a Rangi Education Trust , Napier
NOV 2024	Programme workshops, Invercargill
FEB 2025	Moanamana workshop, Lyttelton, Christchurch
MARCH 2025	Workshop with Te Matau a Maui Waka crew, Napier



Kelp Restoration Given a Boost

Kelp restoration in Tīkapa Moana the Hauraki Gulf received a boost after SailGP, the Black Foils and Live Ocean teamed up for SailGP's first ocean impact project of 2025.

Sport, science, youth and mātauranga māori came together in a visit to the Noises, a chain of islands in the Gulf – creating a story that was broadcast to a global audience showcasing 'a partnership to leave a tangible, measurable impact on ocean health'.

The project helped fund the continuation of [the work of Dr Nick Shears and Dr Kelsey Miller](#) of the University of Auckland to regrow kelp forests at the Noises.

Multiple human stressors including over-fishing and sedimentation have impacted the Gulf's once thriving kelp forests, reducing them to a fraction of what they once were.

Live Ocean project partners led by Dr Nick Shears, Marine Scientist, University of Auckland are working to see how marine protected areas, combined with active removal of kina (urchins, which are rife due to a lack of large snapper and crayfish) can help restore the entire marine ecosystem. [Watch video](#)

“

Kelp forests are so important. They provide habitat and food for lots of species – it's like our trees on the land. They're also important in fixing carbon.

Dr Nick Shears

Marine Scientist | University of Auckland

“

When you bring a collective group of people together, all striving for the same thing, like we have here – it gives you the moments to feel proud and inspired about making real change.

Blair Tuke

Live Ocean Co-Founder | Black Foils CO-CEO

16.9m

MILLION

A global audience of close to 17 million watched the broadcast featuring the Noises impact story.

\$33k

INVESTED

Funding the continuation of the work of Dr Nick Shears and Dr Kelsey Miller of the University of Auckland to regrow kelp forests at the Noises, paving the way to scale up restoration efforts in Tīkapa Moana.

