



END OF YEAR REPORT

2022



INTRODUCTION

Sea Shepherd is a direct-action ocean conservation movement. Our mission is to defend, conserve and protect the world's ocean from illegal exploitation and environmental destruction.

Acting as the lungs of our planet, the ocean is a vital part of our planet's ecosystem. It is home to millions of species; from the smallest (0.02 micrometers plankton) to the biggest animals on our planet (33 meter blue whales). Sadly, our ocean and its inhabitants are dying from overfishing and habitat destruction. Poachers plunder marine wildlife sanctuaries with impunity, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing goes unchecked, and millions of animals are killed as bycatch.

On top of this, international and national laws protecting the world's oceans are difficult to enforce. But that's where we step in.

Our passionate volunteers take part in the type of campaigns that really matter: on our ships and through direct intervention. You can see us as privateers with the biggest independent navy on the planet; solely aimed at protecting the ocean.

Whenever we can, we will work closely together with governments and law enforcement agencies. From relentlessly chasing notorious INTERPOL-wanted poaching vessels to working with nations in tackling illegal fishing in their sovereign waters.

But don't be mistaken. When there is nobody else willing to step forward, we will raise the Jolly Roger flag and move into uncharted waters to defend, conserve and protect.

Sea Shepherd Global. For the Ocean.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In 2022 Sea Shepherd Global continued our successful campaigns in Africa, where we assisted with the **80th arrest** since launching our partnerships to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2016.

We also expanded our work in the Mediterranean Sea, assisting local authorities to act against vessels fishing illegally in marine protected areas in Greece, Italy and Israel. Our international crew onboard the Sea Eagle discovered and confiscated over **7600 illegal octopus traps** off the coast of Tuscany, releasing thousands of octopuses back into the ocean.

We very much look forward to continuing these campaigns to protect crucial areas in the Mediterranean Sea and help restore the decimated population of Mediterranean monk seals.

After two years of Covid restrictions, in 2022 Sea Shepherd Global's land-based volunteers around the world have been able to get back out in their communities, organizing local beach and river cleanups, **spreading the word about our mission** to defend marine wildlife in schools and high-profile events, and supporting our direct action campaigns through fundraising and merchandise sales. Without their tireless effort and passion, our campaigns at sea wouldn't be possible. Sea Shepherd is a movement.

A movement that has only gotten stronger in our 45th year of marine conservation as **we fight against threats such as illegal fishing, plastic pollution, and habitat destruction.**

Thanks to the collective efforts of our many supporters, generous donors, and our hard-working crew, the **Sea Shepherd Global fleet will remain on the frontlines in 2023**, focusing on the only thing that matters: **the defense of the ocean and precious marine life.**



A stylized white signature of Captain Alex Cornelissen on a dark background.

Captain Alex Cornelissen
Chief Executive Officer
Sea Shepherd Global





DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS OVERVIEW

What makes Sea Shepherd Global campaigns special is their effectiveness and our unique commitment to measuring success by two criteria, and two criteria only: **the lives we save and the number of criminal operations that we shut down.**

When you are standing on the deck of an industrial trawler and your presence means the difference between life and death for the animals. When the law enforcement agents who you brought to the scene of a wildlife crime have the authority to arrest that vessel, stopping its wake of destruction, then the animals do not care if we are the most controversial marine conservation organization in the world. Nor do the animals care if we are the most confrontational marine conservation organization in the world. The animals care about one thing and one thing only—are we the most effective

marine conservation organization in the world? Will our actions save their lives?

With more than **eighty fishing vessels arrested to date**, and many, **many millions of marine creatures saved**, we are living up to the obligation that we have to our donors—and to the animals—of maximizing our effectiveness.

Because every illegal fishing vessel arrested is a floating slaughterhouse we've shutdown, and every day spent detained in port represents tens of thousands of marine creatures saved.

But even with that said, arresting illegal fishing vessels is confrontational; and to the operators who tried to get away with one more fisheries crime—but whose luck ran out when a Sea Shepherd Global vessel honed in

on them—we are controversial because we are filling a role that no other non-governmental organizations has ever filled before us.

On the days when we don't encounter any poaching, we can proudly show that our patrols are having an impact: **deterrence**. It's the goal of any law enforcement because it means that we prevented the exploitation before it even began, allowing heavily overfished areas to finally begin to recover.

