



Feiro

MARINE LIFE CENTER

**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**

LEADERSHIP

Statement of Mission:

Feiro Marine Life Center connects community and environment by providing local marine and watershed learning experiences and increasing awareness of how closely connected and interdependent we are.

Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Kathy Charlton | *President*
Robert Milner | *Vice President*
Gary Kriedberg | *Secretary*
Ian Miller | *Treasurer*

Board Members

Laurel Black
Mary Campbell
Kate Dexter, Honorary
Ann Murakami
Stuart Rich
Anna Sanders
Maggie Smith
Jack Word

Feiro Staff:

Melissa Williams | *Executive Director*
Tristan Bell | *Custodian*
Rachele Brown | *Education Manager*
Tamara Galvan | *Facilities Director*
Nola Grier | *Development Assistant*
Linty Hopie | *Development Director*
Damaris Rodriguez | *Capital Campaign Coordinator*
Disa Wilson | *Guest Services Manager*



“Like many, I was introduced to the Feiro Marine Life Center through the eyes, questions and wonder of my grandgirls on a visit

to the Olympic Peninsula. “Living sustainably to ensure thriving marine ecosystems” is the essence of our FMLC Vision and is also in our hearts and daily lives. I had the opportunity to join the Board in 2022, and the first Feiro event that I was involved with was aptly named “Celebrate Wonder.” For me and my grandgirls, this says it all!”

— Kathy Charlton, President



Cover photo: Our resident hooded nudibranchs inspire wonder for our visitors to Feiro.

EDUCATION

2023 Program Highlights

Youth Programs: Feiro was able to offer our full range of pre-pandemic youth programming including summer camps, pre-K Cocoa with Critters, 4th grade Watershed Science, school field trips, and more!

Adult Education: Tidepool 101, a new adult education program, was launched.

Speaker Series: Our partnership with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary supported the transition of our local speaker series to expand our reach and audience through use of their virtual platform that enjoys a national audience.

Exhibit Experiences: A new partnership with American Cruise Lines now includes Feiro as an excursion option during their Puget Sound Cruises. We engaged with almost 400 passengers from around the country on 30 cruises.

Outreach Events: As a fun engagement opportunity during our area schools' spring break, we hosted our first Downtown Port Angeles scavenger hunt as a family activity that also offered fun prizes from area partners and is now a new annual tradition.

Education Success: Grant Gollehon

We would like to express our immense gratitude to our 2022-2023 Washington Conservation Corps placement Grant Gollehon! Grant Gollehon arrived in Port Angeles September 2022 from Spokane, Washington as a college graduate and military reservist who had limited exposure to saltwater marine environments but with a passion for teaching. Through his daily engagement at our center with experienced staff and volunteers, he learned a tremendous amount about the area and our marine life that he imparted to students of all ages each day. Grant moved on in September 2023 to pursue his masters degree at Central Washington University where we continue to wish him well! He left behind a great foundation to build from as we welcome new placements to fill his shoes as we remain committed to this opportunity through 2025. Grant was the first placement for Feiro in many years, with the last being our current Education Manager Rachele Brown.



ANIMAL CARE

Animal Care: Always Improving

Despite ongoing challenges caused by Feiro's aging infrastructure, animal habitats and care within the aquarium continue to improve. Led by Facilities Director Tamara Galvan, Feiro staff and volunteers take every opportunity to enhance the level of animal care, networking with other facilities and carefully observing and responding to animal needs.



Tank Replacement

Thanks to a City of Port Angeles lodging tax grant, a brand new fish tank now serves as habitat and improved exhibit space for two female cabezons, one copper rockfish, three brown rockfish, and one kelp greenling. The previous tank sprang an irreparable leak in January 2023 and needed to be removed. By May, a new 780-gallon tank had been installed and fish were slowly introduced to the new exhibit.



