COASTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Ocean Aid 360 is focused on empowering coastal communities, through education and clear pathways, to address challenges impacting adjacent marine habitat and resources.

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We believe that by working directly with those who live in close proximity to vulnerable watersheds, Ocean Aid 360 can have a positive impact on issue awareness, strengthening of marine resource stewardship, and evidence-driven collective responses focused on resource restoration and resilience.

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In 2017, our staff led the design of such a project called, "Coast Busters: Delivering education and awareness to upstream and underserved communities to decrease litter, propelled by rain and tide as marine debris, into the Tampa Bay estuary." This design is focused on the delivery of marine resource stewardship concepts at the primary school level, through traveling theater performances, science class lesson plans focused on marine habitat health, and a marine resource ambassadors component to encourage further reach of conservation concepts.

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In 2018, Ocean Aid 360 expanded its commitment to community-led marine resource conservation, through the design and delivery of The Ghost Trap Rodeo event series. The Ghost Trap Rodeo educates and mobilizes local anglers, recreational and commercial, and other concerned resource user groups; to detect and remove derelict/abandoned crab traps and marine debris while carrying out a bycatch species inventory and marine debris mapping exercise to expand state and federal data sets which inform the targeting and allocation of future watershed cleanup resources.

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Our staff is intent on promoting coastal community-level collaboration as a driver of change. We believe that listening and collaborative investigations can result in evidence-based solutions to complex challenges facing marine resources. We aim to promote citizen science, community-wide stewardship and conservation ethic, as safeguards against increasing demands on shared marine resources.

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We invite your ideas and we value your feedback!

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Contact us at: [info@OceanAid360.org](mailto:info@OceanAid360.org)