

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Whit Hassett

YEAR IN REVIEW



67,500
pounds of trash
collected



160
miles of coastal
habitat cleaned



12,000
pounds of
recyclables collected



145,000
volunteer
hours



\$3.6 million
economic value of
volunteers

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This past year has been a story of challenges: Our coastal community faced another season of devastating storms, navigated a challenging political scene, and fought against cutbacks to vital programs and resources.

Yet at year end, as I reflect upon this past year and all our hardships, I remember how much, as a community united and strong, we've accomplished together – and that is truly inspiring.

In places like Long Beach and Annapolis, we brought together experts and passionate leaders to discuss the future of our estuaries and how to leverage the power of our collective voice. We understand the importance of both science and community, and know that *now* is the time to take action to protect our coasts for the future.

I'm looking forward to what's next, knowing that if we tackle it together, our estuaries will surely thrive.

Jeff Benoit | President & CEO

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SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

Leading the discussion for coastal wetlands mitigating climate change



In 2018, RAE convened the second meeting of the Blue Carbon National Working Group (BCN) to share lessons learned and to strategize how to address knowledge gaps surrounding "blue carbon" ecosystem services. "The BCN meeting brought together all-stars in research, policy, carbon markets, and conservation to brainstorm how to advance blue carbon as a mechanism to restore coastal wetlands and help us in the fight against climate change," says Scott Settlemeyer (TerraCarbon LLC). Meeting discussions helped frame RAE's blue carbon strategy in order to pilot market projects and integrate blue carbon into national and state policies, raising the priority of coastal wetland restoration and conservation.



MEET OUR PARTNERS

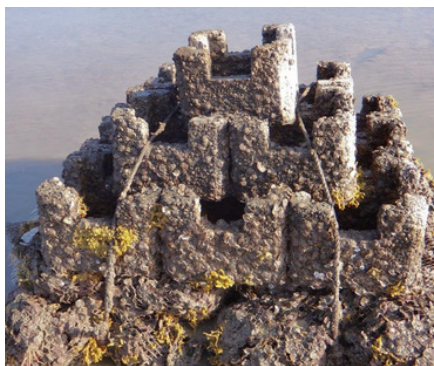
The Clean Foundation works for clean climate and water in Nova Scotia by providing knowledge and resources for community members to make responsible environmental choices. Together, RAE and Clean are working to restore salt marsh habitat along the Northumberland Strait.



"This partnership has helped us build our knowledge and skill set about coastal restoration. RAE has provided us access to technical experts and cutting-edge research."

– Charlynn Robertson, Northumberland Strait Coastal Restoration Project Lead

Providing inclusive learning environments for living shorelines



At the 2018 Living Shorelines National Technology Transfer Workshop, attendees explored all aspects of living shorelines and nature-based solutions, ranging from permitting and science, to engaging under-represented communities. Students and community organizers from Merritt College, located a short distance from the workshop venue in Oakland, California, joined the conference this year. The College is working to implement softer shoreline approaches in San Leandro Creek. One team member noted, "I was glad to learn so much about living shorelines – the information will continue to be useful as we follow up on current and future projects which relate to our shoreline."

CONVENING IN LONG BEACH

977

attendees

517

speakers

230

native plants
planted

143

posters

104

concurrent
sessions

70

exhibitors



The 9th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management traveled to Long Beach, California in 2018, bringing with it a dedicated community of scientists, government employees, nonprofit leaders, communicators, and many others.

Investing in our coasts embodied the theme of this year's conference as our coasts and estuaries face an uncertain future. In the first-ever all-women *Opening Plenary* we addressed the question "What's at stake?" Panelists spoke to the importance of involving sound science and diverse constituencies in an effort to affect real change.

Nearly 1,000 people traveled to the West Coast to attend sessions on blue carbon, living shorelines, habitat restoration, innovative financing, and much more.

Attendees participated in field sessions – such as kayaking through kelp forests or removing invasive species at the Los Cerritos Community Service Restoration Project.

Our partnership with the Coastal States Organization also brought a new focus to the Summit: The coastal management sector. Cross-cutting conversations were held throughout the week and allowed for new and exciting networking opportunities.

“You can tell that attendees come not just for the research or the networking, it’s a holistic conference with many benefits. It’s not just about academics, not just mitigation, it’s everything.”

– Jessalyn Ishigo, Honda Marine Science Foundation

IMPACT OF THE RAE ALLIANCE

Cleaning the toxic habitats of the Puget Sound



Member group EarthCorps is leading an ambitious effort to remove creosote-contaminated debris from the beaches of the Puget Sound. Creosote is used as a wood preservative effective at preventing decay, but contains chemicals that are toxic to marine species. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are the chemicals of most concern. Exposure to PAHs is lethal or severely harmful to herring, juvenile salmonids, and other species that are important parts of the food web for orcas, salmon, and birds. Exposure to creosote through direct contact, or even through vapors emitted on hot days, can also threaten human health. Unfortunately, thousands of derelict creosote pilings remain in the Puget Sound, many of which break up and distribute tons of debris onto beaches.