Deterrence saves lives.

Effectiveness: it's what matters to me – a personal debt to the creatures of the sea who have no voice save for ours – and by any measurement, 2022 was an incredibly effective year for the ocean thanks to your generous support.



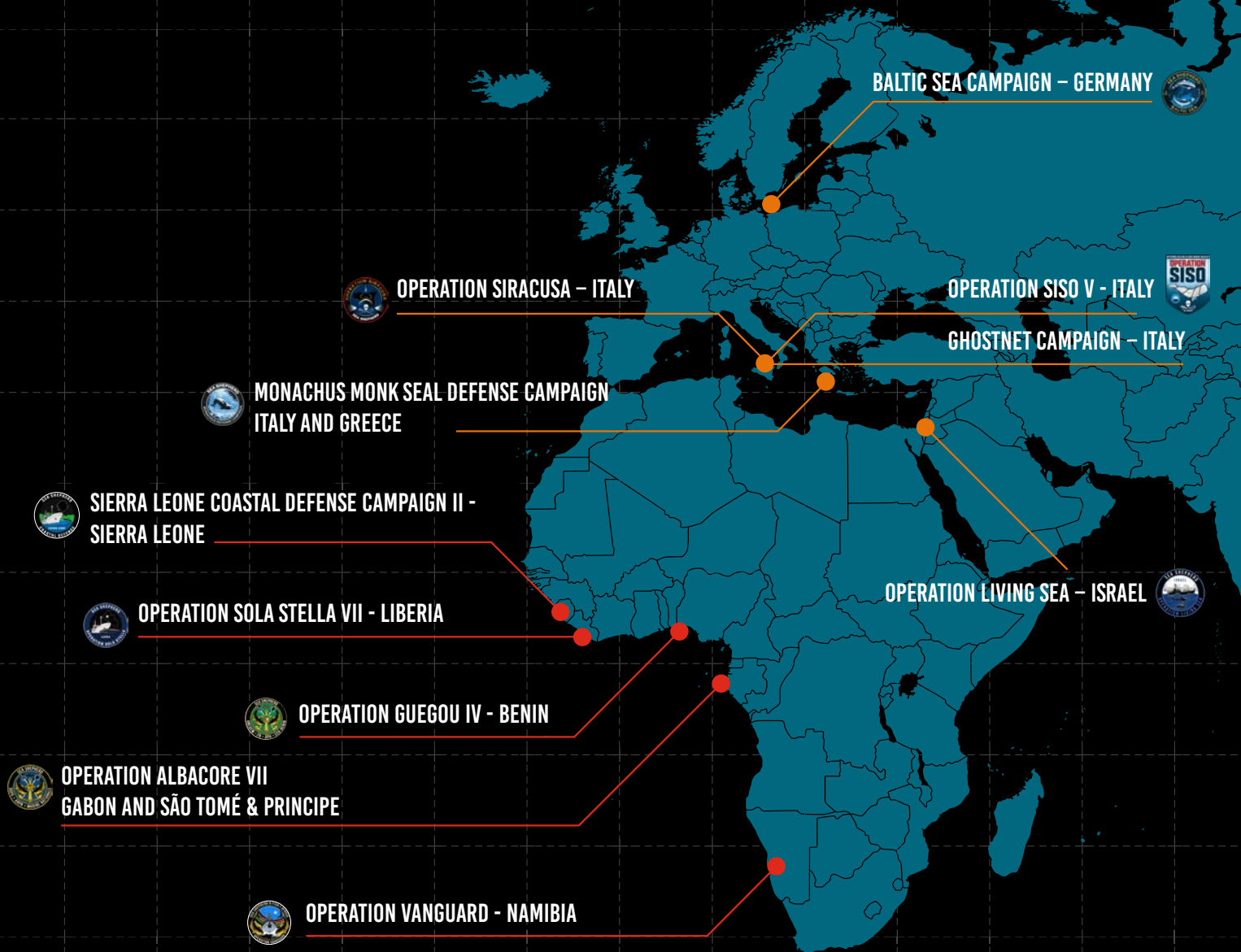
Captain Peter Hammarstedt
Sea Shepherd Global Director
of Campaigns





