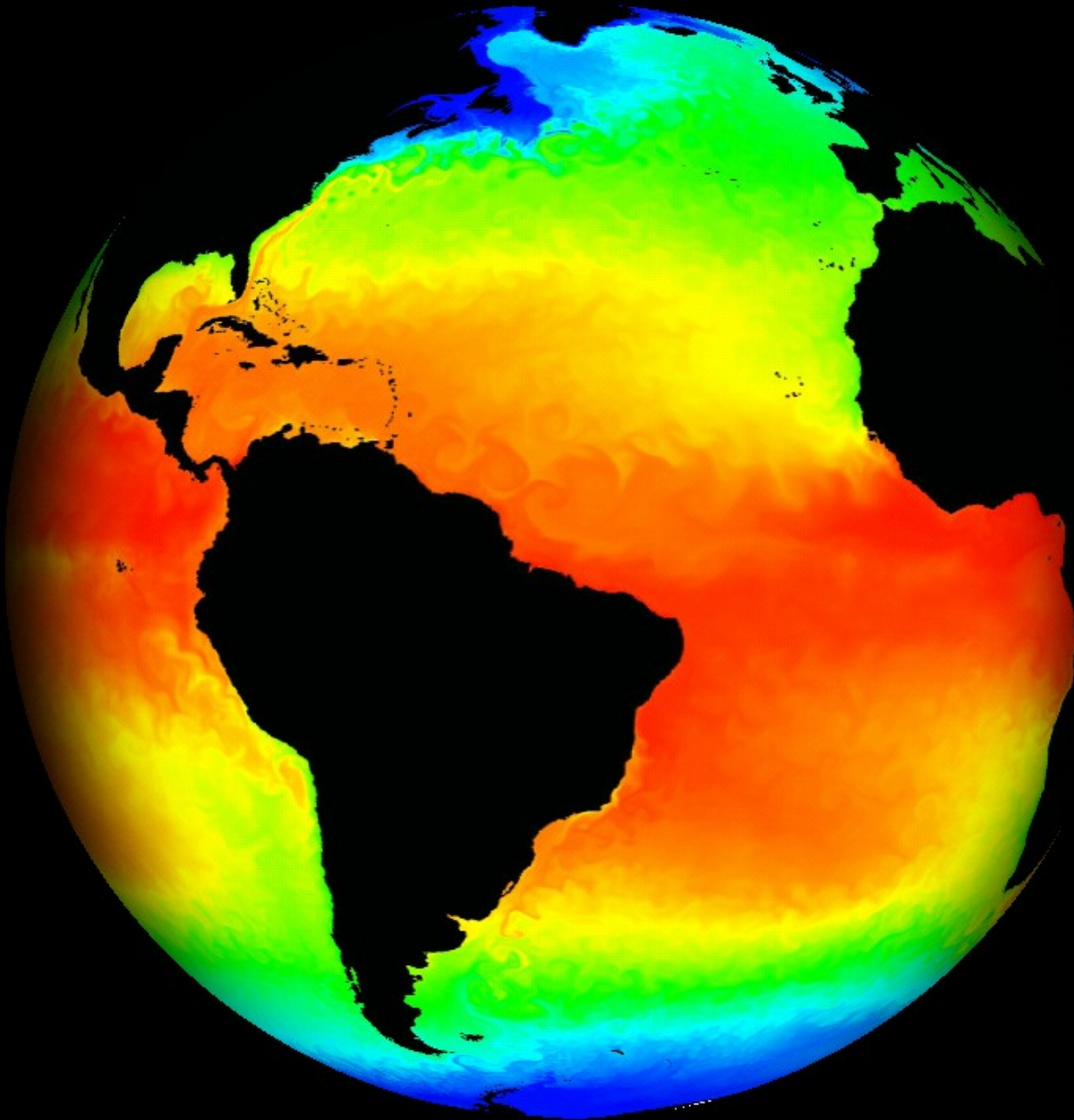


Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport
2009 Annual Report



**OCEAN
EXPLORIUM**
at New Bedford Seaport

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Ocean Explorium to establish New Bedford as a center for ocean science public education, with a particular emphasis on environmental stewardship and science literacy.



“People of Massachusetts, from the earliest Native American settlements through European colonial times to the present, have known of the importance of the oceans in everyday life. Yet, as our knowledge of the oceans and uses of the oceans have increased, we have not kept pace with educating citizens about essential principles of ocean science. Providing a better understanding of the oceans for adults and children of our region has been a steadily increasing effort of the New Bedford Oceanarium over the past several years and the opening of the Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport during 2009 was a major step forward. However, it is much more than being about the oceans, because learning about the oceans is

an exciting way to introduce learners of all ages to the broader aspects of modern science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is particularly important given that elected and appointed government officials, and academic and business leaders combined, are calling upon the public and private sector of the nation to collaborate for significant improvements in STEM education in our nation’s K-12 schools. Informal science education venues such as the Ocean Explorium are important contributors to STEM education in cooperation with formal education in K-12 schools”.

