

ENGAGING 1.3 MILLION GUESTS ANNUALLY

One of the top three aquariums in the nation

IN 2017, WE

Planted **15,952**

grasses, shrubs, trees,
perennials and freshwater
wetland plants.



Removed **108,011**

plastic bottles, straws
and other pieces of trash
from critical habitats.

Engaged **106,495**

students in education programs.



Celebrated the release of **200**

rehabilitated animals since 1991;
released our **100th** Kemp's
ridley sea turtle back to
its ocean home.



Empowered **20 million**

people nationwide to shift away
from single-use plastic through
the Aquarium Conservation Partnership's
"In Our Hands" campaign.

Mobilized **1,920**

volunteers at the Aquarium and in
conservation and cleanup projects.



Welcomed **103,003**

guests for free or at reduced
admission through
community access
programs.



Hosted ocean acidification and plastic
pollution education events for **70**
staffers representing **16** senators
within the U.S. Senate Oceans
Caucus, a bipartisan group
that raises awareness around
coastal and marine issues.



The National Aquarium's [2017 audited financial statement](#)
and [IRS form 990](#) are posted on [aqua.org](#)

 **NATIONAL AQUARIUM**®

The National Aquarium is a nonprofit organization whose mission
is to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures.

[aqua.org](#)

 We choose recycled.


**NATIONAL
AQUARIUM**

2017 IMPACT REPORT

You make it possible.

With the support of our donors and the hard work of our staff and volunteers, the National Aquarium accomplished so much in 2017, including several major milestones. Behind each of these milestones are the stories of the animals and individuals who were impacted.



As part of our ongoing commitment to expand our community's access to the Aquarium, we welcomed over 100,000 guests at free or reduced admission. In June, we celebrated 25 years of Grade A Student Night, a community access program that grants free Aquarium admission to students in pre-K through grade 12 who earn three or more A's in a marking period. Over two nights, we welcomed 2,479 Grade A guests. According to one mom in attendance, "Thank you for helping reward hardworking students and inspiring them to help save the environment!"



In 2017, the Aquarium piloted a new STEM education program, What Lives in the Harbor. Once fully implemented, the program will become part of the Baltimore City Public Schools science curriculum for as many as 5,000 students each year. What Lives in the Harbor is one of several Aquarium education initiatives that provide over 100,000 Maryland students the opportunity to learn marine science and explore related careers every year. In the words of Education Program Coordinator Symone Johnson, "To inspire kids in this city, you have to meet them where they are. The National Aquarium's Waterfront Campus will present hands-on learning opportunities for thousands of kids, many of whom don't have other access to the Bay. For them, this opportunity is a game changer."

In August, we installed a new floating wetland prototype as part of an expansive, ongoing effort to bring the natural, living Chesapeake Bay back to the water's edge at our Inner Harbor campus. A network of floating wetlands will improve water quality, attract native species and serve as a living laboratory, offering students and guests a valuable opportunity to learn about the importance of wetland ecosystems. According to Dr. Nancy Grasmick, National Aquarium board member and former Maryland Superintendent of Schools, "There is simply no substitute for hands-on experiences. Without tangible, real-world application, even the most important lessons, like climate change or ocean health, are little more than chapters in a textbook."



In February, we broke ground on our Animal Care and Rescue Center in Baltimore's historic Jonestown neighborhood. This new, state-of-the-art center will enhance the Aquarium's capacity to care for current and future animals, as well as rescued animals like Luna, a grey seal who was in our care for more than four months. Following her thorough rehabilitation, Luna was released in Sandy Hook, New Jersey in September 2017.

The intake of 30 cold-stunned, endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles in November was the single largest in the history of National Aquarium Animal Rescue. One of the rescued turtles, nicknamed Waffles in keeping with this year's breakfast naming theme, stranded in Massachusetts and was stabilized at the New England Aquarium before being transported to the National Aquarium for long-term rehab. Waffles was one of the most critical patients upon arrival but has responded well to treatment. The Aquarium's longstanding commitment to treating cold-stunned turtles, as well as rescuing and rehabilitating animals in distress along Maryland's coastline, will grow in scope when the new Animal Care and Rescue Center opens in 2018.

