

MILES

One Hundred Miles Annual Report

How We Conserved our Coast in 2016



With your help, One Hundred Miles is protecting, preserving, and enhancing the thriving communities, treasured landscapes, and diverse wildlife of Georgia's 100-mile coast.

Our coast can't wait.

Our work in 2016 was set against the backdrop of major events for our coast, state, and nation—from the arrival of Hurricane Matthew in October to the election of a new administration in November and proposals throughout the year that threatened the safety of our wildlife, land, and water resources.

At One Hundred Miles, we recognize the urgency with which we must work to protect the coast we love. We know that now is the time to stand up and make a difference. Not next year, not after the next storm, not when the next development threatens the health of our shores. That's why we led the charge for action in 2016. Our coast is too precious to wait.



2016 was a year of progress. Our coastal community came together to celebrate major milestones—the decision to exclude Georgia from offshore drilling and a record-setting nesting season for loggerhead sea turtles. Throughout the year, OHM built coalitions to advocate against unsafe coal ash disposal, plastic pollution, and an ill-conceived Spaceport. We provided opportunities for residents to experience our natural resources. We launched an exciting new chapter in Savannah. And we celebrated the inspirational leaders, past and present, who have made their mark on our 100 miles.

Here's just some of what One Hundred Miles was up to in 2016.



FEBRUARY 17
2nd Annual Bus Trip to Conserve our Coast

An early morning departure, a 5-hour bus trip, and a whirlwind day were no match for the 36 participants on our 2nd annual bus trip to Atlanta for Capitol Conservation Day. Residents met with their coastal legislators to voice concerns on important issues affecting their families, communities, and quality of life.



FEBRUARY 27
Nature and the Arts Writing Retreat on Sapelo Island

Twelve writers came together to practice their craft and experience the natural world on Sapelo Island. Inspired by her trip, author and workshop leader Megan Mayhew Bergman later wrote in *Oxford American*, "To encounter Georgia's pristine barrier islands is to step directly into a space where the strange collides with the beautiful."

MARCH 17
Offshore Drilling VICTORY!

After 18 months of advocacy, it was a significant victory when the federal government officially excluded Georgia from its 5-year offshore drilling plan last March. Georgians know our wildlife and coastal quality of life are more precious than oil. That's why, even as we celebrated the decision, we continued to educate the public on the dangers of seismic testing.



MARCH 30
Spartini Cocktails for our Coast Contest Kicks Off

What do you get when you cross a martini with Georgia's signature *Spartina* marsh grass? A 'Spartini,' of course! Perhaps you sampled one or two of these delicious cocktails during our spring Marsh Madness celebration. Twelve coastal restaurants created inspired recipes to raise awareness for conservation efforts.



MAY 9
Sea Island Groin Trial Begins

When the Shore Protection Committee approved Sea Island's construction of a new groin in 2015—despite overwhelming opposition and threats to wildlife and barrier island dynamics—OHM challenged the decision in court. Though our appeal was ultimately unsuccessful, it launched a community dialogue on land use and whether groins have a place on Georgia's coast.



JULY 11-12
GA Shorebird Alliance Meets to Discuss Coastal Designation

As a proud member of the Georgia Shorebird Alliance, OHM worked with private island managers and federal agency partners to secure support for our coast's nomination as a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) landscape of hemispheric importance for shorebirds, including the threatened red knot.

AUGUST 4
OHM Speaks out about Coal Ash along our Coast

Toxic coal ash poses a grave risk to the health of our residents and waterways. Throughout 2016, we worked with local citizens, elected officials, and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to draft safe rules for disposal. In August, One Hundred Miles CEO Megan Desrosiers spoke about our concerns at a Brunswick public hearing.



AUG. 23, SEPT. 13, and OCT. 20
OHM's CEO Megan Desrosiers Testifies Before Spaceport Subcommittees

Members of the Georgia House and Senate convened throughout 2016 to learn about the proposed Camden County Spaceport, a risky endeavor that would threaten nearby Little Cumberland, Jekyll, and Cumberland Islands. OHM testified about our concerns and reasons for opposition.



