

**Wild  
Oceans**  
For the future of fishing

# The Horizon

MAN, WOMAN AND NATURE

## The people issue

by Ken Hinman, Wild Oceans President

Where do people fit in to wild oceans? Ah, that's the question at the heart of every issue we contend with.

At *Wild Oceans*, we favor an ecosystems approach to protecting the future of fishing, and people are a big part of ocean ecosystems, for better or worse.

People catch fish and they eat fish. And they make the decisions about what fish we can catch and how many, in response to what people want – made difficult when people want different things. (p. 3).

Besides fishing, we enjoy the ocean through numerous other forms of recreation, and we exploit it for other forms of commerce – uses that often clash with our vision of healthy fisheries. (p. 4)

Whether we engage directly with the ocean world or not, our collective well-being on this blue planet hangs in the balance. The sea belongs to every one of us and rightly we are all its stewards. Regrettably, humankind is growing

more and more separate from nature – can we, or rather will we, save a wild world to which we no longer belong? (p. 2)

Because fishing provides such an intimate connection to the sea, we've often said that how we envision the future of fishing may, more than anything else, determine the future of the ocean and all its creatures, and not least of all, its ability to sustain us.

So we reach out to and join with those who fish to strengthen our voice, to support best fishing practices, to be a persuasive presence at the meetings where our future is decided. (pp. 4, 6 and 7)

Every story in this issue of **The Horizon** is about people, specifically those people who care about the future of fishing enough to get involved. And one special person we care about (p. 5) - who enjoyed nature and championed conservation throughout her long and well-lived life, and whose passing inspires us to remember what it's all about. ■

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## Our Mission

*Wild Oceans* was founded by anglers in 1973. Like the sportsmen before us who pioneered wildlife conservation on land, we are passionate protectors of fish and the wild world we share.

**Our mission is to keep the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future.** To do this, we bring conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists together to promote a broad, ecosystems approach to fisheries management that reflects our expanding circle of concern for all marine life and the future of fishing.

So much of what we love about the sea, about fish, about fishing, is in the wildness. But that wild world, and the future of fishing, now hangs in the balance. Everything we do, every decision we make, must be guided by a clear vision of the future we want for our oceans and of how the fishing public and responsible consumers will fit into that future.

## Fish out of water

Recently on the *Wild Oceans* Facebook page we shared an article by George Monbiot entitled, **If Children Lose Contact with Nature They Won't Fight for It**. The author describes the removal of children from the natural world as an "environmental crisis," citing research showing a "collapse" in children's engagement with nature. According to one study, in a single generation the proportion of kids that regularly play in wild places fell from more than half to less than 1 in 10.

The "Take Me Fishing" ads you see everywhere these days – Rockwellian portraits of happy little kids and their smiling granddads heading for the shoreline, rods and tackle boxes in hand – are not only about recruiting participants for the sport (they're sponsored by the fishing and boating industries, after all), but also very much about raising awareness and making that all-important connection with wild rivers, streams and oceans.

Without that connection, as vital as any other in the chain of life, the whole thing starts to unravel. As Monbiot points out, "Most of those I know who fight for nature are people who spent their childhoods immersed in it." By directly engaging with the natural world - fishing, swimming, diving, surfing, sailing, exploring – we learn to appreciate it in a way that no amount of book-learning, trips to the aquarium or virtual classrooms can replace. And without that experience, we are far less likely to take up the good fight to preserve it.

.....  
" A wise old mother is  
Nature - She guideth her  
children's feet."

— Andrew Downing

As each generation grows more and more apart from nature, our memory of "the good old days" dissolves like a fading photograph. Tomorrow's stewards of the ocean will be judging the quality of fishing against an ever-dimin-

ishing standard. As Aldo Leopold once lamented, "Perhaps our grandsons, having never seen a wild river, will never miss the chance to set a canoe in singing waters."

