

# 100 MILES

One Hundred Miles 18-Month Report

How We Conserved our Coast in 2019-2020

## A year like no other.

Our work over the past 18 months was set against the backdrop of major events for our coast, state, and nation—from a record-shattering year for loggerhead sea turtles and the capsizing of the Golden Ray in 2019 to a global pandemic that has changed our way of life forever.

At One Hundred Miles, we're responding to these fast-changing times while using the lessons learned to become stronger and more sustainable, and to improve the experiences we offer our supporters. As part of that realignment, we adjusted our fiscal year to ensure more effective budget planning; this report details 18 months of progress. Join us in celebrating the many victories you made possible from January 2019-June 2020.



# One Hundred Miles protects and preserves Georgia's 100-mile coast through advocacy, education, and citizen engagement.

This has been a year for the history books. Even as we faced unprecedented challenges, Georgians have come together to advocate for positive change and celebrate major victories and milestones for our coast.

Here's just some of the work you made possible along the way.



**Choosing to Lead for our Coast**  
Our conference was born from the idea that to conserve our coast, each of us has to choose to take a stand, share our story, and lead in our own way. Since the first event in 2017, Choosing to Lead has grown in size and overall impact. In 2019 and 2020, we held events in both Savannah and Jekyll Island, helping more than 350 attendees find the knowledge and tools to put their ideas into action.



**Opposing Offshore Drilling**  
In 2019, OHM led the statewide campaign to support the passage of House Resolution 48—demonstrating bipartisan opposition to offshore drilling and exploration. We also joined with a coalition of national partners to file a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service for granting seismic testing companies the authorization to harm and kill endangered species, including the North Atlantic right whale.

**Speaking Out Against Injustice**  
In 2020, OHM took legal action to stop an inadequate settlement agreement meant to compensate for damages caused by the release of toxic chemicals from the Honeywell-LCP Superfund Site in Brunswick. The proposed \$4 million agreement was not only wholly insufficient, it put our citizens' health at risk. GADNR later dropped the case, giving us a chance to fight for a more equitable solution.



**Teaming with Nature**  
All ages benefit when they have access to quality environmental education. That's why we were thrilled to introduce our new "Families in Nature" series in 2019—helping participants discover our coast and learn together in the great outdoors. Through FIN, families have visited the salt marsh on Skidaway Island, hiked the maritime forest on St. Simons, and explored Jekyll Island's beach under the light of the full moon.



**Taking on Toxic Coal Ash**  
Coal ash contains mercury, arsenic, and other dangerous chemicals that threaten Georgians' health. That's why in 2019 and 2020, we worked with a statewide coalition to pass legislation protecting the state's drinking water from contamination. And in 2020, we successfully advocated for the passage of SB 123—ending the incentive for companies to store coal ash from other states in Georgia's landfills.



**Creating our Adaptation Strategy Together (COAST)**  
In the face of rising seas and strengthening storms, we're helping Georgians take action. In 2019, OHM expanded our COAST programming to Chatham County. More than 150 residents gave input about how our communities can best adapt to these challenges. We're using feedback from the listening sessions to help our coast work towards a more resilient future.

**Protecting the 'Land of the Trembling Earth'** When Twin Pines Minerals unveiled its plan to mine for titanium along the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, OHM and our partners jumped into action. We helped to mobilize advocates—60,000 letters of opposition were sent during the comment period! We also joined with state and national groups to launch the Okefenokee Protection Alliance to defend this treasured resource.



**Setting a Place at the Table**  
We launched our Salt Marsh Table dinner series to celebrate coastal Georgia and tell the story of our coast using sustainable, locally-sourced dishes. In 2019, OHM partnered with some of coastal Georgia's most talented chefs to host the dinners, which were served at iconic locations across our 100 miles. Now, we're finding ways to promote these restaurants during a difficult time for their industry.



