

Oceans Matter

Winter Update 2009/2010

A newsletter from **Ocean Alliance**, a research group
focused on whales and marine toxicology



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Science Update

- ▶ 17 Voyage of the *Odyssey* posters presented at the 18th Biennial Conference of the Society of Marine Mammalogy in Quebec City, Canada (October 2009), **accounting for over 40% of all marine mammal toxicology posters at the conference**
- ▶ Three peer-reviewed papers on Voyage data published in 2009
- ▶ Fifteen peer-reviewed Voyage of the *Odyssey* papers and twenty-two abstracts published to date
- ▶ Twenty additional papers are in review or in preparation
- ▶ Next Voyage to the Gulf of Mexico announced. See page 2



Ocean Alliance crew on task with sperm whales during the Voyage of the Odyssey

New Headquarters!

In 2008, with a generous grant from the Annenberg Foundation, Ocean Alliance purchased the Tarr & Wonson Paint Manufactory, an iconic landmark in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

This unique piece of waterfront property and American history, once restored in an environmentally friendly manner, will become a hub for ocean research, education and outreach and the future headquarters of Ocean Alliance. And as the new home for our research vessel *Odyssey* it will bring together, under one roof, our past, present and future work.



Please join us for the exciting journey ahead!

“Ocean Alliance, under the leadership of world-renowned marine scientist Dr. Roger Payne, embodies an extraordinary combination of innovative scientific research and focused, informed environmental advocacy.”

- Joel Reynolds, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 2009

Ocean Alliance is dedicated to the conservation of whales and the ocean environment through research and education.

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From Our Founder and President Roger Payne

I am proud to report that fiscal year 2009 turned out to be one of our most productive: we completed publication of a 176 page report on the Voyage of the *Odyssey*, added three new trustees to the Ocean Alliance board, and built on a grant from the Annenberg Foundation to restore a historic waterfront property (an old paint factory) in Gloucester, Massachusetts for our use as an oceanographic research and education centre and our future headquarters. Pat Woods and Board Chair, Jeff Kunz found the initial funding from the EPA and secured the necessary permitting to begin its restoration.

Iain Kerr, with the help of John Wise and his University of Southern Maine (USM) students, installed a full, cell-culture laboratory in the aft cabin of the *Odyssey*. So we can now expand on the results of the first Voyage of the *Odyssey* by directly studying the effects of contaminants on whale cells at sea. (*Odyssey* may be the only research vessel in the world equipped for cell-culture studies while underway).

I spent much of 2009 on the road: I attended the 2009 meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Madeira, Portugal, spoke at the 2009 Future in Review (FiRe) Conference in San Diego and gave keynote addresses at both the 2009 Blue Vision Summit in Washington, DC, (filling in for Jane Lubchenko, while she awaited confirmation as the new head of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA), and at the Indian Ocean Cetacean Symposium in the Maldives (a conference for which I was one of the conveners).

With MIT Professor of Robotics Daniela Rus I tested the efficacy of the Falcon, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) as a way of observing the behavior of right whales at Península Valdés, Argentina. The Falcon was built by two of Rus's former students and is capable of autonomous flight. The results of the trial exceeded my hopes; the whales appeared to ignore it entirely. It seems ideally suited for observing behavior. The Falcon is what I have long dreamed of (or to be more accurate, it is what I didn't know enough to dream of as it lay beyond the possibilities of which I was aware, and thus beyond my dreams). I believe it will enable a quantum leap in studies of animal behavior, not just of marine mammals but for terrestrial life as well. To see such a technology finding a place in our field is more exciting than I can express.

In May Ocean Alliance started receiving full-time, pro bono help from Lew Douglas. He's a former investment advisor who ran Wall Street companies. Lew will soon be heading up efforts to expand and rework our website, oceanalliance.org and will lead the charge in organizing an Ocean Summit Conference to share the results of the first Voyage of the *Odyssey*.

Those are just a few highlights; the newsletter gives the wider picture. So you can see that I meant it when I said we had accomplished a lot. Yet, because 2009 has taken place in the leanest of economic times we're struggling. Hard!