Of course there can be purely rational environmentalists. We don't have to visit the Great Barrier Reef to understand its value. On the other hand, separation from nature can warp the thinking of even those who are sincere in their desire to protect it. It breeds such "eco-modernist" notions as physically decoupling humans from their environment in order to save it; for instance, meeting our seafood needs through intensive at-sea farming while sheltering nature in marine reserves. "Nature unused is nature spared."

We are meant to co-exist with nature and in artful co-existence lies salvation. There are many ways to interact with wild oceans, fishing being just one of them. But as long as people do, we are more likely to appreciate it and fight to hold on to as much of our natural world as we can.

– Ken Hinman, President

## For the Future of Fishing

Wild Oceans is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future.

### Our Goals:

- preventing overfishing and restoring depleted fish populations to healthy levels
- promoting sustainable use policies that balance commercial, recreational and ecological values
- modifying or eliminating wasteful fishing practices
- improving our understanding of fish and their role in the marine environment
- preserving fish habitat and water quality

### Officers and Staff:

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# Give the people what they want

In 2003, *Wild Oceans* president Ken Hinman went before the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to express the public's frustration at the Commission's failure to manage menhaden for its vital role as a prey fish, despite clear signs of trouble for striped bass, osprey and other dependent predators.

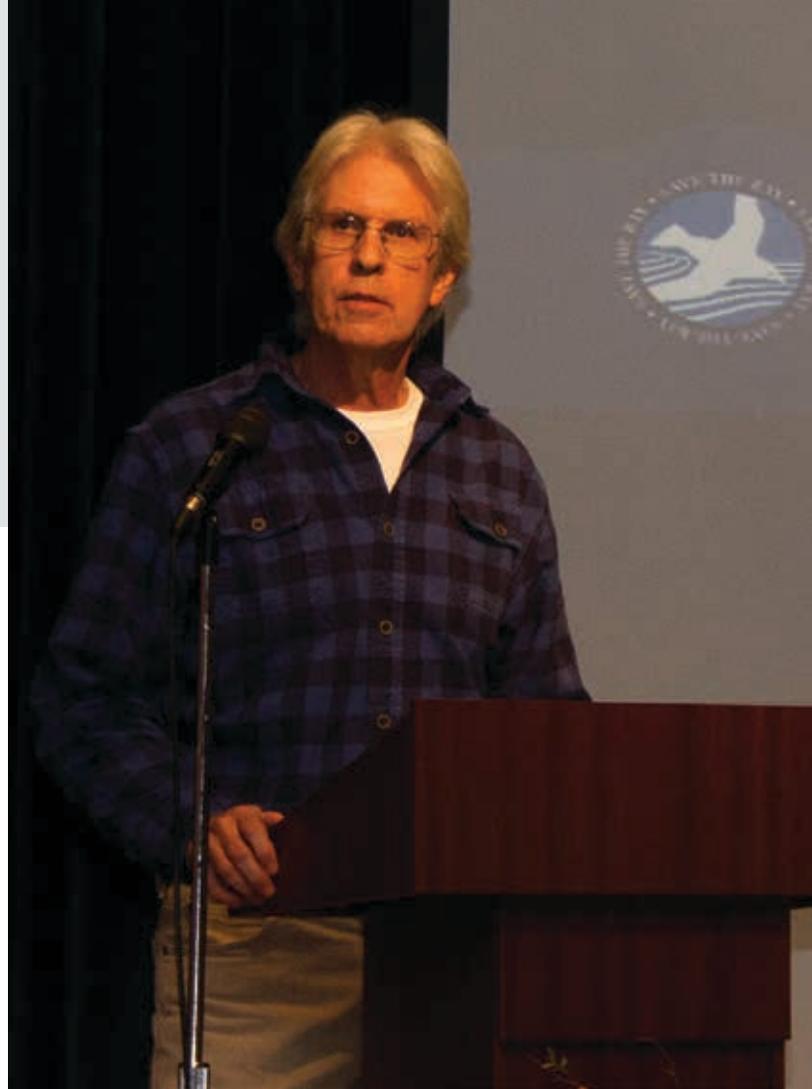
He carried with him a petition; an old-school petition, hundreds of pages of handwritten signatures, about 5,000 in all, collected over 3 months at Chesapeake Bay area fishing clubs and tackle shops. In today's digital currency, where on-line petitions are the norm, that number might easily represent 100,000 concerned citizens. Indeed, well over 100,000 people have weighed in on behalf of saving menhaden in recent years.

