

A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND OCEAN UNITY



REEF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

In 1990, underwater photographers and marine life authors Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach set out to create an organization that would make a difference for ocean conservation. They sought to educate divers and snorkelers about the vast diversity of marine life and engage them in documenting the status and trends of ocean populations.

During the summer of 1993, the first REEF surveyors entered the waters off Key Largo. With that splash, these pioneering volunteers began REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project.

In 2020, thirty years after REEF's founding, the REEF survey database surpassed a quarter-million surveys, collected by over 16,000 citizen scientists at tens of thousands of sites around the globe. The project has become the largest ocean citizen science initiative in the world.



REEF has grown significantly since those formative survey dives in 1993. Through the years, REEF's scope has expanded to include conservation science on endangered and invasive species, education programs for ocean enthusiasts of all ages, and mentoring the next generation of ocean stewards through internships.

Ocean Unity

In celebration of REEF's 30th anniversary, this garden display recognizes donors from the summer of 2020. *Ocean Unity* embodies the spirit of the REEF community, joining together to support conservation, education, and service.