

# Looking For An Eager Audience For Your Research While Satisfying "Broader Impact" Requirements?

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## What is COSEE-OLC?

COSEE-Ocean Learning Communities (COSEE-OLC) is a partnership among the University of Washington School of Oceanography, University of Washington College of Education, the Seattle Aquarium and the Ocean Inquiry Project. This unique collaboration is funded by the National Science Foundation. COSEE-OLC has developed a learning community of marine volunteer organizations, resource managers, University and State agency scientists and formal educators who through organized events/workshops have worked to increase ocean literacy and stewardship of the marine environment through public engagement. This learning community offers ocean/marine scientists opportunities to improve their outreach skills, spread the word about their research, and get help with research efforts.



## What does COSEE-OLC do?

COSEE-OLC cultivates and studies learning communities of ocean scientists, formal and informal educators, learning scientists, volunteers who work in the marine environment, and resource managers who, through organized events, workshops and networking, have joined forces to promote ocean literacy and ocean science in the Puget Sound region.

## How are scientists involved?

Through COSEE-OLC, ocean and marine scientists practice and receive feedback on communicating their research with diverse audiences, participate in the science of learning and invigorate their public outreach efforts. COSEE-OLC also provides scientists opportunities to connect with an army of marine volunteers and institutions eager to learn, participate in and spread the word about current research. The chance to meet, ask questions of, and clarify meaning with working scientists means that volunteers and staff can more effectively translate information and share it with the public through the thousands of people they reach on beaches, boats and in schools each year.



## COSEE-OLC Offers Ocean Scientists a Model for Addressing Broader Impact Requirements Beyond the K-12 Framework

### Ways To Engage A Large Marine Focused Volunteer Community:



#### OCEAN INQUIRY PROJECT CRUISES:

Volunteer scientists lead participants in gathering data, model how to capture data, and explain how it is used. Scientists may also present their work more broadly to this interested audience.

*"The UW student leading the stations asked some phenomenal questions about very basic things (i.e., do you think the temperature of the water is warmer or cooler at the surface/ bottom), and from those questions a whole new world of knowledge and inquiry was pulled from their "students". I intend to use some of those questions and good technique for getting others to (be) engaged in my Beach Naturalist activities."*

– Marine Volunteer on Ocean Inquiry Project Cruise



#### PRESENTATIONS TO LARGE AND SMALL AUDIENCES:

Scientists, both well established and up and coming, speak about their ocean/marine research to motivated and engaged community members at formal talks or smaller workshops.



#### POSTER SESSIONS:

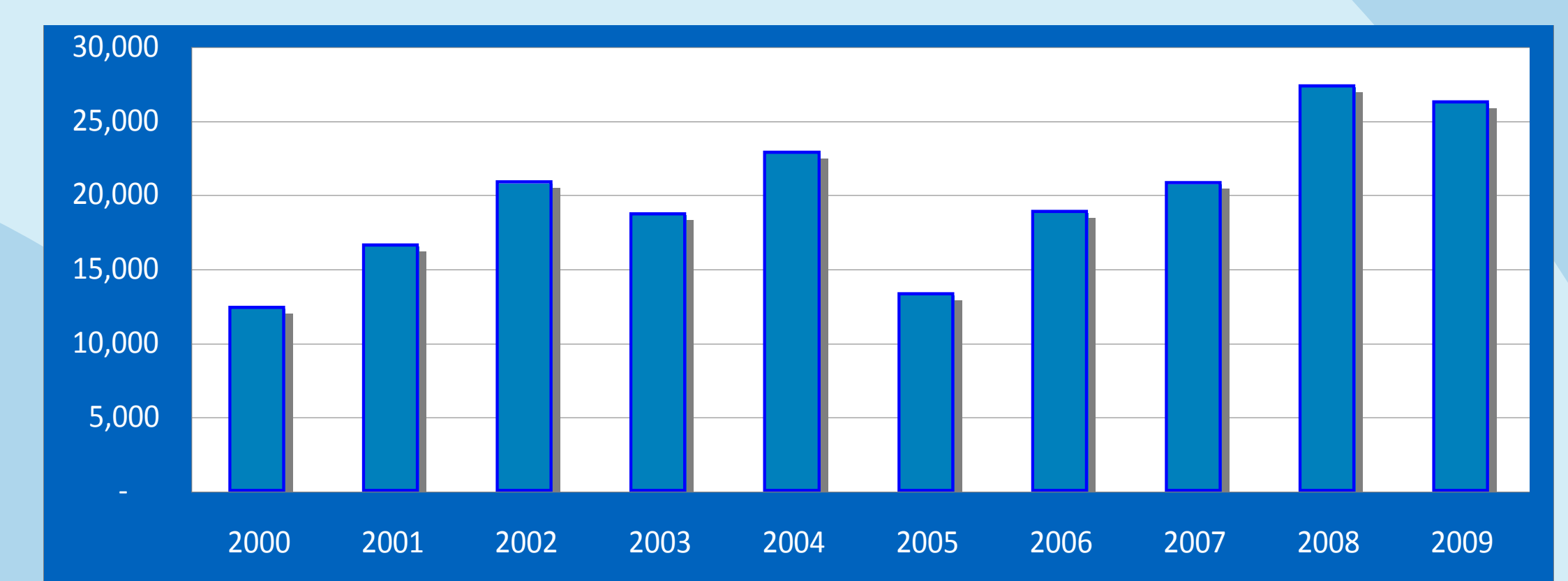
Researchers present posters about their ocean/marine studies to the marine volunteer community, using this traditional outreach tool to reach a broader population.

*"I have never observed a poster session that had this much energy. I had six to eight people around my poster at all times asking me questions—really engaged."*

– U.W. Graduate Student



#### Beach Naturalist Contacts with the Public



The number of contacts Beach Naturalist marine volunteers have represents the ripple effect of sharing their knowledge of ocean and marine research with a larger audience.

#### DIALOGUES TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF OCEAN SCIENCE:

Scientists give short talks to an informed lay audience, followed by a moderated discussion with the group on how to make their talk and content more accessible.

*"Since I am a scientist, I learned a lot from listening to feedback about how the science could be better presented to non-scientists."*

– Scientist at the Communicating Ocean and Marine Science Workshop

#### CITIZEN SCIENTISTS CAN BOLSTER RESEARCH EFFORTS

COSEE-OLC can connect scientists with hundreds of marine volunteers. The potential of this work force is illustrated by the success of SoundCitizen ([www.soundcitizen.org](http://www.soundcitizen.org)), for which hundreds of citizens sample Puget Sound. Could you use that people power for your research?



SEATTLE AQUARIUM



School of Oceanography  
University of Washington



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