John W. Farrington
Former Chair, Board of Trustees

Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

The year 2009 was marked by a number of "firsts" for the Ocean Explorium.

In July, our doors opened full-time to the public with a wide array of living exhibits and the Discovery Bay and Explorers' Zone activity centers. Jean F. MacCormack, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, was joined by New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and we were very pleased to see that the exhibit space was packed with media, community leaders, staff and guests, all of whom were excited to witness the Ocean Explorium's Grand Opening. On a personal note, and I think also speaking for many people involved in the project for several years, the opening of the Ocean Explorium was a long-held dream finally coming true.

Dr. MacCormack remarked that she was "... thrilled and excited to be standing here today, to see first-hand the fruits of so many people's labor ... to see what a wonderful opportunity we have to bring ocean science alive to the people of this region." I should note that the Chancellor has been a stalwart supporter of the Ocean Explorium and we are fortunate to be associated with her and have her support.

In October we welcomed the NASA Hubble Space Telescope Traveling Exhibit, an impressive array of stunning images and interactive technology. On view for three months, the Hubble Exhibit drew a large number of visitors and school field trips for a unique learning experience.

Speaking of field trips, 5,688 students visited the Ocean Explorium in 2009, while 31,000 learners of all ages visited throughout the year. Whether they stopped in while traveling through New Bedford, or regularly attended our Ocean Voice speaker series, it is our hope that each person left with some new understanding of our planet and our treasured oceans.

As Chancellor MacCormack said in July, "It is critical that we continue to provide these kinds of learning opportunities for students of every age so that each generation will act as informed guardians of the oceans' inhabitants and its resources."

And finally, the best testimony of both our role and our success comes from our visitors. From the lips of a mother of an autistic child who visited and ultimately became a volunteer:

"...I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunities you've opened up to (my son) through the Explorium. He has always had an interest in marine sciences, but this experience is life changing for him. The value of this cannot be understated. Interacting with this group of specialists and the knowledge he is gaining makes tangible the goals he can achieve and not just dream."

Thank you for contributing to our success. We will continue to grow in 2010 and hope you will be with us as we continue our exciting journey.

Robert Ciolek
Chair, Board of Trustees



Report by the Executive Director

The year 2009 represented a watershed for the Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport. On July 4th, 2009, the Ocean Explorium opened full time to the public: resplendent with vibrant living exhibits, the new Discovery Bay activity center and the Explorer's Zone; adding to the educational power of the Science on a Sphere®.

During 2009 the Ocean Explorium's framework-consistent Student Field Trip program continued. The program weaves together a variety of Science on a Sphere® datasets with inquiry-based learning modules, hands-on activities, and other exhibits within the Ocean Explorium. By the end of 2009 eleven curricula were offered, including: *Forces that Shape the Earth*, *Ecological Relationships*, *Earth's Processes and Cycles*, and *MCAS Review*. Throughout 2009, the Student Field Trip program reached a massive 5,688 students. An exceptional achievement.

The Ocean Explorium's in-service teacher education and professional development program, the Ocean Academy, continued to work with regional schools during 2009. In 2009 the Academy hosted 191 teachers in a variety of professional development point (PDP) courses and graduate courses; almost double the number of teachers served in 2008.

Ocean Voice, the Ocean Explorium's successful science speaker series, continued throughout 2009. Many area science teachers encouraged their secondary students to attend Ocean Voice by offering extra scholastic credit. During 2009, 1,445 area students, teachers, and members of the public participated in Ocean Voice; double the participation in 2008.

Throughout 2009 the Ocean Explorium continued its community outreach program via the WOW Mobile and Project Oceanology. The WOW Mobile is a vehicle that takes hands-on learning experiences to area schools, youth groups and other public venues; bringing the ocean to urban citizens, many of whom have had little or no prior experience with marine life.

In 2009, the WOW Mobile program reached 5,228 area adults and children. Project Oceanology is an educational excursion program that employs an ocean-going vessel to take students to sea, where they undertake a variety of at-sea science experiments and experiences. A very rich and transformative opportunity, Project Oceanology reached 1,910 students and teachers during 2009.

Our internship and apprenticeship program, Ocean Learning, continued during 2009. This program enables young secondary and undergraduate students—who are considering a career in the sciences or other ocean-related industries—access to working scientists, educators and industry experts. During 2009, interns were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of Ocean Explorium programs, including the student field trips, WOW Mobile community outreach events, and Science on a Sphere® presentations to the public. Throughout 2009 14 interns participated in the program.