20

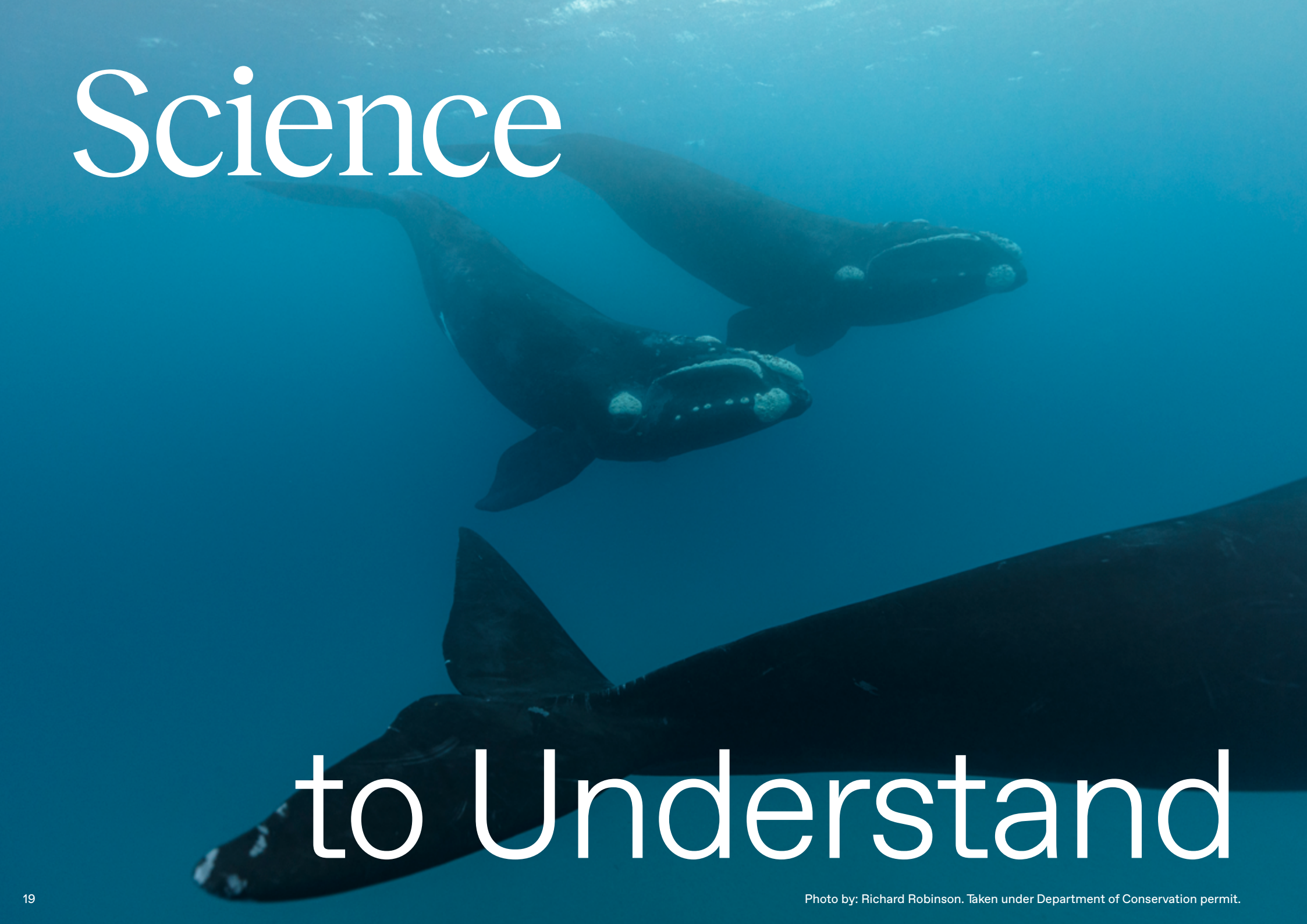
YEARS FASTER

Active restoration to 'reset' the system can accelerate kelp forest regeneration by up to 20 years, with kelp returning to barren rocky reefs in just two years.





Science

An underwater photograph of three humpback whales swimming in clear blue water. The whales are dark grey with white patches on their heads and chests. They are swimming in a diagonal line from the top left towards the bottom right. The water is a deep blue, and the lighting is soft, creating a serene atmosphere.

to Understand

Tohorā Tracks

We now know more than ever about the Tohorā southern right whale through insights gained following three research voyages to the sub-Antarctic in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with Tohorā tagging data helping to inform policy and decision-making aimed at enhancing their protection.

With New Zealand's Dr Emma Carroll as a key senior researcher, the work was scaled up through a collaborative multi-national study of these whales, which compared whale tracks from New Zealand to data from Australia, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina.

As a result, important scientific evidence of hot-spots or highly productive feeding zones in the deep ocean was this year overlaid with fishing and shipping data by researchers, to show where the whales' cross paths with vessels. This new information is already being used to inform policy.

The study is also revealing other useful insights about the distinct southern hemisphere populations helping researchers predict how these great whales might need to adapt to the forecasted impact of climate change on the ocean they inhabit.

“

While the Tohorā have recovered well from whaling due to protection in our waters, particularly in the area around the Maungahuka Auckland Islands which provides protection for cows and pēpi, they can voyage a third of the way around the world in search of food. To ensure their recovery for the next 100 years, we need to know where they migrate to feed, and how best to protect those regions in a changing ocean.

Dr Emma Carroll
University of Auckland

Informing Policy

The University of Auckland's southern right whale research has been a critical component to the revision of DOC's 2017 'Regional Coastal Plan: Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands' enhancing protection of these whales.

