

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS



# YEAR 2 REPORT 2023

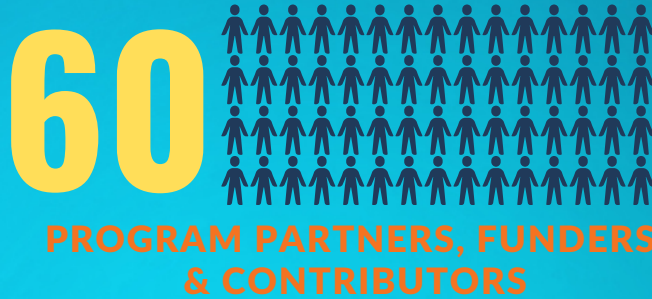


[SAFEsharks.org](https://SAFEsharks.org)

# 2023 Highlights



NC Aquariums, Regional Aquatics Workshop, Florida Aquarium, AZA Annual, AZA MidYear, SharkCon, NC Coastal Federation, UNCW, Gills Club, WAZA, E-lasmo Conference, AES, EUAC



**33+**  
PARTNERS CELEBRATED



**\$24,593 AWARD**  
**CONSERVATION GRANT FUND**  
For implementation of our project:  
**SOURCING SUSTAINABLE FEED FOR ANIMALS IN OUR CARE**



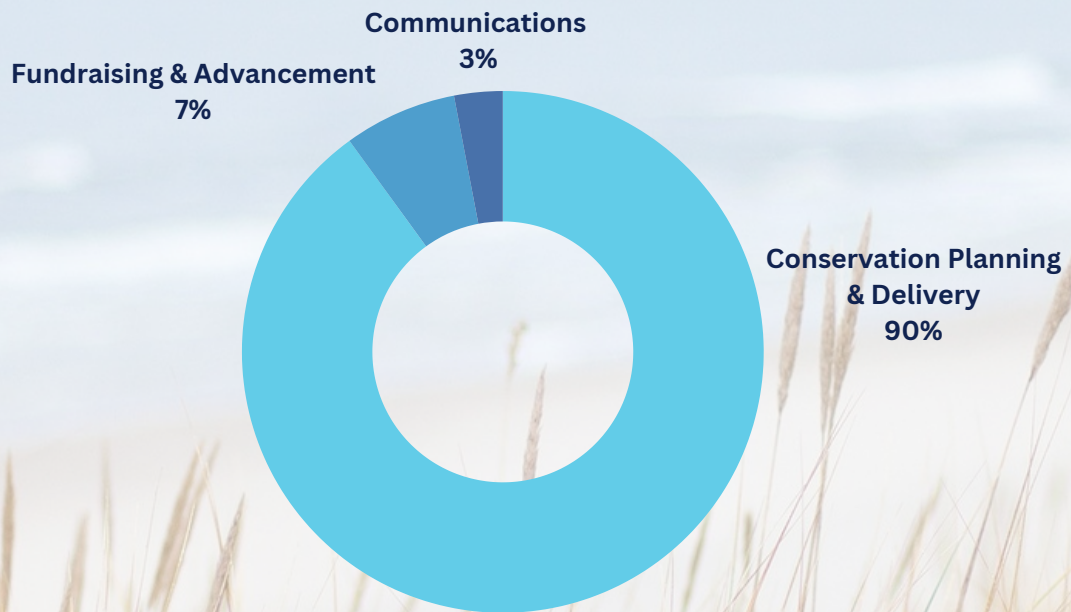
Joint shark policy support letters delivered