The lodging tax grant provided for the new tank and signage, as well as tools and equipment necessary to remove the old tank. Additionally, the grant allowed purchase of a spare pump that will serve as a vital backup system to ensure that water is always flowing for all of the center's sea life exhibits.

Top photo: Tamara, Facilities Director (Photo courtesy of Peninsula Daily News)

Middle photo: Feiro Volunteers unloading new rockfish exhibit tank now installed at our center.

Bottom photo: Feiro Volunteers removing old dumbbell tank at Feiro.



Grunt Sculpin Added to Eelgrass Exhibit

For the first time in current staff and volunteers' memories, a grunt sculpin is on display at Feiro Marine Life Center! Grunt sculpins are only 2-3" long, but their distinctive coloring and unusual behavior make this species a charismatic addition to the center's eelgrass exhibit. Rather than swimming in typical fish fashion, grunt sculpins appear to jump, hop or crawl, using their pectoral fins to move along the substrate.

The grunt sculpin was collected during one of last year's low tides, which provided the opportunity for staff to selectively collect species that will add to the Feiro's educational impact in accordance with Feiro's Animal Collection Plan.



Scaling Up Feiro's Fish Rearing Skills

Successful animal reproduction is a hallmark of success for aquariums and Feiro is proud to have two sets of young shiner perch on exhibit with their mothers. Shiner perch eggs develop inside the mother and are born live. About a year ago, a batch of shiner perch young were born. This past September, another group arrived, with careful monitoring and some emergency assistance was provided by Feiro Facilities Director Tamara Galvan.

Adults, which can reach up to eight inches in length, yearlings and babies are all doing well and are on exhibit at the Feiro.



Top photo: Feiro's resident grunt sculpin.

Bottom photo: Juvenile shiner perch fish born at Feiro

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Melissa Williams, Feiro Marine Life Center Executive Director:



“Our community partnerships, no matter the size and scale, are so vital to our success connecting community to environment. From our research partners at NOAA and our education support through the local school districts to the facility volunteers and supporters that keep the water flowing and our critters safe at the aquarium. This collective effort allows us to dream bigger than ourselves and look toward a bright future.”

Feiro Expands Citizen Science

Feiro is dedicated to connecting community and environment and a growing area is engaging people of all ages to participate in citizen science projects, in which volunteers and scientists work together to answer real-world questions. As communities become increasingly aware of the threats posed by climate change, many want to take positive action, but as non-scientists are not sure where to start. Last year, we received funding to successfully launch an expanded regional effort to coordinate with area partners engaging the general public in new/growing citizen science efforts. We are now actively partnering with:



- SoundToxins - a diverse partnership engaged in a monitoring program designed to provide early warning of harmful algal bloom events

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Sea Star Wasting Syndrome Survey – large scale survey with UCSC and their MARINE program
- Marine Mammal Stranding Network –NOAA West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network oversees a network, including FMLC, that responds to marine mammal stranding events along the US Coast
- Green Crab Molt Search Survey – FMLC is an area lead to train and coordinate volunteers for this partnership survey that targets the emerging invasion by European green crabs (*Carcinus maenas*)



Steve Paulsen, Olympic Sewer and Drain

Keeping the water flowing and the animals safe in a decades old building is not an easy job and it takes a lot of volunteer support and specialty expertise each year. One of the unsung heroes at Feiro for years has been Steve Paulsen with Olympic Sewer and Drain. Steve answered the call back in 1989 when the facility began experiencing drainage issues due to our unique construction and open flow system. Steve devised a vital system for clearing pipes then that is used today and also participated in the addition of new exhibits over the years. After many years of dedicated service to the community, Steve has since retired but enjoyed his work with Feiro. With the many hours he spent here, he got to watch his kids enjoy the place while he worked to clear a pipe or got to experience different critters, like our octopus, jellies or the crab, nudibranchs, cockles he would find clearing pipes and more. However, he says his greatest joy is “knowing he was helping out the marine life center.”



