

Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990PF for instructions and the latest information.

2025

Open to Public Inspection

For calendar year 2025 or tax year beginning January 01, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025

Name of foundation: Sustainable Seas Institute. A Employer identification number: 33-4547966. B Telephone number: 440-463-5202. C If exemption application is pending, check here. D 1. Foreign organizations, check here. E If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here. F If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here.

Table with 5 columns: (a) Revenue and expenses per books, (b) Net investment income, (c) Adjusted net income, (d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only). Rows include Revenue (1-12) and Operating and Administrative Expenses (13-26), ending with Subtotal (27) and Net Income (28-30).

<b>Part II Balance Sheets</b> Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end-of-year amounts only. (See instructions.)		Beginning of year	End of year	
		(a) Book Value	(b) Book Value	(c) Fair Market Value
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .	0	784	784
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>3</b> Accounts receivable . . . . .	0		
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>4</b> Pledges receivable . . . . .	0		
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>5</b> Grants receivable . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>6</b> Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons (attach schedule) (see instructions) . . . . .			
	<b>7</b> Other notes and loans receivable (attach schedule) . . . . .			
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts . . . . .			
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .	0	0	0
	<b>10a</b> Investments—U.S. and state government obligations (attach schedule)			
	<b>b</b> Investments—corporate stock (attach schedule) . . . . .			
	<b>c</b> Investments—corporate bonds (attach schedule) . . . . .			
	<b>11</b> Investments—land, buildings, and equipment: basis . . . . .			
Less: accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) . . . . .				
<b>12</b> Investments—mortgage loans . . . . .	0	0	0	
<b>13</b> Investments—other (attach schedule) . . . . .				
<b>14</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: basis . . . . .				
Less: accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) . . . . .				
<b>15</b> Other assets (describe . . . . .)				
<b>16 Total assets</b> (to be completed by all filers—see the instructions. Also, see page 1, item I) . . . . .	0	784	784	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .			
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .			
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .			
	<b>20</b> Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons			
	<b>21</b> Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule) . . . . .			
	<b>22</b> Other liabilities (describe . . . . .)			
	<b>23 Total liabilities</b> (add lines 17 through 22) . . . . .	0	0	
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Foundations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here and complete lines 24, 25, 29, and 30</b> . . . . . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<b>24</b> Net assets without donor restrictions . . . . .	0	784	
	<b>25</b> Net assets with donor restrictions . . . . .	0	0	
	<b>Foundations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here and complete lines 26 through 30</b> . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/>			
	<b>26</b> Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds . . . . .			
	<b>27</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg., and equipment fund			
	<b>28</b> Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds			
<b>29 Total net assets or fund balances</b> (see instructions) . . . . .	0	784		
<b>30 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances</b> (see instructions) . . . . .	0	784		

<b>Part III Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>			
<b>1</b> Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year—Part II, column (a), line 29 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return) . . . . .		<b>1</b>	0
<b>2</b> Enter amount from Part I, line 27a . . . . .		<b>2</b>	784
<b>3</b> Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Add lines 1, 2, and 3 . . . . .		<b>4</b>	784
<b>5</b> Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5)—Part II, column (b), line 29 . . . . .		<b>6</b>	784

**Part IV Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income**

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (for example, real estate, 2-story brick warehouse; or common stock, 200 shs. MLC Co.)		(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo., day, yr.)	(d) Date sold (mo., day, yr.)
<b>1a</b>				
<b>b</b>				
<b>c</b>				
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b>				
(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) ((e) plus (f) minus (g))	
<b>a</b>				
<b>b</b>				
<b>c</b>				
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b>				
Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69.				(i) Gains (Col. (h) gain minus col. (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col. (h))
(j) FMV as of 12/31/69	(k) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(l) Excess of col. (i) over col. (j), if any		
<b>a</b>				
<b>b</b>				
<b>c</b>				
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b>				
<b>2</b> Capital gain net income or (net capital loss)	{ If gain, also enter in Part I, line 7 If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 7 }		<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6): If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c). See instructions. If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8			<b>3</b>	