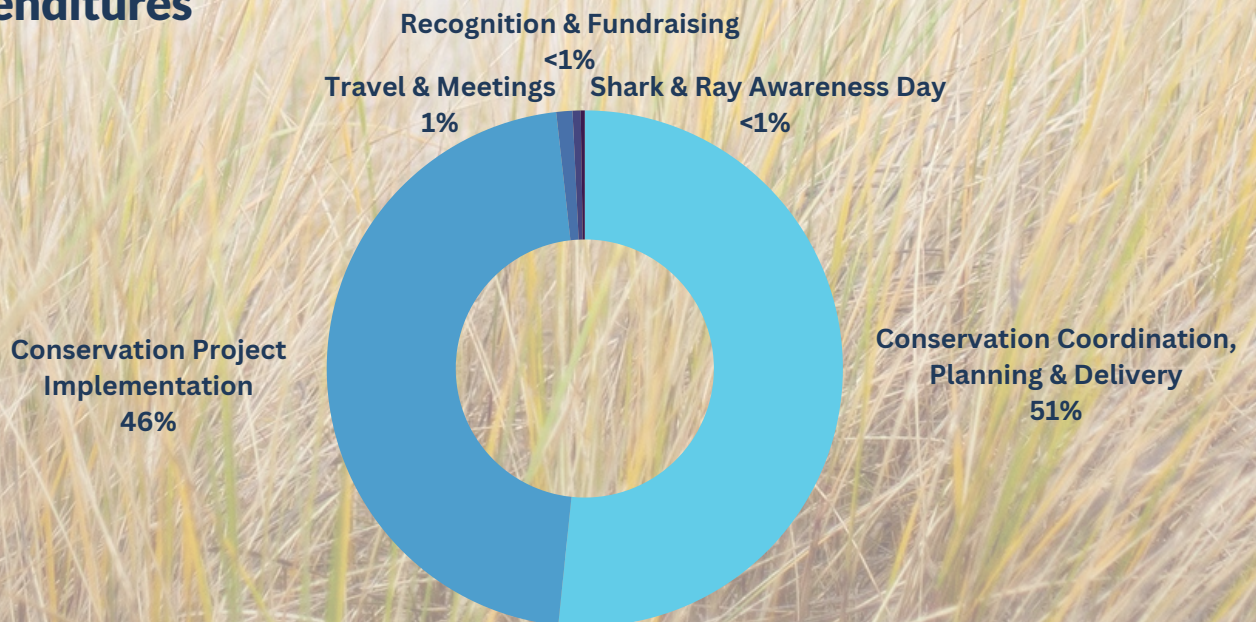
# Conservation Spending

Conservative management and fiscal responsibility ensure optimal delivery of the goals specified in the 3-year plan. A proportion of the funds carried forward to 2024 derive from grant funding for specific project delivery, as well as much appreciated donations. Spending towards conservation project implementation has increased in year two as the various project actions have accelerated. We are grateful for your on-going support and financial commitments to this project!

## 2022 Expenditures



## 2023 Expenditures



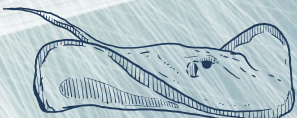
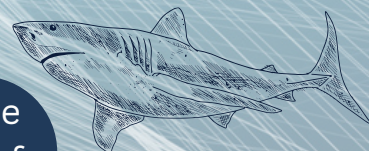
2023 Income = \$107,000  
Expenditures = \$126,700

# Program Partners, Funders & Contributors

*Thank you for the countless hours of in-kind support and financial contributions to our program!*

- Adventure Aquarium
- Aquarium Conservation Partnership
- Audubon Aquarium of the Americas
- Aquarium of the Pacific
- Atlantis Dubai
- Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Conservation Coordination, LLC
- Dallas World Aquarium
- Discovery Cove
- Dynasty Marine
- Disney's The Seas with Nemo and Friends
- Florida Aquarium
- Georgia Aquarium
- Inform Evaluation and Research
- IUCN SSG/Aquarium Working Group
- Jenkinson's Aquarium
- Kansas City Zoo
- Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk
- Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition
- Minnesota Zoo
- Mississippi Aquarium
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium
- Mystic Aquarium
- National Aquarium
- National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration
- New England Aquarium/Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life
- North Carolina Aquarium Fort Fisher
- North Carolina Aquarium Pine Knoll Shores
- North Carolina Aquarium Roanoke Island
- OdySea Aquarium
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium
- Phoenix Zoo
- Ripley's Aquarium Myrtle Beach
- Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
- Seafood Watch
- SEA LIFE Charlotte
- SEA LIFE Orlando
- SEA LIFE Michigan
- Seattle Aquarium
- Seneca Park Zoo
- Shark Advocates International
- Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay
- Shark Trust
- Sharks 4 Kids
- Shedd Aquarium
- Seafood Watch
- South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation
- Texas State Aquarium
- The Aquarium Vet
- The Word Factory
- TRACKS Software
- Wands and Wishes Occasions
- Washed Ashore
- Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
- WCS/New York Aquarium
- Wonders of Wildlife
- ZooQuatic Laboratory LLC
- Zoo Tampa

We've been delighted to welcome new partners to the program during 2023! The support and contribution of the ever-expanding partner community is a vital factor in delivering our ambitious goals for shark and ray conservation through the SAFE program. Thank you!



# 2023 in pictures...



# Looking Ahead to 2024...

2

Publications are pending that will highlight data from SAFE projects. One using data from the **Chondro Census**, and the second from Tiger Shark enzyme data analyzed by SAFE partners on the origins of elasmobranch tissue enzymes.

30

SAFE Shark and Ray, AZA, and Aquarium Conservation Partnership organizations have submitted data for the **Sustainable Feed Project**. We need your help to add 35 more organizations to our data. You can learn more about this project at [safesharks.org/sustainable-seafood/](https://safesharks.org/sustainable-seafood/)

5

SAFE partners have submitted blood samples for the **Elasmobranch Blood Project**. We are seeking organizations that have the outlined species in their care to submit their samples to the project next year. Find out how by visiting [safesharks.org/researchers/blood-project/](https://safesharks.org/researchers/blood-project/)

20

Documents, which support three decision-trees, developed for our **Best Practices in Elasmobranch Handling and Welfare** project are currently under editing and review. Our goal is to make these documents widely available in multiple formats in 2024.

2

External evaluations planned to help us assess and refine our **Messaging Frameworks** and our **Sustainable Feed Project**, so that we can effectively engage our communities in behavior-change strategies to save sharks and rays!