Along with the petition, Hinman delivered a request. He asked the ASMFC to "initiate the process of amending the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden to address concerns about the diminished ecological role of menhaden." The centerpiece of such an amendment, he said, would be 'ecological reference points' – that is, new abundance targets and fishing limits specifically designed to protect menhaden as forage for its many predators and the valuable recreational and commercial fisheries up and down the east coast which they support.

For the 12 years since that meeting, ecological reference points, or ERPs, have been on the table at the Commission, the elephant in the room whenever the status of menhaden is discussed.

Unfortunately, most of that time we've had to watch a ping-pong match between the commissioners and their science advisors, each believing it was the others responsibility to lead the way on ERPs.

It wasn't until last year, bowing to the public's persistent clamoring to get in the game, that the ASMFC's Menhaden Management Board finally gave the people what they want and voted to initiate Amendment 3 with the declared purpose of adopting ERPs within the next two years. For menhaden and its many advocates, this was a watershed event.



*Wild Oceans* president Ken Hinman fielding questions about menhaden at a recent public forum in Norfolk, Virginia.

*Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

The amendment will establish new reference points to conserve and manage menhaden for implementation by the 2018 fishing season. ERPs to be considered include the various "Lenfest-type" approaches, or what we call "the 75% solution" – a best practices goal of leaving three-quarters of the un-fished biomass in the ocean for ecosystem services. (Check out *Resource Sharing: The Berkeley Criterion* at [wildoceans.org](http://wildoceans.org))

The Menhaden Board will release a Public Information Document near the end of this year to solicit public guidance on the range of ERPs for Draft Amendment 3 in 2017. By including the 75% solution in the PID, the ASMFC will ensure that the public has an opportunity to get behind a comprehensive and ready path forward. Given the public's longstanding, overwhelming and unprecedented support for protecting menhaden as forage, Amendment 3 promises to be nothing less than a public referendum on the future of Atlantic menhaden. ■



ANGLERS WEIGH IN

# Mid-Atlantic ocean planning to conserve wildlife hotspots

by Pam Lyons Gromen,  
Executive Director

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, our website, WildOceans.org, featured a blog by Capt. John McMurray entitled 'Ocean Planning' Offers Anglers an Opportunity We Should Take. Capt. McMurray is a charter boat owner/operator serving his third term on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and since 2014, has represented the recreational fishing community on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean's (MARCO) Stakeholder Liaison Committee.

MARCO was formed from a 2009 Governors' Agreement and established a partnership among the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia to coordinate and address regional ocean priorities.

McMurray writes, "...we're facing a new age as fishermen. The ocean is no longer 'ours.' As the coastal population continues to boom, and the ever-increasing demand for energy continues, we'll likely see, within our lifetimes, ocean development at a scale that's almost hard to imagine."

Since 2012, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has issued eleven wind energy leases off the Atlantic coast. The most recent lease area under consideration, announced on March 16<sup>th</sup>, encompasses 127 square miles off of Long Island. And while oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic is now

off the table, thanks to a March 15<sup>th</sup> decision by the Obama Administration, applications to survey the ocean floor with seismic airguns are pending. Airgun surveys take place day and night, continuing for days, weeks, or months, firing sounds that can travel thousands of miles from the source with detrimental effects on wildlife behavior and physical health.

So what action can anglers take to make sure that their favorite go-to fishing spot is safeguarded from an onslaught of competing ocean uses – not just offshore energy development but sand mining, maritime navigation, and the siting of undersea pipelines and cables?

Mid-Atlantic anglers can voice their support for an effective Regional Ocean Plan, one that conserves places of high productivity and diversity, places that are essential to the resilience and function of the ecosystem – wild places that should be enjoyed by future generations of anglers. And they have.

