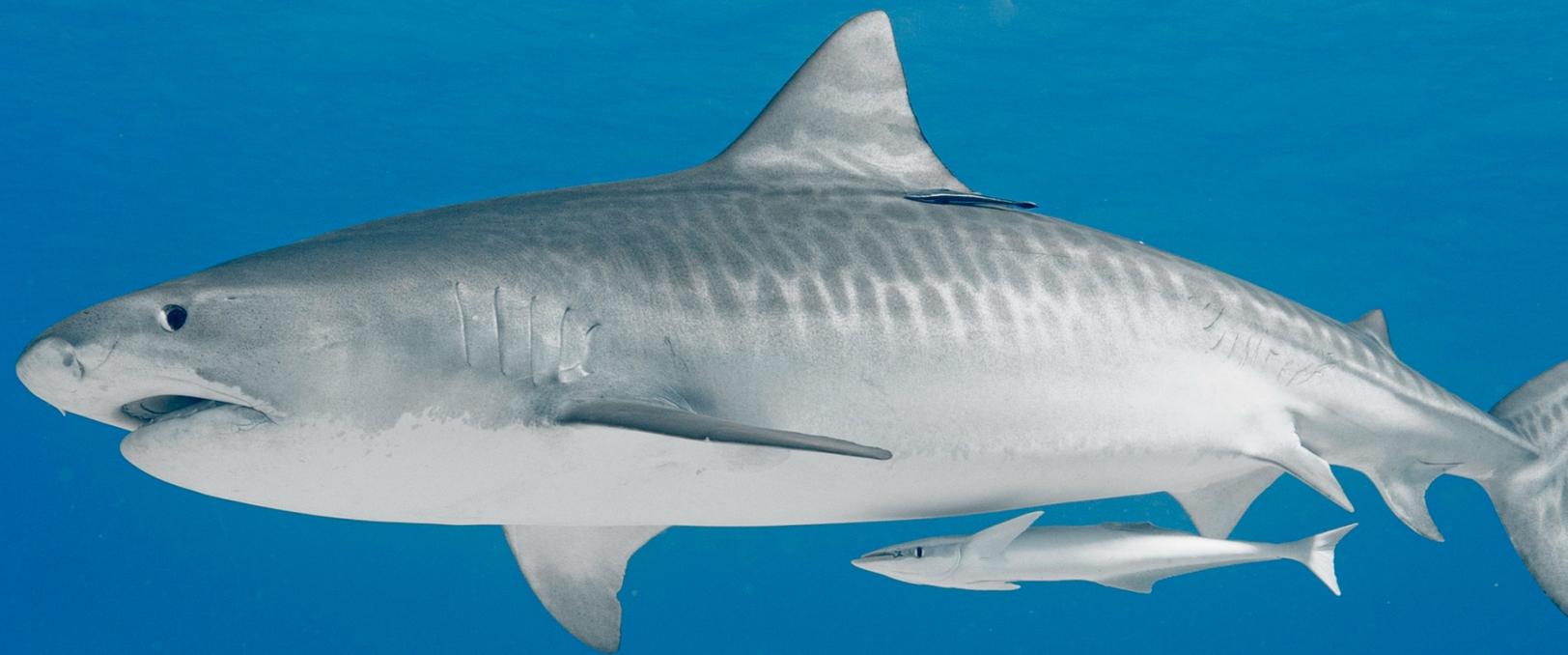


ANNUAL REPORT

O'SEAS CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION, INC.



2025



RESEARCH

94

DAYS SAMPLED

132

SHARKS TAGGED

3

SATELLITE TAGS
DEPLOYED

4

ACOUSTIC TAGS
DEPLOYED

3

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS
IN REVIEW

2

GRADUATE
STUDENTS (ONE
GRADUATED)

EDUCATION

38

SHARK CAMPERS

3

FULL RIDE
SCHOLARSHIPS

9

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

62

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS EDUCATED

1,407

VISITORS EDUCATED IN
THE LAB

CONSERVATION

SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK

NURSERY IDENTIFIED!!!!

FISHSAFE HOOK
NOVEL INVENTION THAT
CAN MAKE SHARK
FISHING SAFER

SHARK EXCLUSION BARRIER

FINAL TESTING COMPLETE
AND CAN SERVE AS
ALTERNATIVE TO SHARK
CULLING

MONTAUK SHARK LAB

ESTABLISHED AND
EDUCATING YOUTH AND
PROTECTING SHARKS

MISCELLANEOUS

1

CHILDREN'S BOOK
WRITTEN – 'THE TIGER
THAT HAD NO STRIPES'

1

NEW WEBSITE CREATED –
[WWW.MONTAUKSHARKLAB.
ORG](http://WWW.MONTAUKSHARKLAB.ORG)

1

CHILDREN'S NATURE
SERIES CREATED –
'ADVENTURES WITH THE
SHARKDOCTOR'

8

TIMES THAT WE WERE
FEATURED ON LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL NEWS
BROADCASTS

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Dear Donors and Supporters,

Thank you so much for your continued support this season. As you can see from the previous pages, we have been highly proactive across research, education, and conservation initiatives.