As people everywhere become more aware of how dire the problems are that the world faces, everyone wants to see action on issues that are most crucial—most urgent. Working to protect the oceans is just such an issue.

Those of you who support work directed at conserving the oceans may not realize just how unique you are: a recent study of charitable giving in America showed that of all funds directed at strengthening conservation policies, 99% are directed at terrestrial problems and less than 1% at ocean problems—and this, even though the oceans cover 71% of the surface of the earth and hold a hugely greater mass of all that is alive (the planet's so-called biomass). That is why, when you support us and we thank you for your help and your vision, we hope you realize how sincerely we mean those thanks.

It is the end of the year and the recession has hit us hard. At the moment the cupboard is bare but the world needs what we offer more than ever before. However with your help we can spread the results of the voyage of the *Odyssey* internationally. With your help we can point out to the people of Japan that whale meat is too polluted to eat safely. With your help we can point out to the world that many fish are headed that way. With your help our effect in the coming year can be greater than in any previous year. Without it, we and the oceans will have a bleaker future. So please help Ocean Alliance as much as you can.

With my warmest wishes for the new year,

Voyage of the *Odyssey*: Update and Next Steps

The final report from the original Voyage of the *Odyssey* (2000-2005) is complete. While this effort took longer than we anticipated, we are proud of what we have achieved. Stay tuned in the coming months for information on accessing your copy. As of this writing, our report distribution plan is as follows:

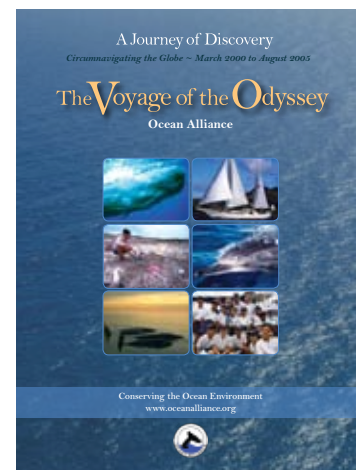
Phase 1: Distribution of the report to the 400 plus people that helped to make this voyage a reality.

Phase 2: We are working on a larger marketing and public distribution plan for the report (including web access). As part of that plan, we have already had a positive conversation with the United States representative to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) with regard to them taking a stance on ocean pollution at the 2010 IWC meetings.

Phase 3: We are exploring the possibility of Ocean Alliance hosting an Ocean Summit in 2011 to which we will invite representatives from the 22 countries (and 118 ports) that we visited. The goal will be to create a 'League of Ocean States' that will recommend actions on ocean pollution and other marine matters to the United Nations.

Published papers, research and new opportunities stemming from the Voyage of the *Odyssey* continue. From our showing at the 2009 Biennial Conference of the Society of Marine Mammalogy (17 posters—over 40% of all marine mammal toxicology posters at the conference) to our evolving partnership with Dr. John Wise, Chief Toxicologist, at the University of Southern Maine, to the shape and direction of the next Voyage, our work in quantifying the threats of ocean pollution on whales and our oceans is having a tangible effect.

Shown here is the cover of our 176 page report on the 5-year Voyage of the Odyssey including our scientific findings to date.



The Next Voyage of the *Odyssey*: The Gulf of Mexico

Ocean Alliance is planning the next Voyage to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) in 2010 and 2011 in partnership with the University of Southern Maine.

We will work in multiple locations within the GOM over the next two years so that we will be able to assess whether pollutants are accumulating and or spreading. We chose to study sperm whales, fish and mollusks because they represent different modes of feeding (e.g. filter feeders and fish eaters), different levels of the food chain (e.g. mussels near the bottom and sperm whales near the top), different lifestyles (e.g. stationary and migratory), and because several have significant commercial value and economic implications (e.g. mussels, fish).



The Gulf of Mexico study will not only be integrated into the larger Voyage of the *Odyssey* data set but will also be combined with two other regional US studies that we will plan to conduct in the Gulf of Maine and the Gulf of California.