During the latter part of 2009 it was a great honor for the Ocean Explorium to play host to the Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit. Not only was this a favorite with visitors, it kicked off another excellent speaker series, Cosmic Voice, which focused on the astronomical sciences. In addition, many area physics teachers brought their students to learn from the wonderful resource represented by the exhibit.

By building on our successes, re-engaging the community, and working with our community partners, we have been able to consolidate the activities of the Ocean Explorium and focus its mission. Despite the economic downturn, 2009 saw the expansion of our existing programs and the opening of the Ocean Explorium full time to the public.

It is with great pleasure that the team at the Ocean Explorium looks back on 2009 and acknowledges the more than 31,000 students and citizens of Greater New Bedford who have had the opportunity to take part in one or more of our many engaging and educational programs. We look forward to more of the same in 2010!

Mark Smith
Executive Director

Audited Financials

Hodgson, Pratt & Associates, P.C. has audited the following financial information. The firm has expressed an unqualified opinion that the financial statements have been prepared to conform with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the New Bedford Oceanarium as of the end of fiscal year 2009. The New Bedford Oceanarium complies with all reporting standard for not-for-profit institutions as determined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB 116,117, 124, 136.) A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available to interested parties.

Statements of Financial Position

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 85,291	\$ 63,780
Pledges receivable	39,500	83,833
Accounts Receivable	-	2,727
Grants receivable	29,037	33,982
Employee loans receivable	498	-
Promise to give-space	144,980	89,780
Prepaid expenses	30,345	19,293
Total Current Assets	<u>329,651</u>	<u>293,395</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Pledges receivable, net of current portion	65,958	102,958
Promise to give-space, net of current portion	409,660	317,587
Property and equipment, net	762,518	824,288
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>1,238,136</u>	<u>1,244,833</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,567,787</u>	<u>\$ 1,538,228</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 156,605	\$ 118,285
Accrued expenses	37,926	201,674
Unearned revenue	33,895	21,225
Current portion of long-term debt-banks	20,750	7,925
Current portion of long-term debt-other	-	244,000
Total Current Liabilities	<u>249,176</u>	<u>593,109</u>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Long-term debt-banks, net of current portion	<u>217,288</u>	<u>237,917</u>
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>217,288</u>	<u>237,917</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>466,464</u>	<u>831,026</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	545,362	263,407
Temporarily restricted	<u>555,961</u>	<u>443,795</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,101,323</u>	<u>707,202</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,567,787</u>	<u>\$ 1,538,228</u>

Audited Financials (cont.)

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total 2009</u>	<u>Total 2008</u>
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	\$ 103,888	\$ -	\$ 103,888	\$ 293,486
Explorium revenue	128,957		128,957	148,271
Grants and contracts	1,035,996	100,000	1,135,996	659,095
In-kind contributions	15,370	283,053	298,423	36,509
	<u>1,284,211</u>	<u>383,053</u>	<u>1,667,264</u>	<u>1,137,361</u>
Other Support				
Interest and dividends	66	-	66	595
Other income	1,920	-	1,920	2,192
Forgiveness of Debt	400,764	-	400,764	-
Net assets released from restrictions	270,887	(270,887)	-	-
	<u>673,637</u>	<u>(270,887)</u>	<u>402,750</u>	<u>2,787</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>1,957,848</u>	<u>112,166</u>	<u>2,070,014</u>	<u>1,140,148</u>
Expenses				
Program expenses	1,393,178	-	1,393,178	842,001
Management expenses	282,715	-	282,715	344,876
	<u>1,675,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,675,893</u>	<u>1,186,877</u>
Total Functional Expenses	<u>1,675,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,675,893</u>	<u>1,186,877</u>
Change in Net Assets	281,955	112,166	394,121	(46,729)
Net Assets , beginning of year	<u>263,407</u>	<u>443,795</u>	<u>707,202</u>	<u>753,931</u>
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$ 545,362</u>	<u>\$ 555,961</u>	<u>\$ 1,101,323</u>	<u>\$ 707,202</u>