OUR CAMPAIGNS

EUROPE/MEDITERRANEAN



AFRICA



OCEANIA



MARINE DEBRIS CAMPAIGN - AUSTRALIA



SHARK DEFENCE CAMPAIGN - AUSTRALIA



OPERATION PAHU - NEW ZEALAND



ILLEGAL FISHING CAMPAIGNS

Sea Shepherd Global is on the front lines, working with local authorities and regional partners to combat one of the biggest threats to marine wildlife today: illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

WHY WE MUST END IUU FISHING:

- ▶ Marine wildlife for human consumption is the world's most valuable traded commodity. Though difficult to evaluate, it is believed that IUU fishing accounts for up to \$23.5 billion worth of sales each year.
- ▶ 1 in 5 wild ocean fish on the market are believed to have been caught through IUU fishing.
- ▶ IUU fishing is estimated to be the sixth-largest global crime.
- ▶ IUU fishing not only places immense pressure on the 93 per cent of commercial fish populations that are now fully- or over-exploited, it also threatens coastal communities that depend on these species.
- ▶ It is estimated that over 300,000 whales and dolphins die from entanglement in fishing gear each year. These entanglements are the single largest cause of mortality for small cetaceans.



OUR PARTNERS

Since 2016, Sea Shepherd Global has been working with national authorities and regional partners to combat IUU fishing, and fisheries crime, in African waters. Successful campaigns have been conducted in partnership with authorities in Gabon, São Tomé & Príncipe, Liberia, Benin, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and The Gambia. To date, these unique partnerships have resulted in the arrest of 80 vessels for illegal fishing and other fisheries crimes.

OUR APPROACH

The key to stopping IUU fishing is monitoring, control and surveillance - especially the enforcement of existing laws and regulations protecting marine wildlife, people and the environment. However, many African coastal and island states do not currently have offshore patrol vessels that can cover the entirety of their waters. Sea Shepherd Global is the only organization providing civilian offshore patrol vessels so that authorities from partner countries can enforce fisheries and conservation laws in their sovereign waters.



LOOKING FORWARD

Sea Shepherd Global continually aims to strengthen relationships with partner nations while steadily building partnerships in additional African countries where IUU fishing is an ongoing problem. The success of our campaigns in the region have provided us an opportunity to expand its area of operations to protect more marine wildlife on both the west and east coast of the African continent.

AFRICA



Operation Albacore VII

Gabon and São Tomé & Príncipe

Due to the success of our past patrols in the region, this year there was **no illegal activity detected** on our seventh campaign patrolling Africa's largest marine protected area with Gabonese authorities. The arrest of thirteen vessels in Gabon and two in São Tomé & Príncipe for illegal fishing and other fisheries crime in past campaigns has successfully deterred poaching in the region, saving millions of lives as a result.

[Read more](#)



Operation Sola Stella VII

Liberia

In April 2022, Sea Shepherd Global assisted the Liberian Coast Guard with the arrest of a trawler fishing inside a prohibited area reserved for artisanal fishermen. The boarding crew soon discovered that half of the catch was plastic bags. **Six more vessels were arrested in 2022** for electronic identity fraud and maritime safety and labor violations, including the Kanball III, which had evaded arrest when first boarded during the episode featuring Sea Shepherd Global in **Trafficked** with Mariana van Zeller.

[Read more](#)



Operation Guegou IV

Benin

Since 2019, **our campaigns in Benin have resulted in nine arrests**, and the political attention due to those arrests led to legislative reform to raise fines for fishing in protected areas from US\$10k to US\$250k and prison sentences, thus deterring any illegal activity this year. This was our fourth year partnering with local NGO Eco-Benin and law enforcement agents, and our vessel, Age of Union, continued patrolling the entirety of Benin's waters, paying special attention to borders with neighboring Togo and Nigeria where incursions by unlicensed foreign industrial fishing vessels have occurred in the past.

[Read more](#)



Operation Vanguard

Namibia

In 2022, incidents of 'border hopping' by foreign industrial factory trawlers that fish illegally in the most remote areas of Namibia's sovereign waters have largely ceased due to at-sea patrols with Namibian fisheries inspectors and police officers working in collaboration with Sea Shepherd Global crew on board the Ocean Warrior. **A tuna-fishing vessel, which carried far more shark fins than corresponding trunks, was arrested** after trying to evade inspection.