**Part V Excise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), or 4948—see instructions)**

<b>1a</b> Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter "N/A" on line 1. Date of ruling or determination letter: _____ (attach copy of letter if necessary—see instructions)	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>b</b> All other domestic foundations enter 1.39% (0.0139) of line 27b. Exempt foreign organizations, enter 4% (0.04) of Part I, line 12, col. (b)		
<b>2</b> Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only; others, enter -0-)	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b> Add lines 1 and 2	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>4</b> Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only; others, enter -0-)	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5 Tax based on investment income.</b> Subtract line 4 from line 3. If zero or less, enter -0-	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6 Credits/Payments:</b>		
<b>a</b> <b>2025</b> estimated tax payments and <b>2024</b> overpayment credited to <b>2025</b>	<b>6a</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>b</b> Exempt foreign organizations—tax withheld at source	<b>6b</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>c</b> Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	<b>6c</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>d</b> Backup withholding erroneously withheld	<b>6d</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7</b> Total credits and payments. Add lines 6a through 6d	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>8</b> Enter any <b>penalty</b> for underpayment of estimated tax. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if Form 2220 is attached	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9 Tax due.</b> If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter <b>amount owed</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10 Overpayment.</b> If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the <b>amount overpaid</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>11</b> Enter the amount of line 10 to be: <b>Credited to 2026 estimated tax</b> <b>0</b> <b>Refunded</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
For Refunded amount, also complete and attach Form 8050. See instructions.		

**Part VI-A Statements Regarding Activities**

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	Did it spend more than \$100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes? See the instructions for the definition . . . . . If the answer is "Yes" to <b>1a</b> or <b>1b</b> , attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>1c</b>	Did the foundation file <b>Form 1120-POL</b> for this year? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year: <b>(1)</b> On the foundation. \$ _____ <b>(2)</b> On foundation managers. \$ _____		
<b>e</b>	Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers. \$ _____		
<b>2</b>	Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? . . . . . If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>4a</b>	Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on <b>Form 990-T</b> for this year? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>5</b>	Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? . . . . . If "Yes," attach the statement required by <i>General Instruction T</i> .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>6</b>	Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either: • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>7</b>	Did the foundation have at least \$5,000 in assets at any time during the year? If "Yes," complete Part II, col. (c), and Part XIV		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>8a</b>	Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered. See instructions.		
<b>b</b>	If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by <i>General Instruction G</i> ? If "No," attach explanation . . . . .		
<b>9</b>	Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year <b>2025</b> or the tax year beginning in <b>2025</b> ? See the instructions for Part XIII. If "Yes," complete Part XIII . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>10</b>	Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>11</b>	At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule. See instructions . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>12</b>	Did the foundation make a distribution to a donor advised fund over which the foundation or a disqualified person had advisory privileges? If "Yes," attach statement. See instructions . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>13</b>	Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application? Website address <u>www.sustainableseasinstitute.org</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>14</b>	The books are in care of <u>Roger Tipton</u> Telephone no. <u>(440) 463-5202</u> Located at <u>12454 Willingdon Road, Huntersville, NC</u> ZIP+4 <u>28078</u>		
<b>15</b>	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of <b>Form 1041</b> —check here . . . . . and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>16</b>	At any time during calendar year <b>2025</b> , did the foundation have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country? . . . . . See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114. If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Part VI-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required**

**File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.**

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b> During the year, did the foundation (either directly or indirectly):		
(1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person? . . . . .	<b>1a(1)</b>	✓
(2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person? . . . . .	<b>1a(2)</b>	✓
(3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person? . . . . .	<b>1a(3)</b>	✓
(4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person? . . . . .	<b>1a(4)</b>	✓
(5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)? . . . . .	<b>1a(5)</b>	✓
(6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? ( <b>Exception.</b> Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days.) . . . . .	<b>1a(6)</b>	✓
<b>b</b> If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)–(6), did <b>any</b> of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance? See instructions . . . . .	<b>1b</b>	
<b>c</b> Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance, check here . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>d</b> Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in <b>2025</b> ? . . . . .	<b>1d</b>	✓
<b>2</b> Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5)):		
<b>a</b> At the end of tax year <b>2025</b> , did the foundation have any undistributed income (Part XII, lines 6d and 6e) for tax year(s) beginning before <b>2025</b> ? If "Yes," list the years . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	✓
20 ____ , 20 ____ , 20 ____ , 20 ____		
<b>b</b> Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is <b>not</b> applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to <b>all</b> years listed, answer "No" and attach statement—see instructions.) . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b> If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to <b>any</b> of the years listed in 2a, list the years here.		
20 ____ , 20 ____ , 20 ____ , 20 ____		
<b>3a</b> Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year? . . . . .	<b>3a</b>	✓
<b>b</b> If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in <b>2025</b> as a result of (1) any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969; (2) the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest; or (3) the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? (Use Form 4720, Schedule C, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in <b>2025</b> .) . . . . .	<b>3b</b>	
<b>4a</b> Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes? . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	✓
<b>b</b> Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in <b>2025</b> ? . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	✓

