“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

- Rachel Carson

The Sense of Wonder
As we prepare to celebrate One Hundred Miles’ first decade in 2023, we’re building new foundations for the coast we want to see—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. That means fighting battles both new and old, listening to the stories of our people, and staying true to our brand of coastal conservation—one that’s grounded in love for this place and inclusive of everyone who shares in and contributes to its splendor.

Here’s just some of the work YOU made possible in 2022:

**GIVING VOTERS THEIR SAY ON SPACEPORT CAMDEN**
No one would propose launching rockets from the rim of the Grand Canyon. So why would we want to build a Spaceport adjacent to our coast’s most ecologically and culturally-significant landscapes, including our crown jewel, Cumberland Island National Seashore? On March 8, 2022—by an overwhelming 3:1 margin—Camden voters showed that, in fact, they did not approve of the county’s foolhardy plan. That’s when voters repealed the county’s actions to purchase the 4,000-acre Union Carbide property slated to be the spaceport site. The referendum capped more than seven years of advocacy and outreach by OHM staff, volunteers, and partners. Meanwhile, Camden Commissioners have refused to respect the will of their constituents and have challenged the results of the referendum. The Georgia Supreme Court will hear the case on October 6th.

**STOPPING THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FROM DREDGING DURING SEA TURTLE SEASON**
Don’t mess with our sea turtles. That’s the message Georgians sent in overwhelming numbers last year, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed dredging in the middle of spring and summer nesting season. But even after OHM’s court victory in May 2021, the Corps continued to push their dangerous plan forward. They updated their Environmental Assessment (EA) using flawed data and inaccuracies in hopes of beginning year-round dredging in Brunswick Harbor as early as 2023. Our concerns remain the same—just as the Corps’ argument remains as flawed as it was before. That’s why we’re educating our partners across the coast about the threats year-round dredging poses to sea turtles and other wildlife, stepping up our advocacy to elected representatives and stakeholders, and investigating all options to prevent the Corps from moving forward.

**EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS**
As we enter our fourth year, it’s hard to believe how much OHM’s flagship Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) has grown in such a short time. Our talented teen leaders have helped us quickly shape the program into what it is today—an innovative learning opportunity for students who are passionate about conservation and want to effect real change in their communities. During the 2021-22 school year, we welcomed eleven 10th through 12th graders to the team and returned to in-person monthly field trips. YELPers investigated the different habitats at Okefenokee, delved into a difficult chapter of our coast’s history at Butler Island, went birding on Little St. Simons, and biked across Sapelo. Along the way, they worked with mentors in the research, nonprofit, and business fields and completed group service and individual action.

**STANDING UP FOR ‘THE WILD HEART OF GEORGIA’**
It’s easy to get lost in the flip-flopping status of proposed mining adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp. Since 2018, Georgians have spoken out in large numbers to make it clear that the Land of the Trembling Earth is a great source of pride for our state—one that deserves our unwavering protection. Even so, Twin Pines Minerals continues to pursue permission to operate a heavy mineral sand mine along Trail Ridge. This year, OHM worked with six cities and counties around the Okefenokee to pass pro-Swamp resolutions, while building strong relationships with local leaders and legislators who value the Swamp. All the while, we’re connecting Georgians with their elected representatives in support of long-term protections and helping local partners identify sustainable economic development opportunities across the region.

**MONITORING GEORGIA’S HORSESHOE CRABS**
In partnership with the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition, biologists at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Manomet’s Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative, OHM launched a series of horseshoe crab spawning surveys across Georgia’s coast this past spring. Our goal was to collect baseline data of spawning activity during the full and new moon spring tides—data scientists can use to protect the ancient and mighty horseshoe crab. Altogether, we recruited 35 volunteers who conducted group surveys by boat, kayak, and foot at 29 sites across the coast. Following our successful pilot year, OHM and our partners are now analyzing data, gathering feedback from volunteers, and working to strengthen future years of this valuable program.

**HELPING RESIDENTS ENGAGE IN THE ZONING PROCESS**
Take a hard look at many growing communities, and you’ll likely find cautionary tales of zoning gone wrong. But when done well and with ample input from residents, zoning is an important tool that helps to balance both preservation and growth. Recognizing this importance, in 2022 OHM worked with SICARS (the Sapelo Island Community and Revitalization Society) to engage island residents in a conversation about changes in their community and concerns about preserving their Geechee culture. In Glynn County and on Jekyll Island, we helped residents understand how updated ordinances could impact issues such as conservation, wildlife protection, traffic, housing affordability, and flooding. With each project, we connected residents to the decision-makers responsible for setting the course for their communities—for generations to come.
More Than a Statement: Deepening our Commitment to Social, Racial, and Environmental Justice

At One Hundred Miles, we believe we cannot fix the systems that result in environmental injustice unless we are also actively working to fix those that cause social injustice. We are committed to expanding our partnerships to include allies working on public health, education, and government reform, and social and racial equity. We are committed to fighting for change, and for a better and more just coast for all who love it.