What may not be immediately visible, however, is the tremendous amount of effort and funding that went into developing the **Montauk Shark Lab**. With a generous space donated by the Montauk Anglers Club and your generous donations, we created a small-scale shark facility where the local community can visit, learn about regional shark species, and even engage hands-on through our touch tanks featuring sharks from Montauk and around the world.



This was the most ambitious and challenging undertaking for O'Seas to date. It required significant staff commitment, operational funding to maintain healthy systems and animals, and constant management. Successfully operating the lab nearly every day throughout the summer was a major achievement and an invaluable learning experience for our entire team.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand the lab in 2026 with additional tanks and species. By 2027, we have set an exciting and ambitious goal: the development of a **floating shark lab**. While this is a bold vision, we are confident that with continued dedication and support, it can become a reality.

Our conservation efforts are also yielding meaningful results. We are incredibly proud of Julia Crews, who completed her M.Sc. at Coastal Carolina University. Through funding her fieldwork and collaborating closely, we identified a **shortfin mako shark nursery off the coast of Montauk**; a significant discovery for a species that has been heavily overfished. Protecting nursery habitats is critical to ensuring the survival of future generations.

In addition, Steven Sitzer has begun his M.Sc. at UMass Dartmouth, where he is studying our new innovation: the **FishSafe Hook**. Early trials conducted in 2025 show tremendous promise. Traditional stainless-steel hooks can remain embedded in sharks for life, often causing infection, impairing feeding, and leading to mortality. Our FishSafe Hooks are engineered to maintain strength during use but degrade within months, reducing long-term harm. We anticipate final results later this summer.

Also, Timothy Lis is doing incredibly well at Boston University. He is currently taking a Shark Biology course and is spearheading a project that looks at the movements of a rather unique population of sandbar sharks on the sound side of Montauk. Though this research is in its infancy, we have made some notable observations including: sandbar shark mating, the identification of shark pregnancy (we physically felt pups within the sandbar sharks) and the largest sandbar shark ever measured on record (9ft).

As we look toward 2026, we have several key goals. One is to host our first fundraising gala. We had our sights on doing this at the Maritime Aquarium, but we may tame it down and do it at another more feasible location. Another is to transition toward a more year-round operational model, allowing us to provide consistent employment for our staff. We are actively expanding into school and youth education programs and growing a new revenue stream through our replica shark tooth products, now available at the Maritime Aquarium, Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, Montauk Corner Store, and the Montauk Shark Lab. Our goal is to expand to at least 10 retail locations by the end of 2026, in hopes of generating sustainable funding to support animal care and staff salaries year-round. It's lofty but our staff have worked so incredibly hard that I really want to do my best to have a more year-round position for them as finding marine biological employment is getting increasingly more difficult.

Once again, thank you for your support. This marks our first formal annual report, and with the addition of our first part-time staff member, Julia Crews, we hope to provide additional updates, such as a Shark Camp report, following the 2026 season.

We wish you all the best in the coming year and are deeply grateful to have you as part of our mission.