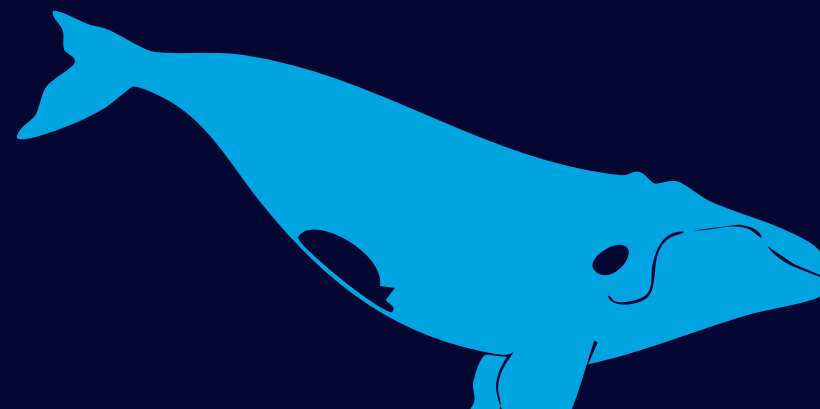
135

SATELLITE TAGS DEPLOYED

Led by Dr Emma Carroll, the world's first-ever circumpolar study of a whale species involved 5 nations and saw 135 satellite tags deployed including 25 whales within the New Zealand southern right whale population.

90%

of the New Zealand southern right whales headed to a region south of Australia, in international waters, and fed there between October and January.





Toroa Safer with New Law

Aotearoa took a world-leading step with the [June 2024 announcement](#) that New Zealand would adopt gold standard fishing practices to keep our seabirds safe from accidental capture in our waters by New Zealand fleets.

It was a massive win for our taonga seabirds, including the highly endangered Toroa Antipodean albatross.

With New Zealand fleets leading the way, and international fleets being encouraged to adopt the simple mitigation measures, there's hope the Antipodean albatross won't be lost forever.

Over the year Live Ocean has supported The Southern Seabirds Trust to develop and roll out a Seabird Safe Toolkit to ensure fishing companies, tuna buyers and supermarkets know if their businesses are implicated in the demise of the world's great ocean wanderers.

“

Shining a global spotlight on the plight of the Antipodean albatross and backing the scientists undertaking annual missions to the Antipodes Islands was one of our earliest projects with Live Ocean, and it's hugely rewarding to see this progress.