**Finding Strength in Numbers**  
OHM led the creation of the Coastal Resource Asset Barometer ("CRAB"), an interactive resource developed by the 11-member Georgia Coast Collaborative. This online dashboard provides an assessment of the health of our coast and results from statewide polling measuring Georgians' environmental literacy and coastal values — benchmarks we will use to measure our conservation progress through time.



**Learning That's For the Birds**  
Our six-week Master Birder series provided bird enthusiasts of all ages with an introduction to ornithology, bird identification, and local conservation efforts. In 2019, 22 participants "fledged" after six weeks of instruction and four field trips to birding hot spots across the region. In addition to building their knowledge, the course connects birders to volunteer opportunities with one of five partner organizations.



# Empowering the Next Generation of Coastal Leaders

When we first convened our **Youth Environmental Leadership Program** in September 2019, it's safe to say our inaugural class of youth leaders wasn't entirely sure what they'd signed up for—and frankly, neither were we.

But over the course of the next nine months, 17 high school students from Savannah to St. Marys came together to lead on some of the most pressing issues facing Georgia's coast. They tackled issues ranging from climate change to plastic pollution, wildlife conservation, and Gullah-Geechee heritage preservation. They met with elected representatives, journalists, and business leaders, and worked on service projects to better their schools and communities—all while working side-by-side with other students from different communities and backgrounds.

As one YELP student commented, *"We transcend schools, cities, grades, religious beliefs, race, gender, and so many other things that sometimes divide people. Through YELP, I've grown so much more as a person and developed relationships that I hope to continue into the future. In a time where we feel so disconnected from each other, a program like YELP is just what we need."*



# Protecting Our Coastal Heritage

Butler Island and the Huston House in McIntosh County, a property owned by the Georgia DNR, holds an important place in our coast's complicated history. It's the site where Pierce Butler owned hundreds of men, women, and children, more than 400 of whom were later sold in what became known as the "Weeping Time": the largest single auction of enslaved people in U.S. history.

But during the 2020 legislative session, **House Bill 906** would have allowed the state to subdivide and sell to a private individual or corporation up to 15 acres of any Heritage Preserve in Georgia—including for a proposed distillery at Butler Island. If this law had passed, beloved Heritage Preserves across our state and coast—such as Little Tybee, Wormsloe State Historic Site, Skidaway Island State Park, and Ossabaw Island—could have been sold and developed by the highest bidder.

In response to this threat, One Hundred Miles and our partners worked together to defeat HB906 in an unprecedented grassroots effort. Legislators received over 20,000 comments from more than 2,000 citizens!