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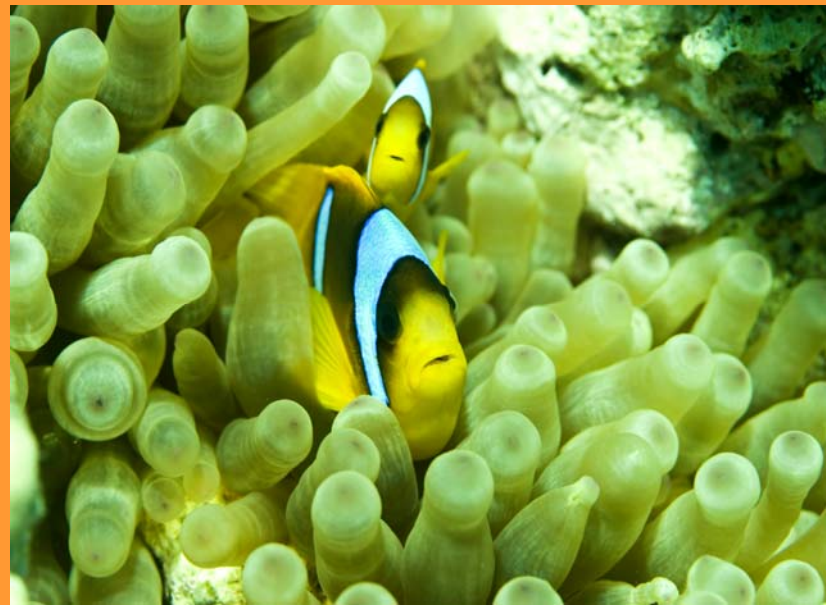
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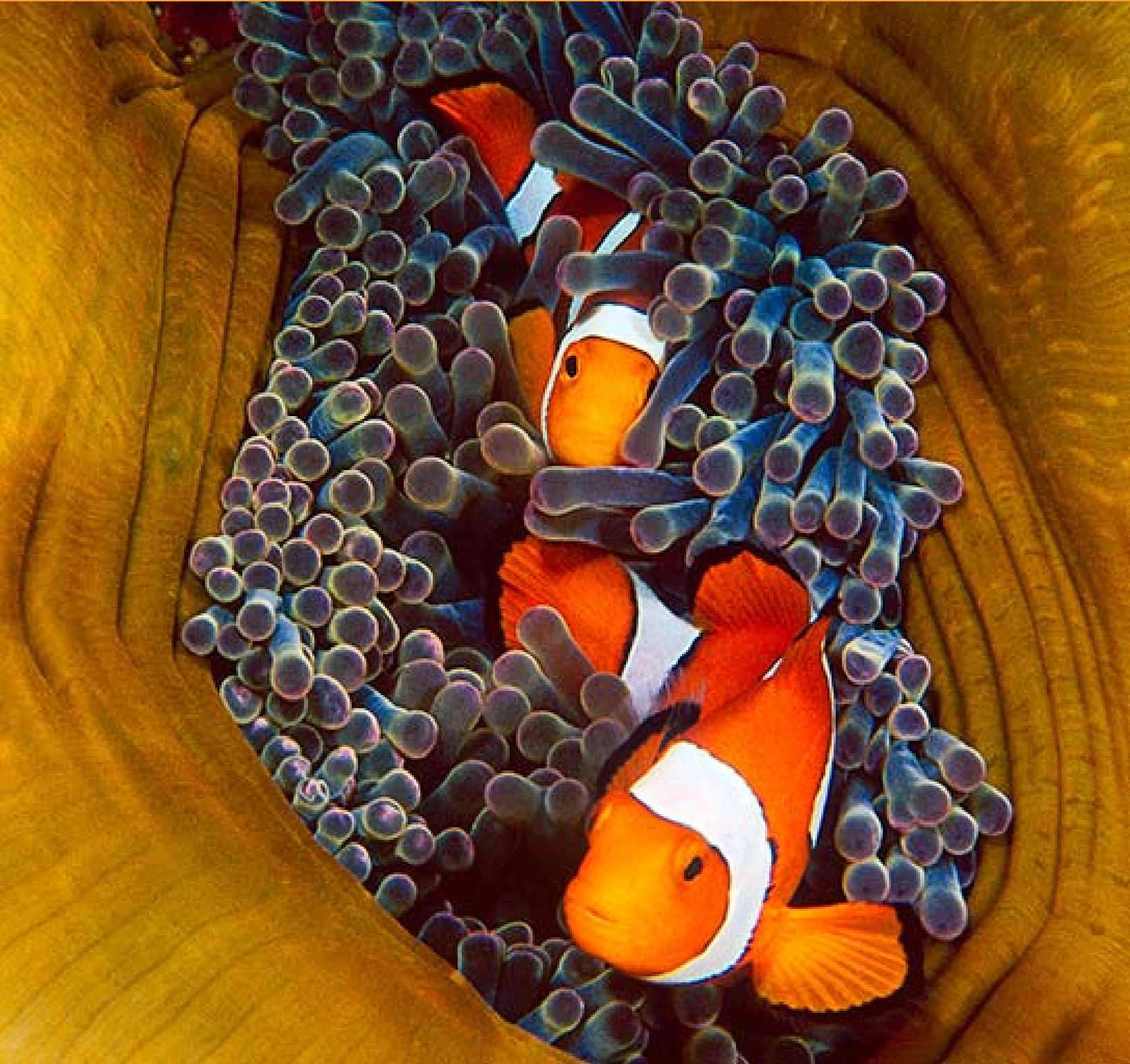
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