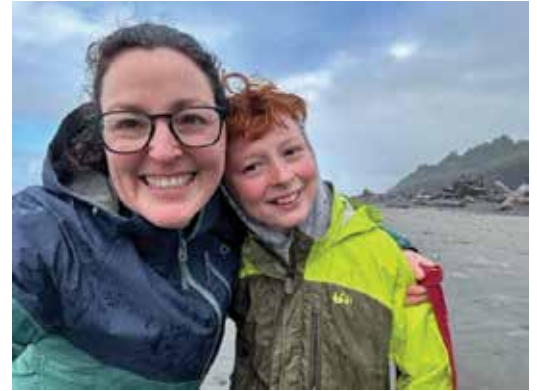
Thank you, Steve, for your many years of support keeping things flowing at Feiro!!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

A Conversation with Board Member Maggie Smith

How are you involved with Feiro Marine Life Center?

First and foremost I love Feiro as a visitor! I have been visiting since I was a child growing up in Port Angeles, and my own children love visiting as well. We have an annual membership and stop by to visit every time we are downtown. The exhibits and volunteers have inspired all of us and fostered a love for our local marine environment. I became a volunteer board member in 2021. Both of my sons have attended summer camp every year — it has been a highlight of the summer for them and something they always look forward to. My older son has also been able to take part in the Peabody Creek watershed program that Feiro runs with local fourth grade classrooms.



What motivates you to be an FMLC volunteer?

As we were coming out of the pandemic in 2021, I wanted to get involved in our local community and help strengthen the institutions that make Port Angeles a special place. Feiro was a natural fit. I have seen first hand what it offers to families in our community and I wanted to be involved in sustaining that.



I love being a Feiro volunteer. I have enjoyed being involved in learning about and supporting the facility, but the best part of the experience has been all of the wonderful people I've met and been able to work with. Feiro draws an incredible group of people-- staff, volunteers, board members, and community supporters. I have been blown away by their passion and commitment for this organization.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Joseph Winter: Dedicated Friday Volunteer and Sea Turtle Docent

If you visit Feiro Marine Life Center on a Friday afternoon, you might be lucky enough to be greeted by volunteer Joseph Winters. Joseph grew up in Port Angeles and became acquainted with Feiro at an early age through school field trips and education programs. He has continued to absorb information about the environment and the animals that call the Pacific Northwest home.



With his love of learning and keen memory, it's no surprise that Joseph's job coach from Pierce Jones and Associates thought volunteering at Feiro would make a perfect fit. At that point, Joseph wasn't so sure, but agreed to consider it. Facilities Director Tamara recalls the day Joseph and his job coach came to visit and everything changed. A Green Turtle skeleton that had been carefully put together by a team of volunteers caught Joseph's attention. Turtles are Joseph's favorite animal (he has two Box Turtles at home) and a chance to share his fascination and love for turtles with the public was all it took for Joseph's hesitation to turn to happy acceptance of a volunteer application. That was in 2018, and Joseph has been a dedicated volunteer ever since.

Over the years, Joseph has added more favorite animals, including the Striped Sun Star with its ten arms and appetite for sea cucumbers. (Many other stars like to eat mussels and have far fewer than ten arms.) He has increased his volunteer duties to include feeding the anemones and filter feeders, and closing the exhibits at the end of the day. His wealth of knowledge impresses visitors, and sometimes even himself. One day he saw a dissected squid from an education program and correctly identified the ink sac, even though he had never seen one before.

If you visit Feiro on a Friday, be sure to find Joseph. You will be glad you did, and you will learn a lot!

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER



With Deborah Moriarty and Betsy Matthews as campaign co-chairs, 2023 was the first year of the “quiet phase” of the Marine Discovery Center capital campaign. During this phase the MDC team worked with individuals and businesses able to make larger gifts to help reach critical fundraising milestones.

Raising substantial gifts requires a significant number of selective one-on-one meetings. These are important connections and can have a large impact on the campaign. Foundation and government grants often require at least half or more of funds to be raised from private sources before committing their dollars. At the close of 2023, about 20% of what is needed to meet these milestones had been secured.