The Mid-Atlantic is one of nine regional planning areas described under the National Ocean Policy (NOP), created through an Executive Order. Each region can establish a Regional Planning Body (RPB) consisting of federal, state, tribal and fishery management council representatives who work cooperatively to develop regional ocean plans.

Scheduled for completion in September 2016, the Mid-Atlantic ocean plan is

well underway. Encouragingly, the plan is incorporating an impressive body of work led by Professor Patrick Halpin of the Duke University Geospatial Ecology Lab. In Halpin's words, the work undertaken is "one of the largest aggregations of marine data taking place in the world." Halpin and his team are mapping areas in the Atlantic Ocean with high abundance of fish, seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals, and are overlaying that data with benthic habitat, and coral and canyons features. The resulting products are called ecologically rich areas (ERAs).

Inspired by Capt. McMurray's blog, over 50 of the region's anglers signed on to a letter submitted to the Mid-Atlantic RPB on February 29<sup>th</sup>, supporting the identification of ERAs and asking federal and state agencies serving on RPB to act within their existing authorities to conserve these places "which are so critical to the future of our fisheries."

Wild Oceans is proud to have played a role in drafting and circulating the angler sign-on letter to make sure that recreational fishing voices are heard at the Regional Ocean Planning table. Much work remains to be done in the coming months leading up the final version of the ocean plan, and stakeholders must continue to beat the drum for an ocean plan that replaces the current piecemeal approach to ocean management with a coordinated, holistic management framework that advances and prioritizes ocean health. ■

# We are Wild Oceans

When people ask me “who” we are, this is what I say:

*We were there at the birth of ocean fish conservation in the early 70s and have evolved along with it, playing a pivotal part in that evolution, one I describe as “an expanding circle of concern for all marine life” – from charismatic predators to lowly prey fish.*

*We’ve occupied a unique niche in ocean conservation; I like to say we approach every issue with the head of an environmentalist and the heart of a fisherman. Because we walk this “thin green line,” we are able to bring conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists together in common cause.*

*Throughout our 43-year history, we’ve been a catalyst, identifying opportunities to get ahead of the curve and establish precedents and principles that lead to more fish in the water today and long-lasting change for the future.*

*Maybe we didn’t invent fish conservation, but more than any other organization, we’ve defined it. Our role has been historic and the benefits to today’s fishermen immeasurable.*

This is why I am proud to say “I am *Wild Oceans*,” because this is what I am a part of, and so are you. I’ve dedicated the last 38 years of my life to this quietly effective organization, and throughout all those years, people like you have stood with us, helping shape the future into something we want for ourselves and our children. It’s that simple....and it’s that important.

*Ken Hinman*



## **Sandy Kaupe (1935-2016)**

### **ONE OF OUR FAVORITE PEOPLE**

Sandy Kaupe died at her home in Palm Beach on February 28<sup>th</sup>, leaving behind a legacy of love for the outdoors and fishing in particular. Her life-long passion led her to become one of Florida’s top anglers and most ardent conservationists. But more than that, Sandy was, as the *Palm Beach Post* put it, someone “who touched people in many circles and walks of life with her generosity and kindness.”

“Sandy was one of the first people I met and worked with when I joined *Wild Oceans* (then NCMC) nearly 40 years ago,” says president Ken Hinman. “She was always one of our biggest supporters and always at the top of my list of favorite people.”

In addition to being a valuable member of the *Wild Oceans* Board of Directors since the 1970s, Sandy served as a Commissioner on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and on the boards of the Clearwater Marine Science Museum, the Florida Aquarium and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.

Says John Jolley, a *Wild Oceans* Advisor who served as president of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club for 30 years: “Sandy and I fished and talked marine science together for over 45 years. Her quiet commitments and enthusiasm for sound resource management never paused.”