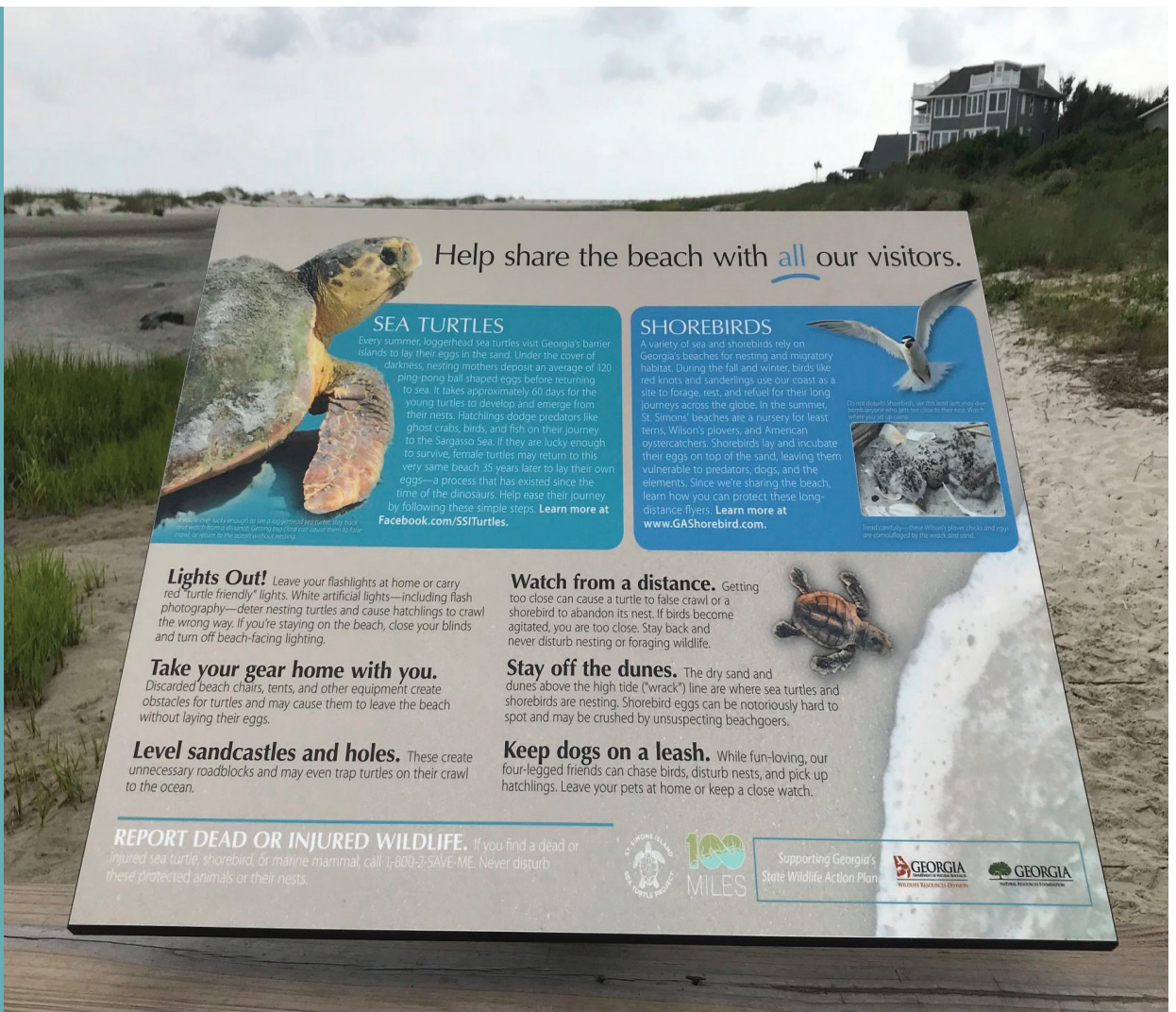
Our coast is not for sale—*not now, and not ever*. Together, we made that loud and clear.

# Standing Up for Sea Turtles

In 2019, Georgia set a new statewide record for **loggerhead sea turtles** with nearly 4,000 nests! This milestone is a testament to our coast's long legacy of wildlife conservation. Today this important work continues, as a network of dedicated partners patrol every stretch of beach across our coast to protect our most precious seasonal visitors.

But our work is far from over. The actions we take today will determine what our coast's future looks like when this generation of hatchlings returns to lay their own eggs in the sand. Over the past two summers, OHM has expanded our coast-wide education programs to help beachgoers take action to protect wildlife like sea turtles, shorebirds, and right whales. And on St. Simons, we installed interpretive signage at beach crossovers and partnered with local businesses to distribute information to their guests.

In 2019, we led a community campaign to stop Jekyll Island from weakening their beach lighting ordinance. Hundreds of phone calls, emails, and public comments later, our advocacy paid off! The new ordinance passed by the Jekyll Island Authority board in May is a strong one. Now, we're working to strengthen Glynn County's antiquated lighting ordinance as part of their county-wide zoning update.





Dear friends,

I don't know about you, but I've never been more grateful for the sanctuary that our coast provides.

