Beach Naturalist Program

2016

SEATTLE AQUARIUM

Public Education and Outreach on local beaches

Seattle Aquarium Beach Naturalist Beaches

We recruit volunteers and publicize when we are on the beach

There’s a lot to talk about, from moon snails to eelgrass and salmon, from bulkheads to natural shorelines and what the differences are,

to the many great discoveries on the beach each season

In 2016 volunteers posted what they saw on the beach on our Beach Naturalist webpage

After each shift we debrief and record data with our beach team

Beach: _____ Date: _____

Captain: _____

Names of Naturalists	# of contacts from counter	# of nearshore and/or salmon conversations	# of invitations handed out	Did any conversations lead to positive beach behavior change (better beach etiquette)? (Yes/No)

What were your salmon and/or nearshore conversations about today?

Unexpected critters, discoveries, events, etc:

Greatest moments?

Today's biggest challenge or difficulty:

Have a GENERAL discussion with your team, and rate overall public beach etiquette.

Please circle one:

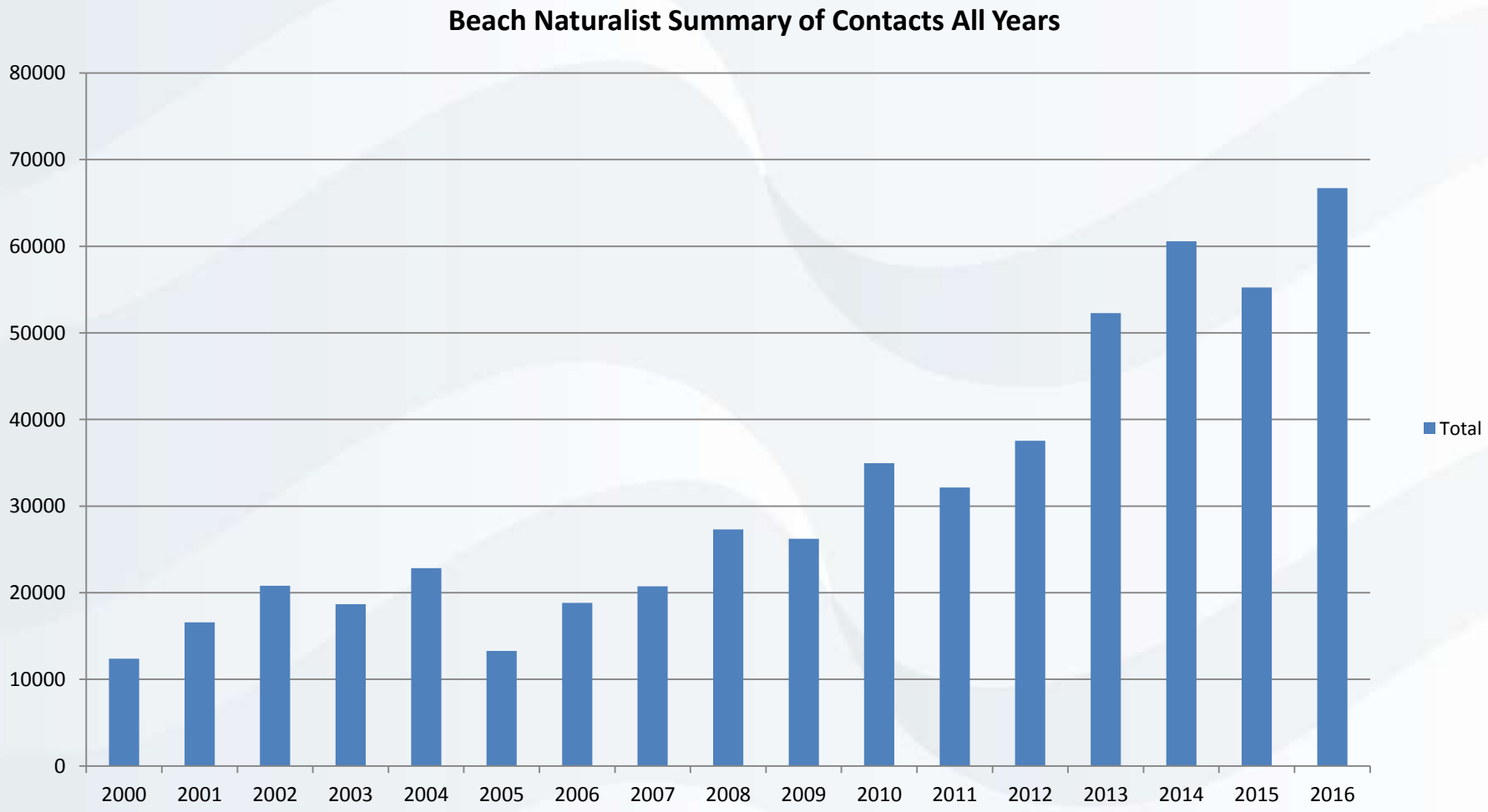
Excellent =

Good =

Needs improvement =

Poor =

Conversations on the beach in 2016



Statistics in brief

- 66,722 conversations on the beach in 2016
- Salmon/nearshore conversations in 2016: 9,933
  - 4,383 conversations at the Locks
  - 5,550 conversations at the beach
- Total beach conversations 2000-2016: 537,133
- Conversations on WRIA 8 beaches:
  - Richmond Beach: 7,466
  - Carkeek: 9,933
  - Golden Gardens: 8,322
- 91% of naturalists felt they had at least one conversation per beach shift that led to a positive behavior change on the beach
- 76% of the volunteers were returning from the previous season

We talk to beach visitors about salmon issues and the nearshore

We are at the Locks in July and August to share information about the sockeye and Chinook runs

Through experience and training opportunities volunteers are always learning something new.

A few highlights from the beach