[Read more](#)



Sierra Leone Coastal Defense Campaign II

Sierra Leone

Sea Shepherd Global's Age of Union continued our second campaign of patrols in Sierra Leone waters in 2022 with Sierra Leone Navy sailors stationed onboard. **We have assisted in the arrest of six vessels** so far, including five caught fishing without a license in 2021.

[Read more](#)



EUROPE/MEDITERRANEAN

Sea Shepherd Global has continued to build partnerships with governments around the Mediterranean Sea to help in the fight against illegal fishing in one of the **world's most overfished seas**, and retrieving illegal and abandoned fishing gear to protect marine wildlife.



Operation SISO V

Italy

In this **fifth year of patrols** of the Tyrrhenian Sea onboard the M/Y Sea Eagle and the Conrad, Sea Shepherd crew located and removed **332 illegal fish aggregating devices** (FADs), as well as an unreported and unidentified – and therefore illegal – **longline off the Calabrian coast measuring 224 kilometers with 4197 hooks**. The retrieval operations were carried out in cooperation with the Guardia di Finanza - Naval Command of Vibo Valentia, allowing us to rescue marine wildlife trapped in the hooks, including sea turtles.

[Read more](#)



Ghostnet Campaign

Italy

This fall Sea Shepherd crew launched a new campaign onboard the M/Y Sea Eagle, in collaboration with the Italian authorities, **to tackle the enormous problem of fishing gear abandoned at sea**: nets, lines, creels, hooks, sinkers and any fishing equipment deliberately or accidentally abandoned in the water. They were able to remove several massive nets in the Plemmirio Marine Protected Area in Sicily, including five wrapped around the wreck of the Italian freighter ship Nevada, sunk in January 1979. In just a few short weeks, our crew retrieved 5356 meters of ghost nets weighing a total of 7.2 tons, releasing hundreds of animals back into the sea and preventing countless others from needlessly dying.

[Read more](#)



Monachus Monk Seal Defense Campaign

Italy and Greece

In 2022, Sea Shepherd volunteers and crew in both Italy and Greece conducted campaigns to help **protect the Mediterranean monk seal**, the most endangered marine mammal in the Mediterranean Sea, whose populations suffer from habitat destruction, entanglement in fishing gear, and decline of their primary food source: octopus.

In collaboration with Guardia di Finanza and the Tuscan Archipelago National Park Authority, Sea Shepherd Italy onshore volunteers and crew onboard the M/Y Sea Eagle and the catamaran Conrad, discovered the biggest illegal octopus trap system ever found in Europe, and proceeded to retrieve an astonishing 7672 octopus traps in just three weeks, turning them over the Italian authorities for further legal actions.

Sea Shepherd Greece crew onboard the M/Y Emanuel Bronner are cooperating with the Greek Ministry of Environment, the coast guard and other local organizations to patrol the Alonissos National Marine Park in the Northern Sporades, home to many rare and protected species of marine wildlife. Thanks to their around-the-clock patrols, they were able to alert local authorities to the presence of two illegal trawlers and an unlicensed fishing vessel hunting swordfish.

[Read more](#)



Operation Living Sea

Israel

In fall 2022, the Sea Shepherd Global ship Bob Barker **helped patrol the Palmahim Slide** – a newly-created marine protected area recently designated as a “Hope Spot” by famed oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle – and other marine parks in order to detect and deter illegal fishing off the coast of Israel. Our crew documented several cases of trawlers fishing illegally in marine parks or other protected areas, providing evidence to Israeli authorities for investigation.

[Read more](#)





Operation Siracusa

Italy

First launched in 2014, this campaign uses onshore coastal patrols **to stop poaching in the Plemmirio Marine Protected Area**, a sanctuary for highly endangered species. Various species which were considered to be at risk of extinction when we started, such as the brown grouper or the seabream, have seen an increase in population according to recent studies in the MPA. To date, 62 volunteers from all over Europe have patrolled for 10,095 hours, carrying out 47 interventions and stopping 30 poaching incidents.