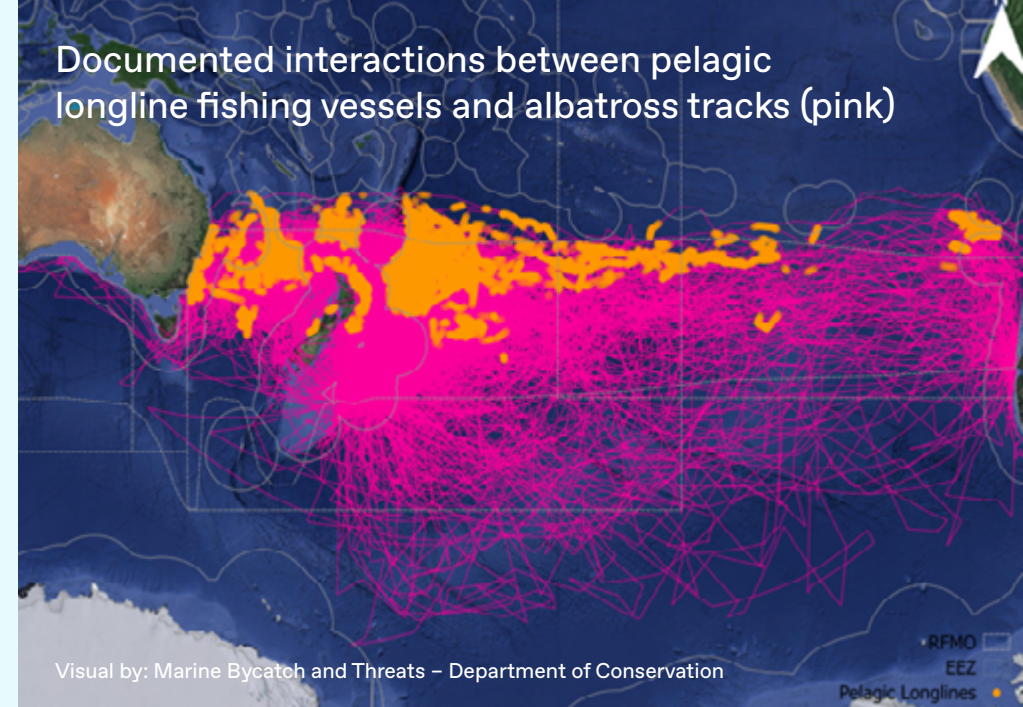
Peter Burling
Live Ocean Co-Founder

“

New Zealand seabirds, including toroa are in danger from fishing boats from other countries. Now the New Zealand government has adopted the new law here, we can encourage other fleets to follow suit.

Janice Molloy
Southern Seabirds Trust

Documented interactions between pelagic longline fishing vessels and albatross tracks (pink)



1 January 2025

NEW RULES COMMENCED

New Zealand's commercial longline fishers are now required to use either hook shielding devices, or to simultaneously use bird scaring devices and weighted lines, and to set their hooks at night.

87%

FEWER ALBATROSS DEATHS

Reporting data indicates a massive reduction - for example albatross deaths have dropped from 124 in Jan- March 2024 down to just 16 in the same period this year.



Threat Classification for Te Whai Rahi

New Zealand's te whai rahi, oceanic manta had their threat classification upgraded from 'data deficient' to 'nationally vulnerable' with data, sightings and knowledge gained through Manta Watch Aotearoa New Zealand's (MWA NZ) mahi playing a critical role in the important change.

Alongside that success, the Live Ocean Foundation project partner's research set the foundation for the creation of three Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), spanning 445,546 km² and up to 1888m deep. And Tīkapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf is now globally recognised as an important feeding area for oceanic manta rays.

Over 70% of MWA NZ manta sightings come from citizen scientists and the launch of a bespoke mobile application this year has streamlined data collection, project reach, and increased the quality of data submitted.



“

The upgraded threat classification for oceanic manta rays in Aotearoa is testament to the achievements and knowledge gains we've made over the past five years and will help ensure a healthy future for these majestic ocean giants. It brings us ever closer to our overarching goal of stronger ocean protection through manta ray research and conservation.

Lydia Green
Manta Watch New Zealand

Nationally Vulnerable

No longer 'Data Deficient', Oceanic Manta Rays national threat classification has changed to 'Nationally Vulnerable'

295

Oceanic manta sightings between December 2024 and March 2025

445,546km²

Ocean space now recognised as Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)

424

DOWNLOADS

Of a new Manta Watch New Zealand app







Innovate

for Solutions

Citizens of the Sea

Sailors revolutionising our understanding of marine biodiversity in the Pacific

Understanding the health and function of the world's biggest ocean and the impact of climate change is vital work now underway through the Citizens of the Sea initiative.

Citizens of the Sea, a charity co-founded by Cawthron Institute and New Zealand Geographic, and supported by Live Ocean Foundation, allows sailors to become citizen scientists by equipping their cruising boats with DNA sequencing technology that can identify thousands of species from a few litres of seawater.

Easy to use devices capture microscopic genetic material that is shed by marine organisms. Sailors tow these devices for a short period every day at their boat's normal speed. Laboratory analysis follows, biodiversity maps can be generated and data made available to inform decision-making.

26 cruising yachts took part in the Pacific Rally 2024 collecting 1,000 eDNA samples which support research and monitoring by detecting genetic traces left by marine life in the water.

1.5M

SQUARE KM OF OCEAN

Sailors in Pacific Rally 2024 cruised across 1.5M square km open ocean in the Pacific

1,000

eDNA SAMPLES

1,000 eDNA samples were collected during the 2024 Pacific Rally

2 Billion

DNA sequences



“

We're empowering sailors to become citizen scientists by equipping them with state-of-the-art devices that enable them to collect eDNA data during their voyages. This allows us to understand the health and function of the Pacific Ocean and the impact of climate change, building a library of samples year-on-year.