AUGUST 31
Tybee Island Reusable Bag Campaign Launches

Plastic bags kill. They strangle shorebirds, are consumed by sea turtles and marine mammals, and litter our beaches. In 2016, OHM launched our Reusable Bag Campaign to provide a solution. With help from local partners, we distributed 10,000 cloth totes last August to help Tybee businesses make the switch from single-use plastics.



DECEMBER 19
OHM Moves into New Savannah Office

From the beginning, OHM has worked from Savannah to St. Marys - crisscrossing our full 100 miles for our conservation efforts. Last year, we put down more permanent roots when we opened OHM's newest office location in Savannah. We're proud to be a part of this extraordinary city as we advocate for the local issues that matter most.

Leading the Fight Against Offshore Drilling

Last March, after hundreds of calls, letters, and countless meetings, our hard work finally paid off, when the Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management (BOEM) excluded Georgia and other Atlantic states from its 5-year lease plan for offshore oil and gas development.

Those who know and love Georgia's coast understand that offshore drilling would threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life. That's why OHM led the charge against the dangerous proposal and represented Georgia's interests in Washington, D.C., and why so many of our members and advocates devoted long hours to making their voices heard at every level of government.

Following the decision, OHM held events to educate our coastal communities about the dangers of seismic testing. We rallied advocates to submit comments to BOEM and contact their legislators. And we raised awareness about the plight of the North Atlantic right whale—one of the species most affected by the underwater tests—by working with local governments to pass special proclamations. In January 2017, BOEM denied all permits to conduct seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. Now, with the transition to a new administration, we're working behind the scenes to safeguard these important protections.



Celebrating Extraordinary Coastal Leaders: The One Hundred Miles 100

The next time you marvel at the sunset over the salt marsh, take a walk on one of our pristine, undeveloped beaches, or share a special moment with Georgia's shorebirds, sea turtles, or other wildlife, stop to give thanks for the scientists and advocates who devote their professional and personal lives to protecting every square inch of our extraordinary coast.

Throughout 2016, we had the pleasure of discovering the remarkable stories of individuals and organizations working behalf of our natural, historical, and cultural resources. When we launched a call for nominations to our inaugural *One Hundred Miles 100*, suggestions poured in from every corner of our state and all across the country. Ultimately we selected 100 individuals and businesses who have given back to our coast in ways big and small. These change-makers share their passion and knowledge of our coast with others. They include educators, writers, artists, researchers, business and civic leaders, and coastal stewards of all ages.

We were honored to present the stories of our 1st Annual *One Hundred Miles 100* last December. Honorees in 10 categories were recognized during a ceremony at our *Coastal Conservation in Action: Choosing to Lead* conference in early 2017.