[Read more](#)



Baltic Sea Campaign

Germany

In 2022, Sea Shepherd Germany crew **patrolled the Baltic Sea** from May through July, collecting ghost nets, patrolling protected areas, and conducting 25 beach clean ups along the coast. After giving their ship the Emanuel Bronner to Sea Shepherd Greece for patrols in the Mediterranean, they purchased a 24-meter ship, newly christened the Triton. With its small boat the Sea Lion and specialized equipment to assist in ghost net retrieval, it will continue the Baltic Sea campaign patrols in 2023.

[Read more](#)





OCEANIA



Marine Debris Campaign

Australia

Our Ocean Plastic clean up teams have conducted over **140 community clean-ups**, involving over **3000 community volunteers** removing more than **12 tons of trash** or over **300,000 pieces of rubbish**, potentially lethal to our marine life.

This year marks **1000 clean-ups** since the campaign began in 2016 and during this time, **over 35,000 volunteers have cleaned 750 km of coast** and removed more than **4 million pieces of debris weighing 117 tons**. Our volunteers worked with Aboriginal Rangers and Queensland



Parks and Wildlife Service to remove over 21 tons of flood debris from Mulgumpin from the devastating floods, conducted our first clean up in the Groote Archipelago with the Anindilyakwa Rangers, returned to Christmas Island to remove plastic pollution from four beaches, and returned to Djulpan this year in North East Arnhem Land to work proudly alongside Dhimurru rangers for a two week campaign that removed over 10.5 tons of plastics from sacred country to the Yolngu people, and critical sea turtle nesting habitat.

[Read more](#)



Shark Defence Campaign

Australia

Using the momentum from **stopping the Western Australian shark cull**, we continue to bring to light the cruel and pointless culling of marine life on the east coast by lethal nets and drum hook lines that do nothing for public safety. With Sea Shepherd Australia heavily featured in the documentary *Envoy Shark Cull* that reached global audiences, people are coming out and rallying for sharks as part of widespread Nets Out Now protests.

[Read more](#)



Operation Pahu

New Zealand

After four years fighting for the protection of the critically-endangered Māui dolphins endemic to New Zealand, **direct legal action has resulted in a huge win**. Thanks to a lawsuit brought by Sea Shepherd New Zealand and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (collectively Sea Shepherd), the United States Court of International Trade ordered a ban of imports of nine fish species caught off the west coast of New Zealand's North Island. The ban specifically applies to set-net and trawl fisheries operating in Māui dolphin habitat, where most recent estimates suggest between only 48 and 64 individual dolphins over the age of one year remain.

[Read more](#)





SEA SHEPHERD GLOBAL CREW IN 2022

Age of Union

Unique Crew: 114

Nations Represented: 27

Bob Barker

Unique Crew: 85

Nations Represented: 24

Ocean Warrior

Unique Crew: 49

Nations Represented: 18

Sea Eagle

Unique Crew: 103

Nations Represented: 19

Other Vessels

Unique Crew: 46

TOTAL NATIONS

REPRESENTED: 37

65.6% MALE

34.4% FEMALE

(98% MALE / 2% FEMALE
IS INDUSTRY STANDARD)

TOTAL UNIQUE CREW

308



SEA SHEPHERD GLOBAL FLEET

Since 1977, a number of vessels have served in the Sea Shepherd fleet to protect the world's marine wildlife. Today, Sea Shepherd Global vessels continue to patrol the world's oceans performing research and carrying out direct action tactics in order to uphold international conservation law and defend, conserve, protect the remaining biodiversity in our oceans.

OCEAN WARRIOR

Technical Information

Type Patrol vessel

Launched 2016

Weight 439GT

Length 54m

Speed 25+ knots

Max Crew 16



On January 26, 2015, at the annual Goed Geld Gala (Good Money Gala) hosted by the Dutch Postcode Lottery in Amsterdam, Sea Shepherd Global was awarded €8.3 million for a "Dream Project" vessel built to "Stop Illegal Fishing in the Southern Ocean". It was constructed by Dutch shipbuilder Damen in the port of Antalya, Turkey, and christened Ocean Warrior in September 2016. Its maiden voyage was Operation Nemesis, Sea Shepherd's 11th Antarctic Whale Defense Campaign, in 2016/2017. Interesting Fact: The Ocean Warrior is Sea Shepherd Global's first custom-built ship, and the fastest in its fleet, reaching speeds up to 30 knots.