For more information, please contact Iain or Patrick at iaink@oceanalliance.org or patrickw@oceanalliance.org



“The Cove”

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, The Cove follows a high-tech team on a mission to penetrate a secret cove to discover the truth about the international dolphin capture trade as practiced in Taiji, Japan. The shocking discoveries they uncovered were only the tip of the iceberg. Ocean Alliance founder Roger Payne and CEO Iain Kerr were consultants for the film, and Roger is featured in the film. Go to thecovemovie.com to see more and find out what you can do to help the cause.

“The Cove is very powerful film and a very important voice for whale conservation and Roger and I are very proud to have played a small part in it. From an Ocean Alliance mission perspective, the fact that the town of Taiji took dolphin meat off their school menu in 2009—because it was so polluted—is a powerful statement in support of our campaign to pull the rug out from under commercial whaling. Commercial whaling is now a human health issue—whale meat is not safe for human consumption.”

– Iain Kerr

Roger Payne at Future in Review (FiRe®)

Roger Payne was a featured speaker and “Thought Leader” at the 2009 FiRe Conference in San Diego. Hosted by Mark Anderson, founder and publisher of the *Strategic News Service*, FiRe exposes world experts and participants to new ideas in a manner that produces an accurate portrait of the future in technology, including nanotechnology, space travel, biology and medical diagnostics, policy, and other fields that contribute to technology outcomes.

Roger Payne at Future in Review (FiRe®)



Kerr Receives Honorary Doctorate

In May 2009 Ocean Alliance CEO Iain Kerr was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters from scientific partner University of Southern Maine in recognition of his efforts over the last 20 years to support rigorous scientific research that not only creates new knowledge but improves the public’s understanding of our environment and the need to conserve it.



Roger Payne, Iain Kerr and John Wise attend Iain’s ceremony at the University of Southern Maine.

Patagonia Right Whale Program

“The (Right Whale) data you (Ocean Alliance) hold would no doubt be the single most valuable source of information on whales and their environment available...there really is nothing else out there quite as good.”

– Steve Reilly, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

We successfully completed our 39th consecutive annual Right Whale field season from Argentina and our catalogue of identified individuals has grown to more than 2,000 whales. Our education programs reach into local schools and inform tourists visiting the unique area of Peninsula Valdes each year.

As part of the Southern Right Whale Health Monitoring Program, we continue to work with officials and nature experts to try to solve the threats faced by the whales using these bays as their nursery grounds.



Right Whale mother and calf

Notes from a Successful Year...

- ▶ Roger Payne named a finalist for the Indianapolis Prize
- ▶ Roger Payne gave the keynote address for the 2009 Blue Vision Summit in Washington, DC
- ▶ Roger Payne attended 2009 meeting of the IWC in Madeira, Portugal
- ▶ Ocean Alliance received a 2009 Laureate Honor for *Visionary Implementation of Information Technology* from IDG's *Computerworld Honors* program. For more than two decades, Computerworld Honors has acknowledged individuals and organizations that have used information technology to benefit society.
- ▶ Roger Payne a keynote speaker at the 2009 Indian Ocean Cetacean Symposium, Maldives
- ▶ Conducted first Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) trials, along with MIT Professor Daniela Rus, at Peninsula Valdez, Argentina. Made by Ascending Technologies, the 'octocopter' is capable of autonomous flight, which will facilitate future aerial surveys of right whales.
(See note from Dr. Roger Payne, page 2)
- ▶ Secured initial EPA funding to begin remediation and restoration efforts at Paint Manufactory
- ▶ Secured initial permitting for reconstruction work at the Paint Manufactory
- ▶ Completed our 11th year in partnership with the Cape Ann Whale Watch in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Since 1998, we have been responsible for the educational programming aboard Cape Ann whale watch, and our work continues to engage first-time visitors and draw repeat visits from loyal whale watchers
- ▶ Completed all reporting and application steps for a new, five-year National Marine Fisheries Service global research permit
- ▶ Ocean Alliance featured in the Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary – *The Cove*
- ▶ Roger Payne and Iain Kerr featured in children's book *Earth Heroes – Ocean Champions*



Among this year's accomplishments, a fully functional cell culture laboratory is installed in the aft cabin of RV Odyssey.

