

Seals of Approval and Renewed Sense of Porpoise

More than 650 children and families joined Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for their Marine Mammal Safari to search for seals and porpoises.



On Saturday, April 22, more than 650 children and their families joined Save the Harbor/Save the Bay on Mass Bay Lines MV Freedom for 3 free Marine Mammal Safaris on Boston Harbor. Participants came from across the city, around the region and as far away as Beijing, China to search for harbor seals and harbor porpoises as well as cormorants, eiders and other sea birds.

According to Save the Harbor's Director of Strategy and Communications Bruce Berman, who has hosted the event since 1990, the seals and porpoises were particularly cooperative this year, with confirmed seal and porpoise sightings on all three trips. "Our mission is to restore, protect, and share Boston Harbor with the public," said Berman. "Based on the number of mammal sightings today, it seems that the seals and porpoises share our goals."

Though the skies were cloudy the seas were calm, as safari-goers spotted seals off the USS Constitution in Charlestown and several pods of porpoise between Logan Airport in East Boston and Boston's Fish Pier in the South Boston Seaport.

"I have been involved in environmental education and awareness programs for most of my life, but nothing is more fun than taking the T to the sea and discovering such interesting creatures just a few yards from the boat," said Chris Mancini, who recently joined Save the Harbor as the Vice President of Operations and Programs from Groundwork Somerville. "Today, as we celebrated Earth Day on the water, I was struck by the power of Boston Harbor to connect kids and families from

every neighborhood in the city to each other and the sea."

At the end of the cruise, Save the Harbor thanked their corporate sponsors, foundation funding partners and hundreds of individual donors for their support.

"A day like this gives us a sense of renewed porpoise," quipped Berman as the vessel returned to ferry terminal at Rowes Wharf. "We think of these creatures as seals of approval for our shared efforts to transform Boston Harbor from a national disgrace into a source of opportunity and civic pride for the region's residents and visitors alike."



Save the Harbor's free youth environmental education and family programs are made possible with Leadership Grants from Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, The Boston Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, and Distrigas/ENGIE. Save the Harbor is grateful for Partnership Grants from Forrest Berkley & Marcie Tyre Berkley, The Clowes Fund, Comcast, Eastern Salt Company, Inc., Fan Pier - The Fallon Company, John Hancock Financial Services

Inc., Kershaw Foundation - Cheers for Children, Mass Environmental Trust, Mass Humanities, Massachusetts Bay Lines, Massachusetts Port Authority, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, P&G Gillette, William E. & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, Vertex, Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, The Yawkey Foundation.

Save the Harbor also appreciates funding support from Arbella Insurance Group Charitable Foundation, Blue Hills Bank Foundation, Blue Hills Bank Pavilion, BOMA, Boston Properties - Atlantic Wharf, Camp Harbor View Foundation, Clipper Ship, Foundation, Inc., Cresset Development, The Daily Catch Seaport, Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Charitable Trust, Emera Inc., Paul & Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation, Thomas & Lucinda Foley, The HYM Investment Group, LLC, Lovett-Woodsum Foundation, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, National Grid Foundation, The Reebok Foundation, RMR Real Estate Services, Lawrence J. & Anne Rubenstein Foundation, Skanska, South Boston Community Development Foundation, Spectra Energy, Tishman Speyer, 3A Marine Service, AP Staffing, Andus Baker & Rowan Murphy Family Fund, Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation, Andrew J. Calamare & Marianne Connolly, Circle Furniture, Fort Point Framers, The Fuller Foundation, Inc., Google, Legal Sea Foods, Miss Wallace M. Leonard Foundation, Sherry & Alan Leventhal Family Foundation, George Lewis - Haven Trust, Liberty Bay Credit Union, Mass Bay Credit Union, National Park Service, Nicholson Foundation, Randy Peeler & Kate Kellogg, Red Sox Foundation, Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation, Storm Duds, Matthew J. & Gilda F. Strazzula Foundation, TD Bank Charitable Foundation, Triumph Modular, UDR, Kyle & Sara Warwick, and Matthew Whitlock & Penny & Neal.

Save the Harbor also gave a special thanks to the hundreds of individual donors who support their free programs and to their partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, the Boston Centers for Youth and Families and the YMCA of Greater Boston.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is a non-profit, public interest harbor advocacy organization whose mission is to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and the marine environment and share them with the public for all to enjoy. This year their free Youth Environmental Education programs will connect more than 30,000 underserved youth, teens and families to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park.

For more information about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the work they do to restore, protect and share Boston Harbor, the Boston Harbor Islands and our region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org, their blog "Sea, Sand & Sky" at blog.savetheharbor.org, or follow savetheharbor on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.