We pause now to remember and to appreciate how lucky we were to have known her. Sandy will be dearly missed by many. ■

WILD OCEANS MAKES A SPLASH  
AT FRED HALL TRADE SHOW

# A fishing show to remember



Thousands of fishermen descended on the Fred Hall Show at the Long Beach Convention Center in March to talk fish, look at reels and new gear, dig into the “dollar bin” to pick up some experimental lures, watch a couple of demonstrations and learn about *Wild Oceans* work to protect favorite recreational fish liked striped marlin and bluefin tuna, and our recent victory to protect forage fish in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

While most of our work involves meeting with scientists and decision makers about maintaining a healthy ocean ecosystem full of big fish and prey fish, we wanted to check in with recreational fishermen in Southern California. We grew hoarse talking to anglers about *Wild Oceans* and the importance of keeping longlines out of the Pacific. Most everyone we met knew that Pacific longliners based out of Hawaii kill tens of thousands of sharks and marlin as bycatch every year. And we confirmed that we are on the right course – more than 250 anglers signed a letter asking NOAA Fisheries to keep longliners out of waters off California and to quickly authorize new, innovative swordfish gear that may eliminate bycatch of endangered sea turtles.

“Meeting hundreds of anglers in a weekend, I’m so moved by their uni-

versal concern and altruism for preserving a healthy ocean for future generations,” said Theresa Labriola, *Wild Oceans* West Coast Fisheries Project Director. “The young and old continue to inspire me to fight to protect our oceans so that there are plenty of fish in the sea for today’s fishermen and tomorrow’s fisherwomen.”

*Wild Oceans* Board Member, Jody Bright, joined us at the show and hooked some offshore anglers on the idea of joining him in Hawaii this summer for the 2016 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series, and a chance to catch-and-release a big marlin or win a \$1.5 million purse. But they were more likely to win some gear at our booth from our apparel partner, Warbird Fishing Gear.

Meanwhile, Bill Boyce, also a *Wild Oceans* Board Member, unveiled the Dollar Fishing Club. For a buck a month, members can earn fishing adventures, gain free access to premium angler apps, and get discounts on marine supplies and fishing resorts. The Dollar Fishing Club generated a buzz and sent anglers our way all weekend.

Three other organizations, including the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Coastal Conservation Associa-

tion (CCA) of California were also talking to anglers about transitioning the Pacific swordfish fishery to “greener” gear. “When we speak to decision makers or Congress, our ability to demonstrate angler support for innovative, actively-tended gear is priceless. Together, we gave fishermen the opportunity to change the way we fish for swordfish by signing a *Wild Oceans* postcard, joining CCA’s petition or adding their business to an IGFA sponsored letter.” said Labriola. Working together, we are making it more difficult for the Pacific Fishery Management Council to keep driftnets in the ocean or to authorize longlines.

It was a show to remember, and we are already planning to check in with local fishermen again at next year’s Fred Hall Show. Until then, we’ll keep fighting for the future of fishing nationally and internationally. ■

*Above Photo: (from left to right) Jody Bright, Theresa Labriola and Bill Boyce pose in front of the Wild Oceans display booth at the Fred Hall Show in Long Beach, California.*

# Staff travel log

 *Wild Oceans* West Coast Fisheries Project Director, Theresa Labriola, attended an annual conference hosted by California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) in **Moss Landing, California**, December 14-16. This year's conference focused on movement patterns of marine species in the near-shore, what animal telemetry can tell us about fisheries, marine protected areas, and nearshore oceanography in the California Current. CalCOFI and the Center for Ocean Solutions also co-hosted a science workshop to discuss the 2015 El Nino and the potential impacts this event might have on the California Current, California fisheries and the wider Pacific ecosystem. Theresa met with researchers to discuss how their research overlaps with *Wild Oceans'* mission.

 *Wild Oceans* president Ken Hinman was one of three featured speakers at a public forum on menhaden conservation held January 6<sup>th</sup> in **Norfolk, Virginia**. The event was sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Ken, who serves as a Virginia representative on the Menhaden Advisory Panel of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, was joined at the podium by CBF senior scientist Chris Moore and VA state delegate Barry Knight. He gave the audience of over 100 people an overview of progress made toward conserving menhaden as an invaluable part of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean food chain.