Cleanup & Restoration:

Next Steps

With the permitting and initial funding for cleanup and restoration underway, Ocean Alliance expects to begin Phase 2 in early 2010.

Phase 1

Site cleanup, remediation and permitting

Phase 2

Restoration of brick buildings and permitting

Phase 3

Restore/rebuild wooden structures

Phase 4

Road, parking and site landscaping

Phase 5

Interior
Courtyard build

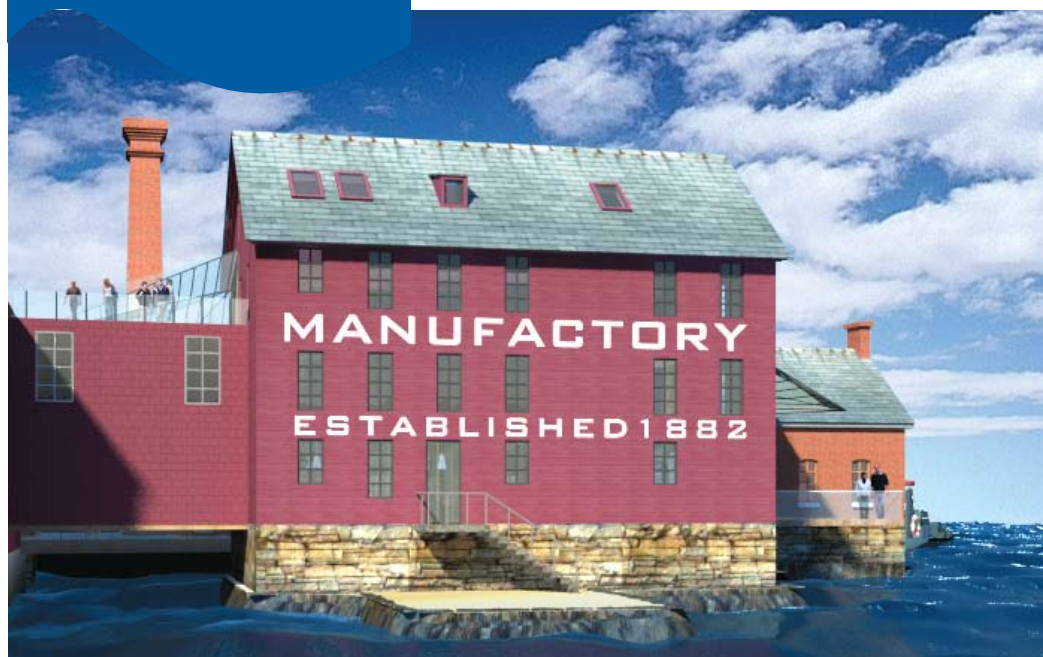
With a total goal for restoration work at \$10 million, we need lead gifts!

Please contact Iain or Patrick for more information:

iaink@oceanalliance.org or
patrickw@oceanalliance.org



New Headquarters: Cleanup & Restoration



“Wallis’s [Annenberg] approach to philanthropy is to look for vision-driven leaders. If you’re a world-class marine biologist, like Dr. Roger Payne, who discovered that humpback whales sing, and you want to save an 1863 paint factory in Gloucester, Massachusetts, so you can move the Ocean Alliance headquarters into it, she’s going to support that.”

– Leonard Aube, 2009, Executive Director, The Annenberg Foundation
[Excerpt from October 09 *Vanity Fair*]

History: In 1863 James G. Tarr and Augustus H. Wonson began manufacturing America’s first copper paint. The Tarr and Wonson Paint Manufactory played a vital role in international maritime history, as well as in the development of Gloucester, Massachusetts as a major fishing port. For well over a century, the iconic and dignified buildings of the Tarr and Wonson Paint Manufactory have remained a prominent waterfront landmark and gateway to Gloucester’s inner harbor. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has deemed them eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places as an example of a small 19th-century industrial complex and because of its important associations with Gloucester’s marine history.