THE AGE OF UNION

Technical Information

Type Research/survey vessel

Launched 1993

Weight 720GT

Length 56m

Speed 15+ knots

Max Crew 30



The Age of Union was named after our partners at the Age of Union Alliance following a very significant pledge of support at the very beginning of 2022, which also helped fund a complete overhaul of the ship. The vessel first joined the Sea Shepherd fleet under the name Sam Simon, after the Hollywood producer and animal rights advocate who served on Sea Shepherd's Board of Advisors until his passing in 2015. His generous donation made it possible to purchase the former Japanese vessel in 2012, when it joined its first Antarctic Whale Defense Campaign that December, Operation Zero Tolerance.

SEA EAGLE

Technical Information

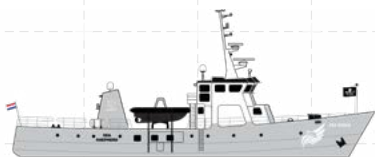
Type Pilot ship

Launched 1986

Weight 318GT

Length 40m

Max Crew 19



Acquired by Sea Shepherd Global in 2021 through funding from Allianz SE, Allianz Technology, and Allianz Italy as part of Sea Shepherd's partnership with Allianz to address the issue of plastic marine debris polluting the ocean in the Mediterranean Sea.

BOB BARKER - RETIRED

Technical Information

Type Long-range ice class research vessel

Launched 1950

Weight 488GT

Length 52.2m

Speed 15+ knots

Max Crew 36



In 2009, Sea Shepherd purchased this former Norwegian whaler thanks to a \$5 million contribution from the American game show host Bob Barker. The ice-strengthened vessel confronted the Japanese whaling fleet on several Antarctic campaigns before being deployed to combat illegal fishing. In 2014, the Bob Barker began the longest maritime chase in history of the Thunder, shutting down the world's most notorious poaching ship. The success of this campaign paved the way for several other highly successful illegal fishing campaigns in West Africa. After many years of loyal service, the Bob Barker was finally retired in November 2022 after its final campaign patrolling Israel's newest marine protected area in the Mediterranean Sea. The funds raised by recycling the ship will go directly into Sea Shepherd Global's direct-action campaigns, continuing the legacy of the Bob Barker in protecting the ocean.

SMALL CRAFT

Sea Shepherd Global's small craft allow close to shore direct action campaigns to be conducted, greatly increasing the organization's ability to protect marine wildlife.

EMANUEL BRONNER

Technical Information

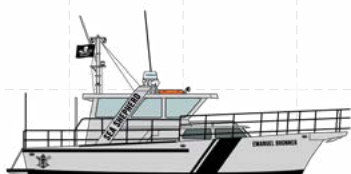
Type Patrol Vessel

Launched 1970

Weight 22GT

Length 11.65 m

Max Crew 4



Generously donated by the famous organic soap company Dr. Bronner's, originally used by Sea Shepherd Germany for the Baltic Sea Campaign, transferred to Sea Shepherd Greece for the Monachus Monk Seal Campaign in the Alonissos National Marine Park of Greece.

CONRAD

Technical Information

Type Patrol Vessel

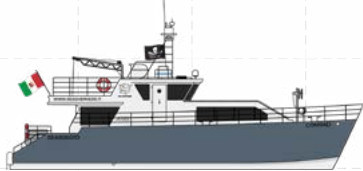
Launched 2006

Weight 30GT

Length 17 m

Speed 19 knots

Max Crew 14



Used by Sea Shepherd Italy for their direct-action campaigns in the Mediterranean Sea's Italian waters, including Operation Siso and the Monachus Defense Campaign.

TRITON

Technical Information

Type Patrol vessel

Launched 2013

Weight 67GT

Length 23m

Max Crew 8



Acquired by Sea Shepherd Germany in 2022 from the Royal Police of Gibraltar, the Triton will be used for the Baltic Sea campaign. It has a purpose-built room for the diving team, several sleeping berths, a crane and a small boat, the Sea Lion.

JAIRO MORA SANDOVAL

Technical Information

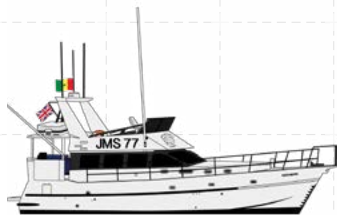
Type Patrol Vessel

Launched 2000

Weight 22GT

Length 13 m

Max Crew 6



Granted to the Cabo Verde-based conservation organization, Biosfera.