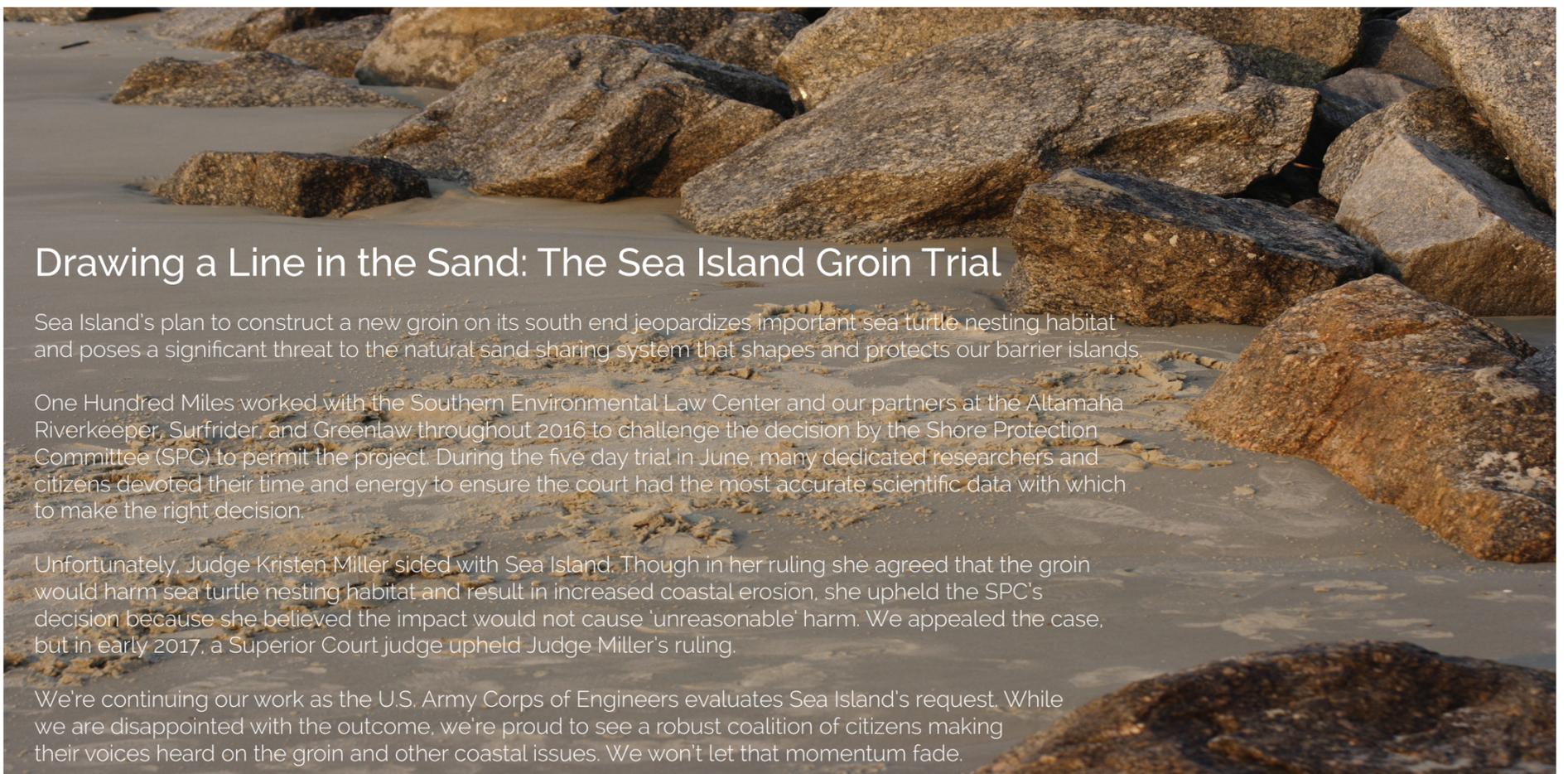
Drawing a Line in the Sand: The Sea Island Groin Trial

Sea Island's plan to construct a new groin on its south end jeopardizes important sea turtle nesting habitat and poses a significant threat to the natural sand-sharing system that shapes and protects our barrier islands.

One Hundred Miles worked with the Southern Environmental Law Center and our partners at the Altamaha Riverkeeper, Surfrider, and Greenlaw throughout 2016 to challenge the decision by the Shore Protection Committee (SPC) to permit the project. During the five day trial in June, many dedicated researchers and citizens devoted their time and energy to ensure the court had the most accurate scientific data with which to make the right decision.

Unfortunately, Judge Kristen Miller sided with Sea Island. Though in her ruling she agreed that the groin would harm sea turtle nesting habitat and result in increased coastal erosion, she upheld the SPC's decision because she believed the impact would not cause 'unreasonable' harm. We appealed the case, but in early 2017, a Superior Court judge upheld Judge Miller's ruling.

We're continuing our work as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates Sea Island's request. While we are disappointed with the outcome, we're proud to see a robust coalition of citizens making their voices heard on the groin and other coastal issues. We won't let that momentum fade.



2016

By the Numbers

2,318 new advocates

joined our digital network in 2016 (for a total of nearly 7,500 across the state and country). There's strength in numbers, and we rely on these committed advocates to ensure our coast's interests are represented.

400 North Atlantic right whales

are estimated to remain in the wild—and with their only known calving ground just off our coast, Georgians have a responsibility to protect them. That's why OHM partnered with the town of Thunderbolt and cities of Tybee and Savannah to increase knowledge of our state marine mammal through "North Atlantic Right Whale Day" proclamations.

