

August 11, 2022



Dear Community Members,

We at Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society are seeking help from our communities at large in a time of financial hardship. Despite our best efforts to adapt and recover, the impacts of COVID-19 have been long-lasting and devastating to our organization's operations and programs. We have experienced unexpected and significant losses in donations over the past 3 years and have been outcompeted for many of the grants we rely on. We are now in urgent and dire need of funding if we are to continue operating in our communities in any capacity. We now look to you, our supporters, for help in this time of need.

Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society (SIMRS) has been in operation since 1991, making us one of the longest standing charitable organizations in the region. As a grassroots organization, our mission is to conduct long-term marine research and monitoring, to educate communities about marine ecosystems, and to provide emergency marine mammal response. Over the past 31 years we have made notable impacts to our region's marine ecosystems and communities through our numerous research, education, and monitoring initiatives including our current projects:

- Contributing to population monitoring of Bigg's (Transient) Killer Whales since the early '90s
- Leading eight consecutive years of sea star wasting disease monitoring through citizen-science
- Researching the vastly understudied offshore ecosystem through Pelagic Marine Species Surveys
- Educating about the ocean using a real Killer Whale skeleton via our Build-A-Whale program
- Responding to hundreds of marine mammal emergencies and rescues for over 30 years

We strive to produce quality programs and essential resources for our community in the name of marine conservation. In order to meet our mission and continue to provide these services, we rely heavily on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without immediate financial assistance, we face the reality of losing our capacity to operate and provide these programs and services in a few months' time.

If you are passionate about marine conservation in Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds and a proud supporter of SIMRS, we invite you to make an investment in us and the marine ecosystems we serve to protect. Know that your commitment to support our work will make a significant difference, regardless of your size of contribution.

The team at Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society thank you kindly for your support. We hope you'll help us pave the way to better times!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Arnett".

Karyssa Arnett
Executive Director

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www.simrstofino.org/donate