

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Closure Memo**

To: Lynn Dwyer
From: Parthena Kydes
Date: May 26, 2011

Project: Outer Island Marine Environmental Education and Research Center (CT)
Number: 2009-0061-006
Grantee: Friends of Outer Island, Inc.

Project Description: Build a revitalized educational center on Outer Island. A marine lab, learning stations, and a classroom pavilion will provide hands-on learning and research opportunities about the Long Island Sound.

Final Products:

- Build a revitalized eco-friendly educational center on Outer Island (OI) with a marine lab, learning stations, and a classroom pavilion to provide hands-on learning and research opportunities about the Long Island Sound. *An educational center was constructed; a 300 ft. cottage was renovated with storage cabinets, stools, a counter and a sink to create a lab.*
- Construct three DO Stations, a touch table, and a digital presentation kiosk to measure water quality and observe marine species (including invasives) to increase environmental awareness through hands-on activities. *From the report: "We originally thought we could install a live touch tank, but found out the plumbing and installation cost much more than we could afford. A simple display of non-living organisms is the replacement for the touch tank." The first station was a water quality measuring station, where students could measure salinity, DO levels and temperature at different locations. The second learning station focused on crab studies and hands-on experiences for the school students- the students completed a population count and entered the data on the computer. The third station involved interpretive information about the Long Island Sound in a "kiosk" style.*
- Increase visitorship at the Outer Island Center 50% over 2008 levels for environmental education and research among: students, university researchers, youth groups, schools as well as the general public. *From the final report: Membership and participation in the Friends of Outer Island increased by 20%. The grantee opened the island for visitors every weekend (weather permitting) from June through early October 2010, which was an increase of three weekends over the previous year. Six new docents were trained and they took turns working on the island.*
- Prepare and conduct survey showing changes in attitude and knowledge about the Long Island Sound in the areas of DO, crabs, invasive plant and animal organisms

- and sources of pollution. *Based on the questionnaire it was determined that students' increased their understanding of these issues by about 30%.*
- Engage participation and attendance of 10 teachers (30% increase in 2009) in professional development workshops offered by OI. *8 teachers were trained in the development workshops.*
 - Increase teen involvement and membership in Junior Friends of Outer Island by 20 members (30%) increase in 2009. *The facility was visited in the fall by 350 students and 740 adults, which is a 30% increase from 2009.*
 - Engage scientific research in the area of marine studies. 20% (more than 3 studies or research projects) associated with OI. *While the facility supported research activities done by students and teachers, the facility does not engage in scientific research itself.*
 - Distribute 500 copies in 2000 pamphlets about LIS ecosystem and refuge to boaters and other visitors. *The costs were greater than anticipated and took longer than expected to edit, so they will be distributed through the 2011 season.*
 - Present off-site lectures and presentations to three organizations. From the final report: *"Four off-site presentations were given by Friends of Outer Island Board Members: two at the The Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs, CT and one each at the National Science Teachers Conference in Philadelphia and the Marine Educator's Conference in Norwalk, CT."*

NFWF award: \$34,975.68

NFWF funds spent: \$34,975.68

Match requirement: \$94,000

Match spent: \$98,201.28

I recommend closing this grant.