With RAE's support, EarthCorps is partnering with the Samish Nation, SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources to remove massive amounts of this debris. The Samish Nation donated a boat and expert pilot to the removal effort, allowing EarthCorps to reach previously inaccessible beaches. Their crews have removed an estimated 400,000 pounds of toxic debris in recent years.

Improving water quality in the Puget Sound will benefit not only local communities, but its wildlife as well, including the region's iconic killer whales.

Success of the Bay Grasses in Classes program



For more than 20 years, RAE member group Tampa Bay Watch has been engaging local students and teachers through their *Bay Grasses in Classes* (BGIC) program. BGIC gives students the opportunity to learn about the Tampa Bay estuary and the importance of native plants to the estuarine ecosystem by growing and maintaining on-campus nurseries. Over the last year, the BGIC program has worked to develop field and in-classroom activities to educate students not only about their local estuary, but also about the potential impacts of climate change on coastal habitats.

Adapting the current program to grow a diverse array of species allows Tampa Bay Watch to leverage its existing partnerships and outreach opportunities previously established within the schools. Student and community engagement will increase environmental stewardship, while also providing educational opportunities about the growing importance of coastal resilience.

Through the ScottsMiracle-Gro Water Positive Partners program, RAE provided Tampa Bay Watch with the resources to continue this important program in 2018. To date, BGIC has partnered with 15 schools and 19 nurseries. Together they've restored 172 acres of wetland habitat, planted nearly 350,000 plugs of school-grown plants, and directly engaged over 82,000 students.

REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

Celebrating our nation's coasts on a broad scale

Celebrating its 30th year, National Estuaries Week (NEW) brought awareness and support for our bays and estuaries, this time on a global scale. In 2018, NEW hosted 105 registered events with more than 30,000 volunteers. Organizations in 21 states participated, as did new partners in Canada and Guam.

For example, Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Huron, Ohio hosted tours of the estuary and invited visitors to join in a bird hike. And on the West Coast, The Bay Foundation in Del Ray, California organized a restoration event at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to pull invasive species.

#EstuariesWeek took over social media, with more than 1,200 mentions on Twitter alone. Elected officials, nonprofits, government agencies, and even community members were all sharing support for our coasts.

On Capitol Hill we hosted the 2nd Annual Coastal Habitat Hill Expo — more than 60 staffers attended the expo to learn from NOAA, EPA, USFWS Coastal Program, and USDA NRCS.



Suzanne Bonamici @RepBonamici • Sep 20

As co-chair of the Estuary Caucus, I'm proud to advocate for clean oceans and waterways. This #EstuariesWeek and always.



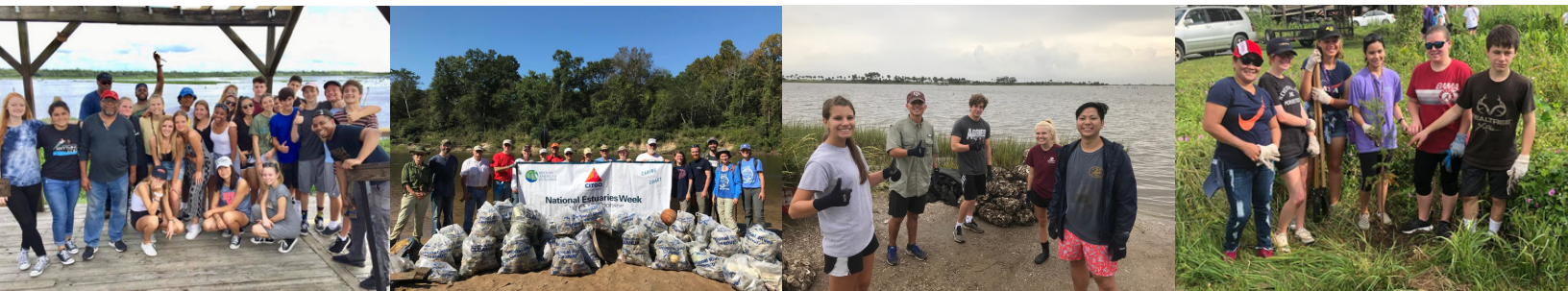
EPA Region6 @EPAregion6 • Sep 28

Estuaries are where the rivers meet the sea and are incredibly valuable ecosystems. Celebrate your local estuary during National #EstuariesWeek by participating in cleanups and other fun events.