41 Holiday Market vendors

joined our seasonal online marketplace, and encouraged residents to "shop locally / give locally" during the holiday season.

12 coastal organizations

came together to create a shared set of conservation goals as part of the OHM-led Georgia Coast Collaborative.

2,000 cigarette butts and 500 pieces of plastic

were removed from our beaches as part of our first-annual "World Oceans Day" celebration in June.

7 staff in 2 coastal offices

After only three years, we've built a strong organization with seven professionals from across the country. And in December, we achieved our goal of opening a second office location in Savannah!

Dear friends,

2016 was an extraordinary year for One Hundred Miles, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the invaluable work of our board, staff, and coastal partners.

But what defines our year most is not the campaigns we led or the projects we accomplished. These 12 months are best represented by the unprecedented number of people willing to take action. On issue after issue, whether offshore drilling, the proposed spaceport, Sea Island groin, or coal ash, advocates showed up and spoke out to ensure Georgia's coast was protected.

We didn't always receive the outcome we wanted. But when we first started OHM three short years ago, our founders and staff made a commitment to effect meaningful and long-lasting change for our coast. That mission isn't always easy. Sometimes it means challenging the status quo, even when the work is hard and the victories even harder to come by. Sometimes it means finding compromise with those with whom we don't always agree. Just as often, it requires celebrating the positive. We have a lot to learn from our coast's unparalleled natural resources and the remarkable advocates who have come before us.

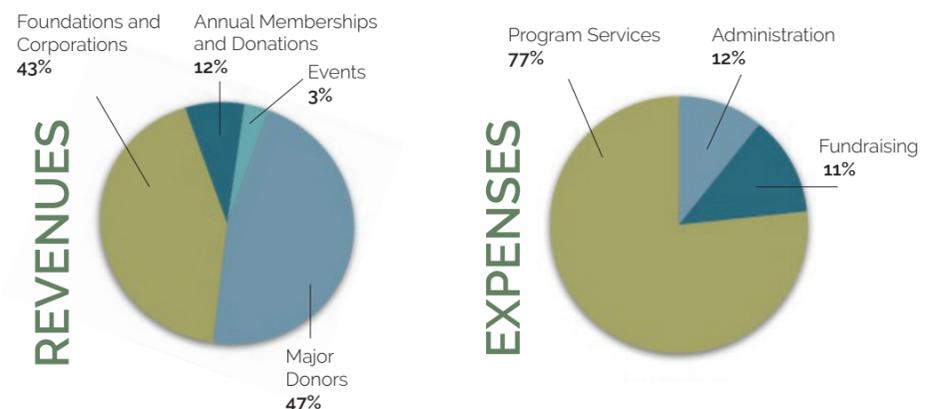
We're in this for the long haul. In 2017, we'll continue to build on our momentum, and we hope you'll be right there with us. Because together, we have the opportunity to do something special.

Sincerely,



Megan Desrosiers

2016 Financial Snapshot



As a still-young organization, we work to honor our donors' investments through sound management of our fiscal resources. In 2016, that meant diversifying our fundraising portfolio, increasing our strategic operating reserve, and completing a full financial audit.

77% of One Hundred Miles' expenses were allotted to our mission-related programs in 2016. This percentage more than exceeds the standard upheld by organizations that monitor the work of nonprofit charities.

This summary is derived from our December 2016 financial statements. Once completed, copies of our audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms will be available by request.

Thank you to our dedicated supporters.

For a complete listing of 2016 donors, please visit OneHundredMiles.org.

Coastal Visionary Society \$25,000+

Anonymous (3)
Bobolink Foundation
Butler Conservation Fund
R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation
Jeanne Kauffman Manning
Laura Richards Naughton
The Sapelo Foundation
The Turner Foundation

Coastal Leadership Guild \$5,000-\$24,999

The Azalea Fund
The Bradley Foundation
Mark and Lucy Crosswell
Cumberland Island Conservancy
Megan and Michael Desrosiers
Manomet
Sally and Allen McDaniel
The Mills-Bee Lane Foundation
The Mott Foundation
The Rayonier Advanced Materials Foundation
Southern Ionics

Spartina Society \$1,000-\$4,999

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