**Part VI-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required** *(continued)*

	Yes	No
<b>5a</b> During the year, did the foundation pay or incur any amount to:		
(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955); or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc., organization described in section 4945(d)(4)(A)? See instructions		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b> If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)–(5), did <b>any</b> of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance? See instructions		
<b>c</b> Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>d</b> If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant? If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53.4945-5(d).		
<b>6a</b> Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b> Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>7a</b> At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b> If "Yes," did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?		
<b>8</b> Is the foundation subject to the section 4960 tax on payment(s) of more than \$1,000,000 in remuneration or excess parachute payment(s) during the year?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Part VII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors**

**1 List all officers, directors, trustees, and foundation managers and their compensation. See instructions.**

(a) Name and address	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
Roger Tipton 12454 Willingdon Road, Huntersville, NC 28078	Boart Chair 5	0	0	0
Henry Tipton 12454 Willingdon Road, Huntersville, NC 28078	Treasurer 2	0	0	0
Jack Tipton 12454 Willingdon Road, Huntersville, NC 28078	Secretary 2	0	0	0

**2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1—see instructions). If none, enter "NONE."**

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$50,000	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
NONE				

**Total** number of other employees paid over \$50,000 . . . . .

**Part VII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors** *(continued)*

**3 Five highest-paid independent contractors for professional services. See instructions. If none, enter "NONE."**

(a) Name and address of each person paid more than \$50,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

**Total number of others receiving over \$50,000 for professional services** . . . . .

**Part VIII-A Summary of Direct Charitable Activities**

List the foundation's four largest direct charitable activities during the tax year. Include relevant statistical information such as the number of organizations and other beneficiaries served, conferences convened, research papers produced, etc.

	Expenses
<b>1</b> See Statement - Summary of Direct Charitable Activities	
<b>2</b> .....	
<b>3</b> .....	
<b>4</b> .....	

**Part VIII-B Summary of Program-Related Investments** (see instructions)

Describe the two largest program-related investments made by the foundation during the tax year on lines 1 and 2.

	Amount
<b>1</b> .....	
<b>2</b> .....	
<b>3</b> All other program-related investments. See instructions.	
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 3 . . . . .	

**Part IX Minimum Investment Return** (All domestic foundations must complete this part. Foreign foundations, see instructions.)

<b>1</b>	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes:		
<b>a</b>	Average monthly fair market value of securities . . . . .	<b>1a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Average of monthly cash balances . . . . .	<b>1b</b>	200
<b>c</b>	Fair market value of all other assets (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>1c</b>	
<b>d</b>	<b>Total</b> (add lines 1a, b, and c) . . . . .	<b>1d</b>	200
<b>e</b>	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation) . . . . .	<b>1e</b>	0
<b>2</b>	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets . . . . .	<b>2</b>	0
<b>3</b>	Subtract line 2 from line 1d . . . . .	<b>3</b>	200
<b>4</b>	Cash deemed held for charitable activities. Enter 1.5% (0.015) of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions) . . . . .	<b>4</b>	3
<b>5</b>	<b>Net value of noncharitable-use assets.</b> Subtract line 4 from line 3 . . . . .	<b>5</b>	197
<b>6</b>	<b>Minimum investment return.</b> Enter 5% (0.05) of line 5 . . . . .	<b>6</b>	10

**Part X Distributable Amount** (see instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations, check here  and do not complete this part.)