SEA SHEPHERD GLOBAL NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE





Sea Shepherd
Austria



Volunteers conducted **12 river cleanups** in Austria, and joined the crew of Sea Shepherd campaigns including Operation Bloody Fjords (Faroe Islands), Operation Siracusa (Italy), Operation Siso (Italy) and Operation Monachus Defense (Italy). Sea Shepherd Austria Director Markus Trebuch participated in panels at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, the University of Innsbruck, and at the Animal Rights Congress in Vienna hosted by the Association against Animal Factories. Donations to Sea Shepherd Austria are now tax deductible.

[Read more](#)



Sea Shepherd
Belgium



After the devastating flood in Belgium in July 2021, Sea Shepherd volunteers spent every weekend through September 2022 helping **clean the debris from river banks**.

In October they conducted a beach clean and nurdle hunt. Volunteers also tabled at four rock festivals, three major vegan fairs, and major concerts including Tryo, Gojira, John Butler, and Angèle. They also presented Sea Shepherd in local schools, a dive club and at the vegan fairs. In December they hosted a Sea Shepherd film night with vegan sushi, and launched their [new webshop](#).



Hand-made fish made from fishing nets from the North Sea depicting the 'Catch Of The Day 2050', created by Dutch design students (Ogilvy Social.Lab Amsterdam)



Sea Shepherd Ireland



The newest country to establish a Sea Shepherd group officially received their non-profit status in 2021. Since then, volunteers have been conducting monthly beach cleanups, and presenting at local businesses and schools to build awareness. Their **creativity and tireless campaigning in the streets of Dublin** to promote the EU Citizens' Initiative to Stop Finning helped increase Ireland's votes from 30% to 128% in just two months. They've also partnered with Seal Rescue Ireland to train Sea Shepherd volunteers.

[Read more](#)



Sea Shepherd Netherlands



In 2022, Sea Shepherd Netherlands partnered with global advertising agencies to launch two highly visible media campaigns **"Catch of the Day 2050"** and **"Extinct Ink"**. They've renewed Sea Shepherd's partnership with the Dutch Postcode Lottery, expanded the free course offerings on the **Sea Shepherd Education** platform, and arranged the retirement of the Netherlands-registered Sea Shepherd vessel, the Bob Barker.

Learn more:

[Catch of The Day 2050](#)

[Extinct Ink](#)

[Sea Shepherd Education](#)



Sea Shepherd Portugal



Sea Shepherd Portugal held a **successful side event** for several hundred attendees at the UN Ocean Conference, with speakers including Sylvia Earle, Charles Clover, and Captain Alex. Portugal director Frederik Mowinckel spoke at the Ocean Film Tour in Lisbon where two short Sea Shepherd films were shown, and was on panels with Sea Shepherd Global CEO Alex Cornelissen at the [Planetiers World Gathering event](#). Volunteers conducted **fifteen beach cleanups** in 2022, with a new record of approximately 1.2 tons of rubbish and recycling collected. They've kicked off a shark awareness campaign in Portugal to map out what locals know about shark meat consumption in Portugal, and to put pressure on restaurants, supermarkets and the government.

[Read more](#)



Sea Shepherd Switzerland



In 2022, Sea Shepherd Switzerland organized and participated in more events than ever since 2014. They started off the year with Veganuary initiatives in partnership with local restaurants and bakeries. Throughout the year volunteers tabled many concerts, vegan and tattoo fairs, boat shows and fundraising events, Sea Shepherd Switzerland **organized a screening of the Eli Roth documentary FIN** at Geneva's Museum of Natural History with Captain Peter Hammarstedt and Global CEO Alex Cornelissen. They were also invited to discuss the topic of overfishing in schools.

[Read more](#)



Sea Shepherd Spain



Volunteers in Sea Shepherd Spain participated in several large events in 2022, including four diving shows, the Ocean Film Tour in Barcelona, and the Planetiers World Gathering in Lisbon where Spain Director Richard Barreno spoke in panels with Global CEO Alex Cornelissen.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