In 2023 the MDC campaign received \$2m in donations and pledges from local donors, and \$3m from NOAA through the Inflation Reduction Act. A team of nearly 40 volunteers put in over 1200 hours, hosted 30 small group events and had 158 project meetings with donor prospects and volunteer groups. For more information on this project and to view the campaign video, visit <https://marinediscoverycenter.info>

What's coming in 2024?

- Continue fundraising
- Begin environmental site studies
- Begin schematic design
- Revisit Tribal Councils
- Regroup community members
- Board training

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to our Inaugural Feiro Ocean Leaders!

2023 Individuals (\$1,000+)

Ron & Merine Allen
Shirley Anderson
Denise Bennett & Sandra Tatro
Bubba Fund of the Rhode Island
Community Foundation
Ken & Mary Campbell
Kathy & Ralph Charlton
Nell & Scott Clausen
Jeffrey Ellis
Mark & Katherine Feiro
MarySue French
Eleanor & Andy Geiger
Ed & Nancy Grier
Sue Griffith
Linty Hopie
Randy & Carol Johnson
Gary Kriedberg & Jody Moss
Betty Layne DDS
Judy Lidstrom
Betsy & Mark Matthews
Merri Martz & Richard Mazotta
Barbara Maynes and Jeff Bohman
Deborah & Stephen Moriarty
Ann Murakami & John Middleton
Suzie Nunley
Kay Pranis
Bruce & Kathleen Reiter

Stuart & Kirstin Rich
Wayne and Susan Roberts
Marsha Robin
Susie Sanders & Kevin Harkins
Thad and Merrie Jo Schroeder
Maggie Smith & Jason Taylor
Betsy Wharton & Dr. Rob Epstein
Lee Whitford
Ginger & Scott Wierzbowski
Dana Williams & Joel Rennich
Daniel and Barbara Williams
Melissa Williams & Tim
Summers
Anonymous
Anonymous

2023 Businesses (\$3,000+)

Albert Haller Foundation
Callis & Associates Insurance
Hartnagel Building Supply
& Angeles Millwork
First Federal Community
Foundation
Port Angeles Noon Rotary
Foundation
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Seattle Foundation

2023 Business Donors

Amazon Smile!
Anchor QEA, LLC
Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Coastal Watershed Institute
(CWI)
Country Aire
Dungeness Crab and Seafood
Festival
First Fed Bank
Koenig Subaru
North Olympic Group of the
Sierra Club
Puget Sound Anglers
Ruddell Chevrolet, Buick,
GMC, Cadillac
Soroptimist International
Port Angeles Jet Set
Stephen C. Moriarty Law
Office
Steve Methner Insurance
Wilder Auto

Beyond the incredibly generous support we have recently experienced for our capital campaign efforts toward a new home, volunteers and donors have helped champion Feiro's day-to-day operations for over four decades. This commitment has made all the difference in keeping important work going through challenging times and allowing thousands

to continue to have the opportunity to connect to our local environment. In 2023 we launched a new giving program, Feiro Ocean Leaders for Individuals and Businesses, allowing supporters to give and connect at a higher level. A huge thank you to all our supporters and special gratitude to our inaugural Ocean Leader donors!

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2023 Individual Donors

Katherine & Ian Adams
Nick & Dana Ahlgrim
Corina Alexander
Karen Alexander
Nathan Alexander
Kate Allen
Chelea Alwine
Eric & Gabi Ashford
Rebecca Atherton
William & Janet Atkinson
April Atwood
Win Augusta
Michael & Rita Baechler
Steve Bearman & Susan Cleares
Harry & Marla Bell
Stephenie Bennett & Mark Redlin
Matthew & Yuliya Berretta
Carol Bernthal
Bill & Marcy Bickley
Hugh Binley
Susan Blenk
Karyn Bocko
Stevie & Neil Borggard
Nancy Brant
Dale Brigandi
Rachele Brown & Justin Ellis
Bubba Fund at the Rhode Island
Community Foundation
Charles & Pamela Bundy
Courtney Buratto & Paul Sperduti
Janis Burger
Justin Byrne
Gwyn Callis
Kay Campbell
Rachel Chard
David Chernukhin & Tanya
Buzdnitskaya
Megan Coelho
Jessica Colwell
Neil Conklin
Kathy Cooper
Darin Croom