MobileBaykeeper @MobileBaykeeper • Sep 20

It's National #EstuariesWeek ! Did you know 2/3 of shellfish we eat live in estuaries at some point?! @NOAA @RAEstuaries



MEET OUR PARTNERS

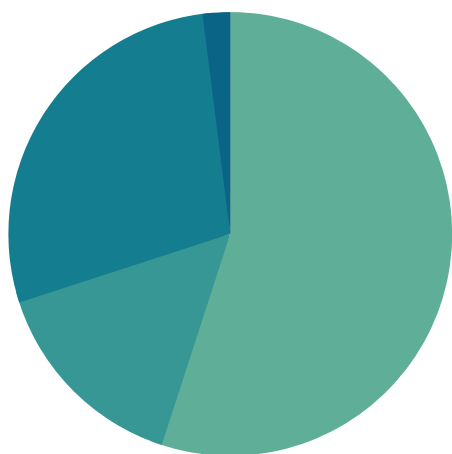
For the third consecutive year, RAE partnered with CITGO Petroleum to offer Gulf Region Grants in celebration of National Estuaries Week. We provided grants to eight organizations across the Gulf to support local clean-up events.



FINANCIAL REPORT

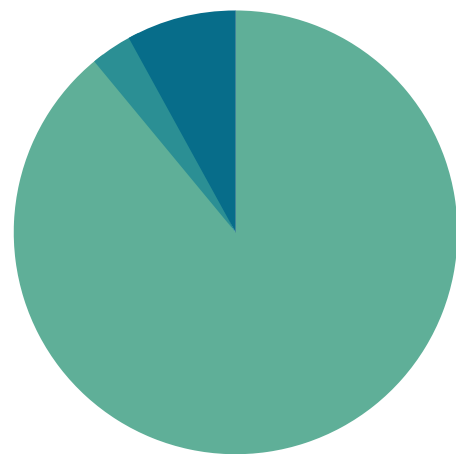
Years Ended December 31	2018	2017
Revenue		
Government grants	\$1,343,111	\$1,285,199
Grants and contributions	\$371,803	\$510,624
National Summit and meetings	\$672,000	\$0
Other income	\$47,720	\$50,030
Investment income	\$7,373	\$4,320
<i>Total Revenue:</i>	<i>\$2,442,007</i>	<i>\$1,850,173</i>
Expenses		
Program expenses	\$2,254,486	\$1,632,576
Fundraising	\$79,561	\$140,632
General and administrative	\$209,933	\$225,628
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	<i>\$2,543,980</i>	<i>\$1,998,836</i>
Change in net assets:	\$(101,973)	\$(148,662)
Net assets at beginning of year:	\$740,538	\$889,200
Net assets at end of year:	\$638,565	\$740,538

2018 Revenue



- Government grants (55%)
- Non-government grants & contributions (15%)
- National Summit & meetings (28%)
- Other (2%)

2018 Expenditures



- Program services (89%)
- General & administrative (8%)
- Fundraising (3%)

THANK YOU

Restore America's Estuaries would like to thank all of our partners and donors who help to protect and restore our nation's estuaries.

\$100,000 and greater

Environmental Protection Agency
NERRS Science Collaborative
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
ScottsMiracle-Gro

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Cheniere Energy, Inc.
Clean Foundation
The Mosaic Company
Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Sea World Busch Gardens
Conservation Fund
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

\$10,000 - \$49,999

American Honda Motor Company
CITGO
Coastal Wetlands Planning,
Protection, and Restoration Act
Cruise Industry Charitable
Foundation
Harbor Breeze Yacht Charters &
Cruises
LightHawk
Moffatt & Nichol
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Restore the Mississippi River Delta
The Clayton Fund
The Nature Conservancy
US Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation
Service

\$5,000 - \$9,999

AECOM
Audubon Louisiana
California Coastal Commission
Cargill Salt
CDM Smith
Coastal and Estuarine Research
Federation
Conservation International
Ducks Unlimited
Ecological Restoration Business
Association

Environmental Defense Fund
Federal Highway Administration
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Marine Affairs Institute
Alan Nathan
National Parks Conservation
Association
Melody O'Connor Allen
Port of Long Beach
Reef Ball Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund
Rhode Island Sea Grant
Roger Williams University School
of Law
Stantec Consulting Services
State of California Wildlife
Conservation Board
TECO Energy
Tetra Tech, Inc.
The Dudley Foundation
The Trull Foundation
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing
System

\$1,000 - \$4,999

BioBase by C-MAP
Blue Robotics
Bureau Waardenburg
California Sea Grant
California State Coastal Conservancy
Chesapeake Bay Program
Contractor Compliance and
Monitoring, Inc.
DHI Water & Environment
Dredge America, Inc.
EA Engineering, Science and
Technology
ECONcrete Inc.
Earth Resources Technology
Environmental Science Associates
Eureka Water Probes
Filtrexx International
Georgia Sea Grant
In-Situ, Inc.
NOAA Sea Grant
Oregon Sea Grant
OTT Hydromet

RBR Ltd.
San Francisco Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
Scoot Science
State of California
Teledyne Marine
Tulane Institute on Water
Resources Law and Policy
Turner Designs
Woods Hole Group
Xylem/YSI

\$0 - \$999

Selma Al-Salam
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Amazon Smile
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San Antonia Bay Foundation
San Diego Regional Climate
Collaboration
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