<b>1</b>	Minimum investment return from Part IX, line 6 . . . . .	<b>1</b>	10
<b>2a</b>	Tax on investment income for 2023 from Part V, line 5 . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	0
<b>b</b>	Income tax for 2025. (This does not include the tax from Part V.) . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	0
<b>c</b>	Add lines 2a and 2b . . . . .	<b>2c</b>	0
<b>3</b>	Distributable amount before adjustments. Subtract line 2c from line 1 . . . . .	<b>3</b>	10
<b>4</b>	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions . . . . .	<b>4</b>	0
<b>5</b>	Add lines 3 and 4 . . . . .	<b>5</b>	10
<b>6</b>	Deduction from distributable amount (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>6</b>	0
<b>7</b>	<b>Distributable amount</b> as adjusted. Subtract line 6 from line 5. Enter here and on Part XII, line 1 . . . . .	<b>7</b>	10

**Part XI Qualifying Distributions** (see instructions)

<b>1</b>	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc., purposes:		
<b>a</b>	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc.—total from Part I, column (d), line 26 . . . . .	<b>1a</b>	0
<b>b</b>	Program-related investments—total from Part VIII-B . . . . .	<b>1b</b>	0
<b>2</b>	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes . . . . .	<b>2</b>	48,895
<b>3</b>	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the:		
<b>a</b>	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required) . . . . .	<b>3a</b>	0
<b>b</b>	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule) . . . . .	<b>3b</b>	0
<b>4</b>	<b>Qualifying distributions.</b> Add lines 1a through 3b. Enter here and on Part XII, line 4 . . . . .	<b>4</b>	48,895

**Part XII Undistributed Income** (see instructions)

	(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2024	(c) 2024	(d) 2025
<b>1</b> Distributable amount for <b>2025</b> from Part X, line 7				10
<b>2</b> Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of <b>2025</b> :				
<b>a</b> Enter amount for 2023 only . . . . .			0	
<b>b</b> Total for prior years: 20 <u>23</u> , 20 <u>22</u> , 20 <u>21</u>		0		
<b>3</b> Excess distributions carryover, if any, to <b>2025</b> :				
<b>a</b> From 2020 . . . . .	0			
<b>b</b> From 2021 . . . . .	0			
<b>c</b> From 2022 . . . . .	0			
<b>d</b> From 2023 . . . . .	0			
<b>e</b> From 2024 . . . . .	0			
<b>f</b> <b>Total</b> of lines 3a through e . . . . .	0			
<b>4</b> Qualifying distributions for <b>2025</b> from Part XI, line 4: \$ <u>48,895</u>			0	
<b>a</b> Applied to 2024, but not more than line 2a . . . . .				
<b>b</b> Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required—see instructions) . . . . .		0		
<b>c</b> Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required—see instructions) . . . . .	0			
<b>d</b> Applied to <b>2025</b> distributable amount . . . . .				10
<b>e</b> Remaining amount distributed out of corpus	48,885			
<b>5</b> Excess distributions carryover applied to <b>2025</b> (If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a).) . . . . .	0			0
<b>6</b> <b>Enter the net total of each column as indicated below:</b>	48,885			
<b>a</b> Corpus. Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e. Subtract line 5				
<b>b</b> Prior years' undistributed income. Subtract line 4b from line 2b . . . . .		0		
<b>c</b> Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed . . . . .		0		
<b>d</b> Subtract line 6c from line 6b. Taxable amount—see instructions . . . . .		0		
<b>e</b> Undistributed income for 2024. Subtract line 4a from line 2a. Taxable amount—see instructions . . . . .			0	
<b>f</b> Undistributed income for <b>2025</b> . Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1. This amount must be distributed in 2026 . . . . .				0
<b>7</b> Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (Election may be required—see instructions) . . . . .	0			
<b>8</b> Excess distributions carryover from 2018 not applied on line 5 or line 7 (see instructions) . . . . .	0			
<b>9</b> <b>Excess distributions carryover to 2026.</b> Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a . . . . .	48,885			
<b>10</b> Analysis of line 9:				
<b>a</b> Excess from <b>2021</b> . . . . .	0			
<b>b</b> Excess from <b>2022</b> . . . . .	0			
<b>c</b> Excess from <b>2023</b> . . . . .	0			
<b>d</b> Excess from <b>2024</b> . . . . .	0			
<b>e</b> Excess from <b>2025</b> . . . . .	48,885			

**Part XIII Private Operating Foundations** (see instructions and Part VI-A, question 9)

**1a** If the foundation has received a ruling or determination letter that it is a private operating foundation, and the ruling is effective for **2025**, enter the date of the ruling . . . . . NA

**b** Check box to indicate whether the foundation is a private operating foundation described in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5)