Sarah de Leiris & Sean Farrar
Suzanne DeBey
Kate Dexter
Neil & Emily Dexter
Robert & Sandra Dexter
Kalani Dix
Kylie Douglas
Paul & Donna Downes
Kathleen Drummond
Amy Duffy
Debbie Earley
Floyd Elliot
Scott & Linda Evans
Mark Fenn & Ann Delahanty
Ricardo & Jean Fleischfresser
Josh Frankland & Lindsey
Shepherd
Elaine & Arni Fredrickson
Hollie & Shari Fultz
Amy Galloway & Nate Bowey
Jack Galloway & Anna
Manildi
John Galvan
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Ben & Lacey Gentry, Lynda
Johnston
Tegan & Noah Glaude
Anastasia & Jesse Gmazel
Heather & Jacob Goodfellow
Kevin Grant & Lisa Wu
Mace and Ellie Gratz
Kris & Nola Grier
Ben Griner
Gery Gudgell
Jeanette Gudgell
John Hammond
Karen Hanan
Mark & Patty Hannah
Laurel Hansen
Julie Hatch
Barbara Blackie & Bruce Hattendorf
Holly & Karl Hatton



*President Kathy Charlton
and Development Director
Linty Hopie at Feiro's
Legasea Donor Appreciation
annual event*



*From 2023 Making Waves Gala
and Auction, Feiro Family
Scholarship awardee
Kellen Garcelon with
mom Jen (on left) and
Carly (Feiro) Boyd, Ph.D.*

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

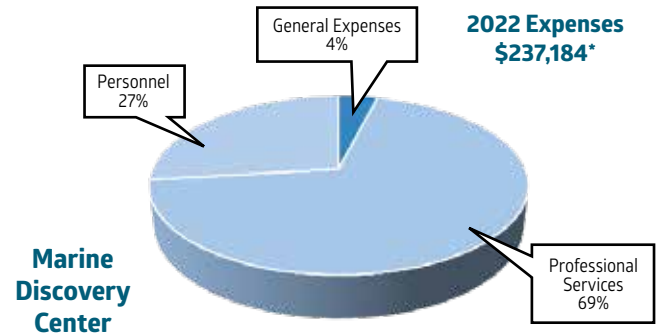
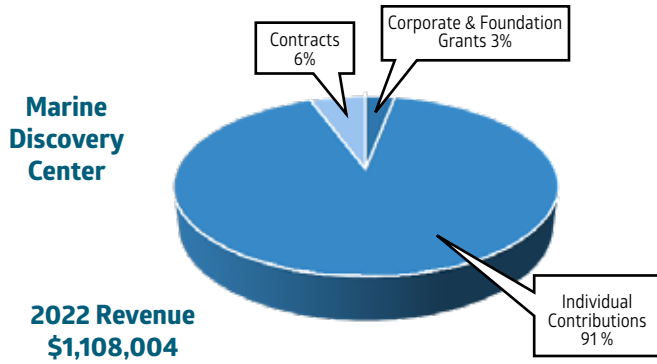
Emily & Tom Herschmiller
Ralph & Dana Hooper
Carla Hopie
Cecelia Horn
Merrill Jefferson & Kathy Holmstrom
Larry & Shirley Jeffryes
Jim Jewell
Kelly Johnson
Randy Johnson & Nancy
Bluestein-Johnson
Patricia Jonas
Cynthia Jones
Susan Jones
Tom Jones
Ellen Kaminsky
Grant & Wahji Kasten
Sandra & Rob Kellso
Jenna Kinghorn
Paul Kolesnikoff
Roger Kundtz
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Galen Laplante
Rebecca Larsen
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Lee Leddy
Pauline Lewin
Eileen Loerch
Ian Miller & Christine Loewe
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Linnea Lundquist
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Anonymous
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Terri McCoppen
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Rebekah Miller
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Dale Nachreiner
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Marc & Katie Orth
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Don & Betsy Robins
Damaris Rodriguez
Kim Romberg
Shelley Romero
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Madeline Rose
Kevin & Patricia Roth
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Fradkin
Tom and Carrie Sanford
Sharon Scairpon
Randy & Carol Schacht
Lori Schaefer
Scott Schaffer
Helen Schemm
Karen Schering-Stiles