Sincerely,



Dr. Craig O'Connell and the O'Seas Team

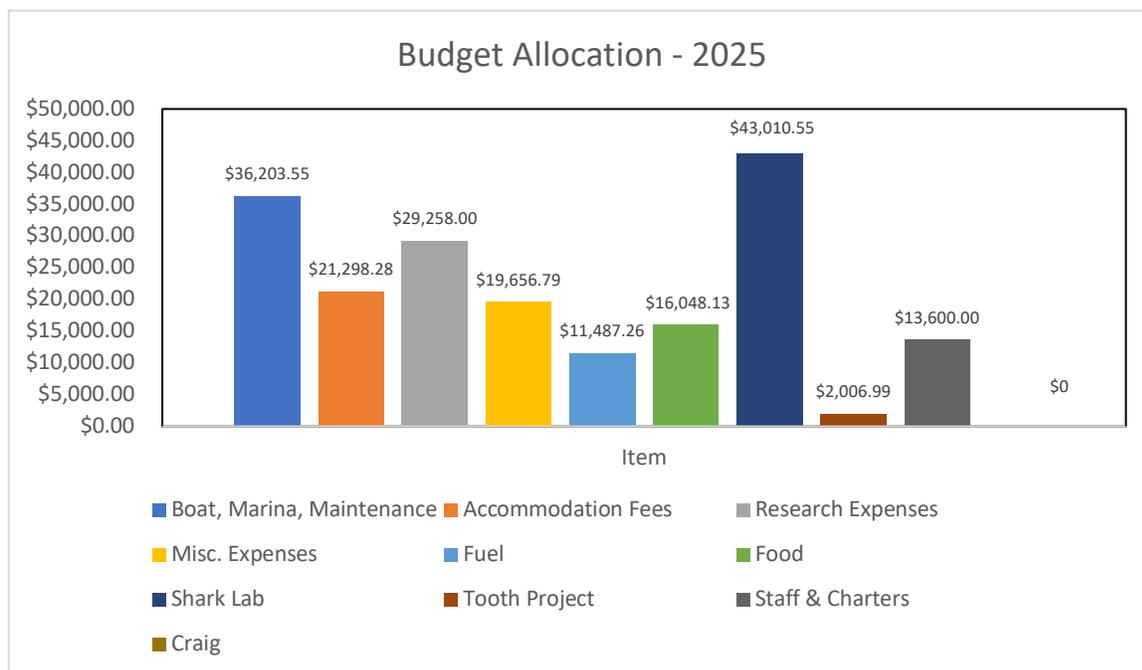
FINANCIALS

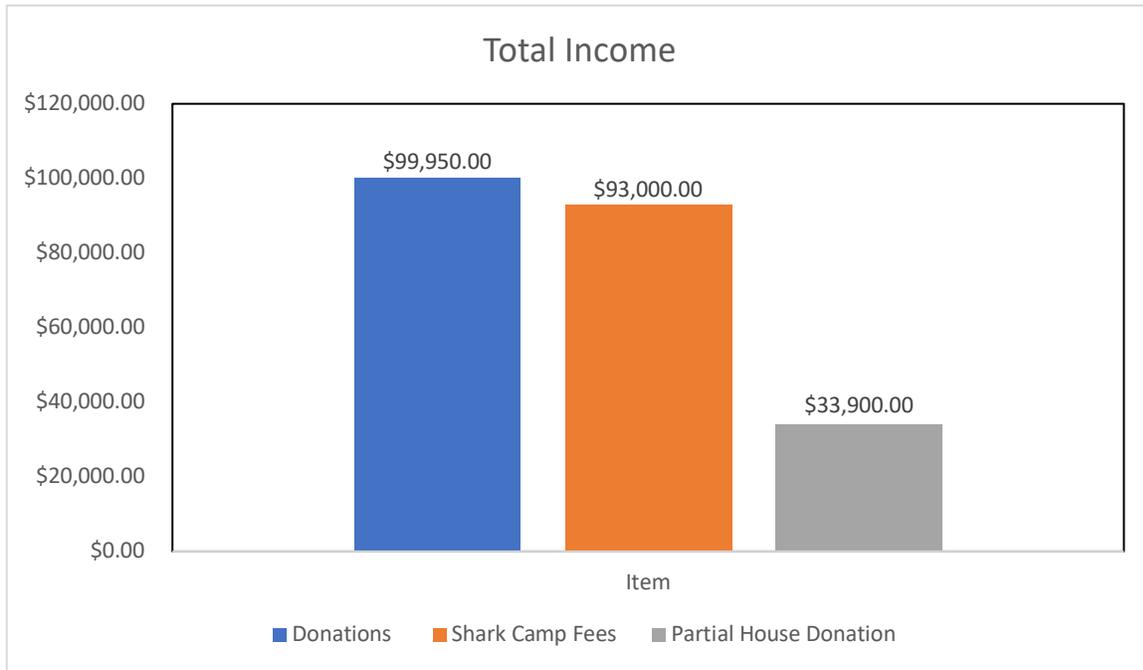
Below is a summary of how our funds were allocated in 2025. Our three largest expense categories were vessel operations (including docking, maintenance, winterization, and additional technology), research activities, and development of the Montauk Shark Lab.

Looking ahead, we anticipate meaningful improvements in financial efficiency. The shark tooth initiative is expected to become largely profit-generating in 2026, having already produced over \$2,000 in sales. Additionally, while we have made planned investments in the lab, including new tanks (\$10,000) and an expanded collection of sharks (~\$5,000), we do not expect total lab-related expenses to approach the \$35,010 incurred during its initial development phase.

We have also established a partnership with East Hampton High School and will be welcoming our first student volunteer. She will assist with monitoring and maintaining the lab over three weekends, providing valuable support while gaining hands-on experience and hopefully this may help with lab expenditures.

Also, as you will notice, we are right on budget in 2025. This was likely due to our push to get Montauk Shark Lab and our hook project moving forward. Both have a chance to impact the general public and sharks in a very positive way so we were quite relentless with making it happen in 2025. We will be a bit more careful in 2026 or I'm going to be in trouble 😊.





*Note: The house donation isn't an actual monetary donation, it is rather the amount discounted from the house for its use throughout the summer/fall.

Total Accounting

Item	
Total Monetary Income (Excluding House Cost Donation)	\$192,950.00
Total Expenses	\$192,569.55
Total in Account	\$380.45