- I remember one person very worried about all the "dead crabs" they were finding. She was so happy to learn these were molts of living crabs! I could see her whole attitude change to find she was on a thriving beach full of life, rather than a dying polluted place she had feared.
- Each year I have experienced more families returning to the beach enthusiastically practicing respectful beach etiquette and teaching it respectfully to others....good modeling of behavior change that we want to see happening! It's a joy to see pride in their beach with ownership and proactive action....individual responsibility for preservation and protection!
- I love the beach time and what you see when you finally slow down and look around. We have amazing beaches with so much life. I love that I now know what it is and can talk to guests about it.

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

2015 Volunteer Engagement Award

Seattle Aquarium

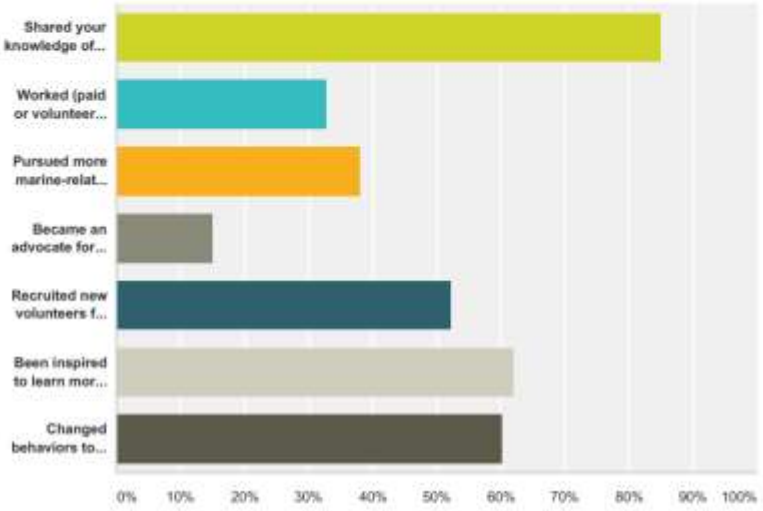
Beach Naturalist Program

PRESIDENT & CEO

CHAIR OF THE AZA BOARD

Q21 In just this past 2016 season, in what way has your involvement with the Beach Naturalist Program led to other activities? PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY.

Answered: 113 Skipped: 22



Answer Choices	Responses
Shared your knowledge of the beach with others outside of the Beach Naturalist program (gone to a child's classroom, led a beachwalk for your neighbors, etc.)	84.96% 96
Worked (paid or volunteer) with other environmental education organizations	32.74% 37
Pursued more marine-related educational opportunities	38.05% 43
Became an advocate for Puget Sound (writing letters to newspapers, politicians)	15.04% 17
Recruited new volunteers for the Beach Naturalist Program (friends, family, beach visitors)	52.21% 59
Been inspired to learn more about conservation measures that would help Puget Sound	61.95% 70
Changed behaviors to be more environmentally friendly as you learned more about Puget Sound	60.18% 68
Total Respondents: 113	

We will continue to offer two evening low tide beach walks during the winter

It’s all about the nearshore.

http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=3071025

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021065923_lowtidexml.html