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Stephen & Tara Schneider
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Debra & Arnold Schouten
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Gary Shemorry
Emily Simmons
Hannah Simoneau
Kris Slack & Alda Siebrands
Lori Smith
Tina Smith
Kristin Speed
Kitty Sperry
Maurie Sprague
Darcy Stumbaugh
James & Jennifer Sudakow
Fred Sullivan
Gail Tate
Leona Thomas
Gene & Norma Turner
Sandra Ulf
Chris Urkofsky
Roger Valentine
Laura Venum
Jordan & Suzanne Vigna
Bob Vreeland
Julie & Michael Ward
Mallory Watson
Christopher Weaver
Mark Webb
John & Mary Wegmann
Amanda Westman
Diane Whitmore
Ellery Wilde & Bryan Howie
Allison & Brandon Williams
Donna Williams
Rebecca & Stephen Winters
Amy Wisniewski
Sam Woodward &
Elizabeth Nelson-Harrington
Jack & Erika Word
Alexandra Zuzich

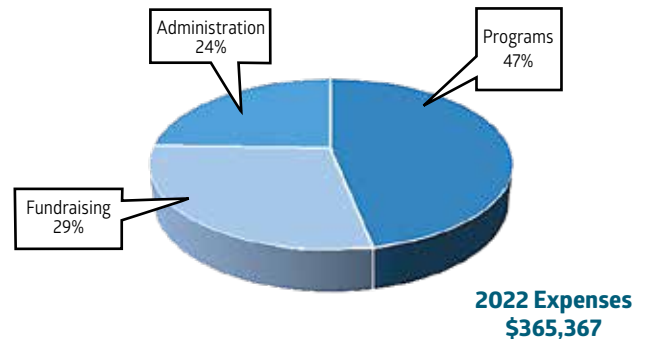
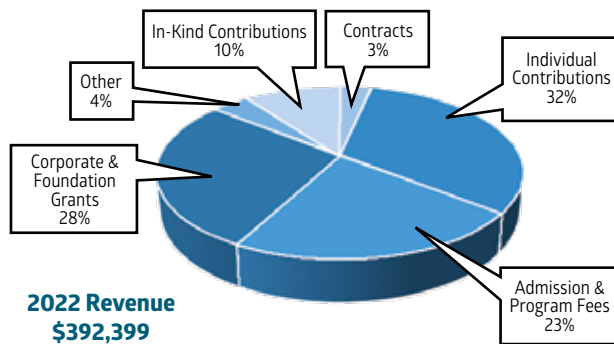
2022 FINANCIALS

Feiro Marine Life Center Marine Discovery Center Operating Report 2022



*A portion of expenditures is recognized as an asset on the IRS 990

Feiro Marine Life Center City Pier Facility Operating Report 2022



Our current aging facility presents limitations in that just 23% of our revenue comes from admission & fees due to such small capacity. Extra effort is required in fundraising to ensure the remaining 77% of the money needed for staff salaries, programs, and building costs is raised each year. The Marine Discovery Center capital campaign launched in late 2022 with an initial gift from an individual donor. All funds for the capital campaign are temporarily restricted for this purpose and cannot be used to fund current operations. In 2023, approximately 50% of Executive Director Melissa Williams' time was spent on the capital campaign. All programs and operations continued at Feiro.