The 18 months covered in the pages of this report reflect a momentous time for our coast and organization—one that I won't soon forget. But for every headline-shattering event, there were plenty of quiet moments, too: walks by the salt marsh at sunset, riding waves with my children, and exploring the rich culture and history within our own backyards. In a time when we've been forced to take stock of what truly matters, I'm reminded how lucky we are to have this precious resource right at our fingertips. It is a treasure unlike any other in the world.

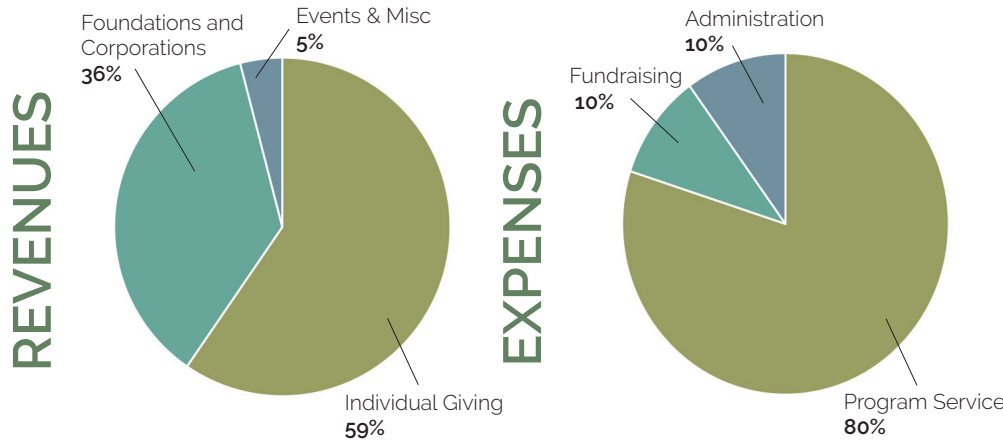
I've also been reminded of the kindness of friends. Time and time again, throughout the past 18 months, OHM members and advocates have answered our call—helping us leap into action to respond to some of the most urgent challenges facing our coast. You are the reason we are here to do this work, and we couldn't be more grateful to have you on our team.

As we continue to adapt to our new, rapidly-changing reality, One Hundred Miles remains committed to our mission of protecting and preserving Georgia's coast. Above all, we are guided by science and love: *love for this place, love for our precious resources and wildlife, and love for our people.*

Even amid a global pandemic, our coast still needs protecting. And One Hundred Miles will be here to protect and preserve the coast we love. No matter what.

Sincerely,  
  
Megan Desrosiers, *President/CEO*

2019-20 Financial Snapshot



OHM is committed to honoring our donors' investments. During this 18 month period, 80% of OHM's expenses were allotted to our mission-related programs—exceeding the nonprofit standard. This summary is derived from our draft January 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 financial statements. Once completed, copies of our audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms will be available by request.

We received funding from the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) in June 2020 to cover 60 days of payroll expenses. Because it was a loan, the funding is not reflected in the cash totals shown in this report.

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Scott Coleman • Mark Crosswell • Glen Darbyshire  
Sally McDaniel • Shelley Renner • Laura Richards  
Susan Shipman • John Sibley

Thank you to our dedicated supporters.

This list reflects Spartina Society donations from January 2019-June 2020. Please visit [OneHundredMiles.org](http://OneHundredMiles.org) for a complete donor listing.

One Hundred Miles Spartina Society

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2019-2020: By the Numbers



13,097 individuals in our advocacy network stand ready to protect our coast

851 annual members



16,000+ gallons of fuel spilled

\$8 million+ in spending to date for the proposed Spaceport Camden. OHM has helped build a coalition of more than 2,500 advocates in opposition.

19,035 adults, children, and families reached through our in-person and virtual education programs



251 meetings with elected officials



60,000+ people from 36 different countries submitted comments in opposition to Twin Pines' proposal to mine near the Okefenokee Swamp.