Restoration: Our plans are to turn these buildings into an Oceanographic Research and Education center. Even so, a large percentage of the completed site will be multi-use and will be open to the public during office hours. Plans include dedicated educational and study spaces, designated public spaces, a small conference/community center, an interactive learning lab, a shared art gallery — comprising works from local and regional artists and art instruction programs, Paint Manufactory historical museum space and a visitor’s center/shop. Ocean Alliance has already begun discussions with several local non-profits and local and regional businesses about collaborating on programs and sharing space within the Paint Manufactory.

Like Gloucester, Ocean Alliance is now trying to reconnect with its history, leverage its legacy and embrace the future to be a more effective and sustainable entity, and prove itself a long-term asset to the City of Gloucester, metropolitan Boston, New England and the oceans beyond.

Quotes & Notes

Patrick Woods recently rejoined the Ocean Alliance team as our Director of Development. Pat is focused on all aspects of fundraising, capital campaign activities and organizational advancement for Ocean Alliance and can be contacted with any inquiries regarding tax-deductible gifts in support Ocean Alliance. Welcome (back) Pat!



“ No other organization has even undertaken what Ocean Alliance has delivered—a global view of the toxicity of whales. This is one major nail in the coffin of the ‘we need to eat whales’ argument. Incredibly, while everyone wants to ‘save the whales’ from the likes of Japan, precious few groups offer new data that helps actually save them. Ocean Alliance does.”

– Carl Safina, President and Co-Founder, Blue Ocean Institute

“ I reflect on the ten years that I have been involved with Ocean Alliance with a great deal of pride in the dedication of the committed team of people that have been the backbone of our successes, the overcoming of technical, logistic and financial concerns to get to where we are today and feel we did the right thing at the right time. I am proud to of who we are today, how we got here and look to new opportunities building on our successes in the next decade.”

– Jeffrey Kunz, Chairman of the Board, Ocean Alliance

“ As I look back at 2009, I am reminded of a Winston Churchill Quote: “If you are going through hell, keep going.” While we did not go through hell in 2009, it was a challenging year to say the least. In May, all staff took a 30% pay cut and one staff member went on furlough. We took on more work—with less funding—as the need for our expertise continued to expand. Due to increases in noise pollution, ship strikes, entanglement in fishing gear, habitat destruction, and the many pollutants that drain into our oceans, we were challenged to meet the need for our services. Even so, the information in this newsletter is testament to the fact that our staff and supporters responded to the challenges and we remain extraordinarily productive. Thank you all!”

– Iain Kerr, CEO, Ocean Alliance

“ At one time the greatest threat to whales was their wholesale slaughter. Today, I share with Dr. Payne the conviction that there are two greater concerns and both relate not only to whales and other life in the sea but to human survival and well-being as well. First is the swift and insidious contamination of the world’s waters, now known to adversely affect reproduction in whales. Second is widespread ignorance about the sea and its relevance to humankind that in turn leads to complacency and indifference about the decline of ocean health.”

– Dr. Sylvia Earle: Former Chief Scientist, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

“ Considering the oceans cover more than 70% of our planet, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to support Ocean Alliance and the organization’s important, relevant and inspiring work on both ocean and whale conservation.”

– Lewis Douglas, Managing Director



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Please Join Us...

We appreciate your continued interest in our work and ask that you consider supporting our long-standing and successful programs in whale and ocean research, education and conservation. In addition to cash gifts, Ocean Alliance welcomes planned gifts, gifts of stock or securities, honorary or memorial gifts, or gifts of real estate or other property (boats, cars, etc.).

To learn more about our plans for the future, please call us at 781.259.0423 or 800.96.WHALE (94253) or visit our website at www.oceanalliance.org. And check us out us on Facebook.

YES! I would like to make a tax-deductible gift to Ocean Alliance in support of your programs.

Please accept my gift of (please circle): \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other: \$ _____

I'll be making a gift by (please check): Check Credit/Check Card Securities/Other (*please call*)

Credit/Check Card Type: VISA Mastercard Discover

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please detach at dotted line and submit this section along with your gift by check or Credit Card to:

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To reduce the use of paper and costs, please use my email for news and events: _____

Gifts can also be made online at www.oceanalliance.org/involved.html **Thank You!**