2023 financial reports will be available in late 2024.

2023 IMPACTS

- 152% increase in education programs for learners of all ages in 2023 with the addition of the donor-funded Washington Conservation Corps member: 15,523 visitors and learners served.
- Added opportunities for citizen science that engage volunteers to answer real-world questions and fulfill important research gaps for our region in harmful algal blooms and invasive species monitoring and continued our ability to respond to marine mammal stranding reports: 47 volunteers donated 3,063.5 hours.
- Reached nearly 800 participants over four programs in the speaker series co-hosted with NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary about conservation research in the marine waters of the Olympic Peninsula.
- The Citizen Science effort included participation in a sea star survey, the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and the WDFW Mussel Deployment, engaging eight volunteers.
- Successfully adapted to new restrictions and challenges for collecting and caring for our animals, including advancing our skills at hatching and rearing young fish, like penpoint gunnels.
- Continuing education opportunities for Rachele and lending Tamaras' marine mammal stranding expertise to California during a very harmful algae bloom event negatively affecting sea life.



2023 by the Numbers

167 total programs

2898 total program participants

Quarter 2

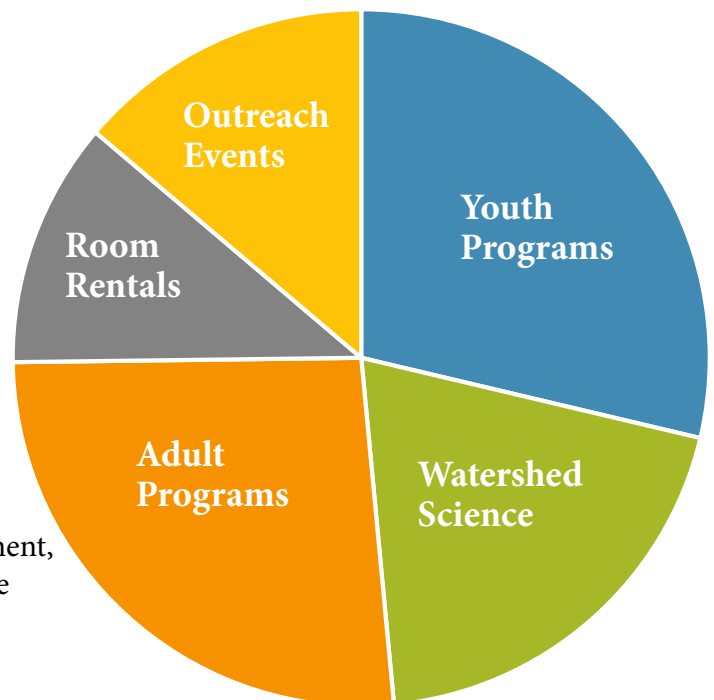
66 programs / 1134 program participants

May

33 programs / 499 program participants

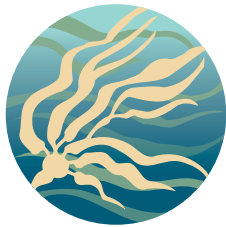
What All the Numbers Mean:

- Averaging 3.2 programs per week!
- Department strategic planning, new program development, staff training takes place at the beginning and end of the calendar year
- Only 6 weeks with no programs scheduled: 3 weeks in Q1 & 3 weeks in Q4
- Almost at programming capacity with current staff and facility





It is always difficult to say goodbye to old friends. Based on volunteers' memories, the Cabezon had lived at Feiro for at least 21 years, well past his 14 year lifespan expectancy. Rocky, the nickname of the Black Rockfish, played a key role in expanding our "Scaling Up" program to include veterinary care when he needed eye removal surgery in 2018. While we miss them, we are also so grateful for the sense of wonder they inspired for visitors, volunteers and staff.



Feiro

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