This important and necessary work starts right here, with our staff and board, and we want to infuse it into everything we do. In 2022, we brought our new Justice Strategist on board—Josiah “Jazz” Watts, a native of Sapelo and St. Simons Islands. Jazz, who previously served on OHM’s Board of Directors, is helping our staff better align our work with the needs of our communities.

One of Jazz’s early focuses has been the creation of an Racial Equity and Inclusion Series, which launches this September. At every bi-weekly session, OHM staff will learn from and discuss the intersections of our work with invited justice speakers from across our coast—and then work to keep the conversations going with our staff, board, partners, and participants.

“Through this series, we will address racial and social inequities to enhance the work we’re doing in many communities,” says Jazz, who recognizes that many organizations shy away from having these challenging, authentic conversations. “The topic of racism is one that can be difficult but one that must be had. At times, these conversations are uncomfortable, but they can also be powerful. To have these quests discuss their life experiences, their work, and the institutionalized and systemic racism, oppression, and challenges they face will enhance the work that we all do at One Hundred Miles, no matter the space we are working in.”

“Our work is never done.” Passing the Torch to a New OHM Board Chair

All of us at One Hundred Miles are here because we love Georgia’s coast and believe in fighting for its future. That’s a sentiment shared by current OHM Board Chair Roy Richards Jr. and incoming Chair Scott Coleman, both of whom have been involved since our earliest days. Back then, they deeply believed in our mission but recognized the tough challenges our fledgling organization would be up against.

“I don’t think we were under any illusions about how hard this would be or how long it would take,” Roy says. “I remember going into our launch in 2013 thinking: ‘If we can just get one or two wins every couple of years, we can call it a success.’ One Hundred Miles has surpassed that, for sure, and is accelerating in its impact.”

Roy points to a few key victories as crucial to OHM’s ability to establish credibility and build a powerful coalition across the coast and state—notably, our effective campaigns to stop Spaceport Camden, prevent dangerous summer dredging during sea turtle season, and successfully push back against offshore drilling.

Of course, he’s careful to note, “It’s a bad idea (and probably bad luck) to declare victory in this line of work. Ours is mostly a business of protecting what we have, and building wide-spread, community-based pride in local ecology and culture. Our work is never done.”

Scott, who brings a deep understanding of our coastal history and natural resources in his role as Ecological Manager of Little St. Simons Island, is excited to build on this strong foundation when he takes the reins as chairman this December. Because he already knows OHM inside and out, the upcoming transition should be a smooth one.

“In the next decade,” Scott says, “we have the opportunity to help Georgians across the state realize that this remarkable coast belongs to all of us—and that protecting the health of our natural resources and communities is the responsibility of all of us.”

Read our full conversation with Roy and Scott at OneHundredMiles.org/BoardChair
Dear Friends,

For generations, coastal Georgia advocates have fought to protect the natural resources that define our landscape. One Hundred Miles first joined their efforts nine years ago, in just under a decade, our work to reestablish a buffer for our salt marsh, prevent offshore drilling, protect sea turtles from spring and summer dredging, and give citizens a voice in the fight to stop Spaceport Camden—as well as on many other important issues—has helped us build a community of more than 20,000 advocates who celebrate and protect Georgia’s coast. Together, we have moved the needle.

While we are proud, we also recognize the problems that many of our communities continue to face. We need to work just as hard to remediate the environmental tragedies that affect our people as well as our natural resources.

As we begin our next chapter, we’ll continue to connect you with new ways to learn and take action. But we pledge to do it even better. Over the next year, we’ll be improving our systems, providing opportunities to gather both virtually and in person, and sharing the stories of those impacted by decisions about our coast—good and bad, past, present, and future.

We are so excited about the upcoming year and all that we have in store for our 20th anniversary celebration in 2023! We can’t wait to see you soon.

Thank you for all you do!

Megan Desrosiers, President/CEO

Our New Hub for Conservation

We are committed to honoring our donors’ investments through sound management of our fiscal resources. In FY22, 82% of OHM’s expenses were allotted to our mission-related programs. This percentage more than exceeds the standard upheld by organizations that monitor the work of nonprofit charities.

This summary is derived from our draft 7/1/21–6/30/22 financial statements. Once completed, copies of our audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms will be available on our website, OneHundredMiles.org, and by request.

Thank you for all you do!

Megan Desrosiers, President/CEO

FRY22 Financial Snapshot

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This list reflects Spartina Society donations from July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. Please visit OneHundredMiles.org for a complete donor listing.

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Cove Photo: Marsh Mallow Hibiscus on LSSI

Little St. Simons is one of the few places in the world where you can find Hibiscus grandiflorus—some of the last gigantic prehistoric flowers on earth. This magnificent, larger-than-life species took a starring role in 2022, with features in The Bitter Southerner (in an essay by OHM board member Jim Barger Jr.). The Current and The Brunswick News.

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Thank you to our dedicated supporters.

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