Adele Fitzpatrick

Executive Director | Citizens of the Sea

“

The Pacific Rally is the starting point for Citizens of the Sea's vision, but with the support of new partners and funders, we'd like to take this initiative global so that we can provide a new level of data for scientists, conservationists and decision-makers worldwide. This is the future of science

Dr Xavier Pochon

Founding Scientist | Citizens of the Sea



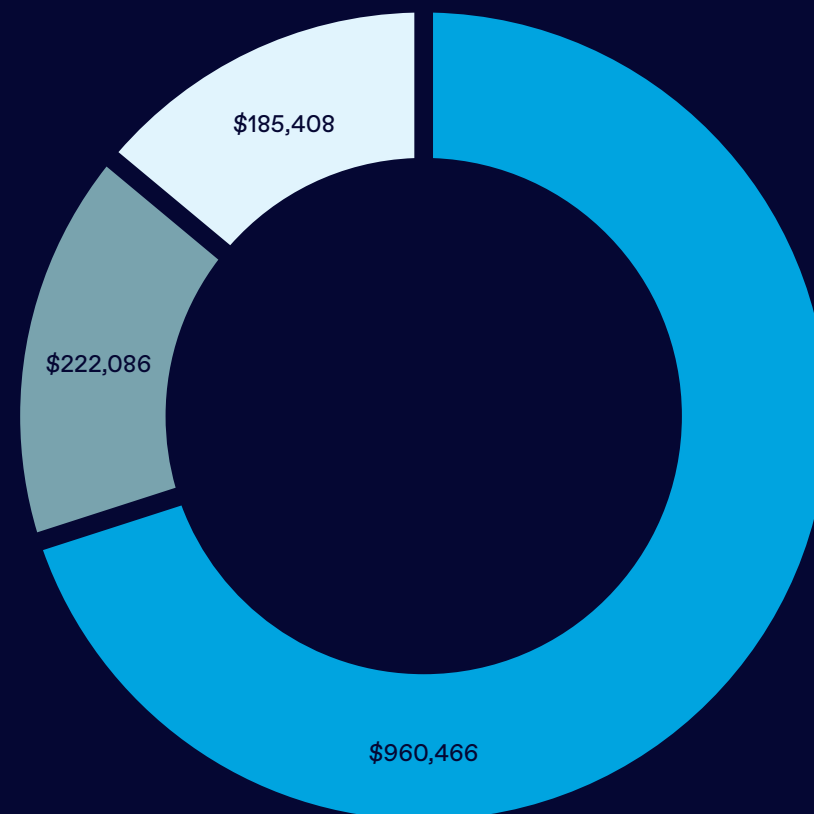
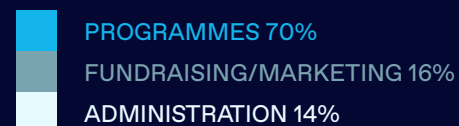
The Numbers

Consolidated Financials 2024-25

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,458,510	\$ 1,158,398
EXPENSES:		
PROGRAMME	\$ 960,466	\$ 1,180,733
FUNDRAISING/MARKETING	\$ 222,086	\$ 184,532
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 185,408	\$ 154,641
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,367,960	\$ 1,519,906
NET PROFIT	\$ 90,550	(\$ 361,508)

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 787,014	\$ 798,143
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 130,862	\$ 236,539
NET ASSETS	\$ 656,152	\$ 561,604

Consolidated financials for Live Ocean (New Zealand) and Live Ocean (USA) for 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025. Full audited financials for Live Ocean Charitable Trust Group (NZ) are available on our website. Live Ocean USA form 990s submitted to the US Internal Revenue Service.





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Photo by: Richard Robinson