 From January 18-20, Theresa attended the Bluefin Futures Symposium in **Monterey, California** that brought together the world's foremost bluefin experts to discuss the central issues that will shape a sustainable future for bluefin tuna populations. The symposium covered the latest scientific knowledge for all three species of bluefin, fishery management tools currently employed and planned, the economics of the bluefin tuna industry and trade, the emerging role of tuna aquaculture, and the impacts of climate change. Using this knowledge, Theresa is researching what further role U.S. recreational fishermen can play in the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin.

 Ken and Theresa joined Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen and Office Manager Lauren Megan for a meeting with the *Wild Oceans* Board of Directors, which was held in **Islamorada, Florida** January 21-24. Staff and board discussed and set priorities for 2016, including ensuring effective implementation of the Billfish Conservation Act, keeping the west coast swordfish fishery on a path toward sustainable gears, and building on recent successes advancing conservation of forage fish on both the east and west coasts.

 The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in **New Bern, North Carolina**, February 9-11, where it continued to move forward with plans to advance ecosystem approaches to management, including the protection of the region's unmanaged forage fish. Pam attended the meeting in support of these council initiatives and spoke to the importance of developing clear objectives to guide future ecosystem-based management priorities.

 This year marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Fred Hall Fishing Show, and Theresa joined Board Members Jody Bright and Bill Boyce at the new *Wild Oceans* booth for the five-day event in **Long Beach, California**, March 2-6. (see, *A Fishing Show to Remember* p. 6)

 Ken attended the Spring Meeting of the U.S. Advisory Committee to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) March 10-11 in **Silver Spring, Maryland**. He is a Technical Advisor to the committee's Billfish Working Group. The group discussed how best to follow up on last year's extension of the ICCAT conservation program for blue and white marlin, which has halted overfishing but is not rebuilding the stocks. "In my view, we need to give high seas fleets more incentive to release billfish caught as bycatch and increase the odds that released fish survive," says Ken. "The U.S. needs to keep pushing to get other countries to use circle hooks of a consistent size and design and restrict trade in billfish, including sailfish, to local demand in home mar-

kets." *Wild Oceans* will work to see that these recommendations are part of the U.S. position this fall.

 As a member of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel (AP), Pam participated in a meeting with fellow AP members on March 17<sup>th</sup> in **Baltimore, Maryland**. The panel provided a number of recommendations for the Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee to take into consideration the following day, when it met to discuss the Unmanaged Forage Fish Omnibus Amendment. Disappointingly, a number of prey species for highly migratory species (HMS) were recommended for removal from the amendment because HMS are not managed by the Mid-Atlantic Council. Pam argued that ecosystem-based management demands a broader, more encompassing approach and that the full list of forage species should be retained in the public comment document. The Council will take up the Committee's recommendations at the April meeting in Montauk, New York.

 The Pacific Fishery Management Council held its first meeting of 2016 in **Sacramento, California**. Theresa attended from March 8-12. Four relevant issues on the agenda included: 1) the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report, 2) a progress update on Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 2 – a Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review, 3) initial scoping for authorization of Deep Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) in the swordfish fishery, and 4) Council recommendations for international management of bluefin tuna. Theresa provided testimony on Initiative 2, asking the Council to support linking indicators to management measures. She also testified in support of the rapid development of a full range of alternatives for DSBG authorization. The Council decided to move ahead with scoping, but on a delayed schedule. In addition, Theresa participated in ancillary meetings of the Ecosystem Workgroup, Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. ■



SAME QUALITY CONTENT YOU HAVE COME TO EXPECT

# WildOceans.org gets a new look, improved functionality



This month we are rolling out a whole new website! Digitally, we felt we had the wrong gear – as if we were marlin fishing with a crab pot. But no more! Our new, fully responsive setup allows you to check out our latest news on your phone, ipad, or desktop and easily get involved in our work through our action center. Plus, you can check out our new feature, *I am Wild Oceans*, where we share stories about people who help make *Wild Oceans* great, and we look forward to hearing your stories, too. We hope you like what you see!

Your mailing label includes your membership renewal date.

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