	Tax year				(e) Total
	(a) 2025	(b) 2024	(c) 2023	(d) 2022	
<b>2a</b> Enter the lesser of the adjusted net income from Part I or the minimum investment return from Part IX for each year listed . . . . .					
<b>b</b> 85% (0.85) of line 2a . . . . .					
<b>c</b> Qualifying distributions from Part XI, line 4, for each year listed . . . . .					
<b>d</b> Amounts included in line 2c not used directly for active conduct of exempt activities . . . . .					
<b>e</b> Qualifying distributions made directly for active conduct of exempt activities. Subtract line 2d from line 2c . . . . .					
<b>3</b> Complete 3a, b, or c for the alternative test relied upon:					
<b>a</b> "Assets" alternative test—enter:					
<b>(1)</b> Value of all assets . . . . .					
<b>(2)</b> Value of assets qualifying under section 4942(j)(3)(B)(i) . . . . .					
<b>b</b> "Endowment" alternative test—enter <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> of minimum investment return shown in Part IX, line 6, for each year listed . . . . .					
<b>c</b> "Support" alternative test—enter:					
<b>(1)</b> Total support other than gross investment income (interest, dividends, rents, payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), or royalties) . . . . .					
<b>(2)</b> Support from general public and 5 or more exempt organizations as provided in section 4942(j)(3)(B)(iii) . . . . .					
<b>(3)</b> Largest amount of support from an exempt organization . . . . .					
<b>(4)</b> Gross investment income . . . . .					

**Part XIV Supplementary Information (Complete this part only if the foundation had \$5,000 or more in assets at any time during the year—see instructions.)**

**1 Information Regarding Foundation Managers:**

- a** List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than \$5,000). (See section 507(d)(2).)

---

- b** List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest.

**2 Information Regarding Contribution, Grant, Gift, Loan, Scholarship, etc., Programs:**

Check here  if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds. If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc., to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d. See instructions.

- a** The name, address, and telephone number or email address of the person to whom applications should be addressed:

---

- b** The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include:

---

- c** Any submission deadlines:

---

- d** Any restrictions or limitations on awards, such as by geographical areas, charitable fields, kinds of institutions, or other factors:

**Part XIV** **Supplementary Information** *(continued)*

**3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment**

Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
<b>a</b> <i>Paid during the year</i>				
<b>Total</b> . . . . .				<b>3a</b>
<b>b</b> <i>Approved for future payment</i>				
<b>Total</b> . . . . .				<b>3b</b>





Schedule B (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Schedule of Contributors

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2025

Name of the organization

Sustainable Seas Institute

Employer identification number

33-4547966

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

- 501(c)( ) (enter number) organization
4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust not treated as a private foundation
527 political organization

Form 990-PF

- 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation
4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation
501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the General Rule or a Special Rule.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

- For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

- For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test...
For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor...
For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor...

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it must answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

Name of organization <b>Sustainable Seas Institute</b>	Employer identification number <b>33-4547966</b>
---	---

**Part I** **Contributors** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	Roger Tipton ----- 12454 Willingdon Road ----- Huntersville, NC 28078 -----	\$ ----- 49,659	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-----	-----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

# Form 990PF Statements

Name of the Organization <b>Sustainable Seas Institute</b>	EIN <b>33-4547966</b>
---	--------------------------

## Legal Fees Schedule

Part and Line Number: **Part I - Line 16(a) - Legal Fees**

Name of Expense	Expense per Book	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursement for Charitable Purposes
Business startup legal fees	\$285	\$0	\$0	\$0

## Other Expenses Schedule

Part and Line Number: **Part I - Line 23 - Other Expenses**

Name of Expense	Expense per Book	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursement for Charitable Purposes
Insurance, Job Supplies Meals, Repairs and Maintenance, Bank Charges, Supplies	\$15,745	\$0	\$0	\$0

## Summary of Direct Charitable Activities

Part and Line Number: **Part VIII (A) - Summary of Direct Charitable Activities**

Name of the Direct Charitable Activities and Description	Amount
Marine Research Vessel Operations - Sustainable Seas Institute operated the research vessel Dawn during 2025, conducting field-based marine science including water sampling, ocean contamination monitoring, and biodiversity research in Caribbean waters. Program expenses included vessel charter and docking fees (\$27,237.69), vessel repairs and storm damage recovery (\$11,240.55), underwater research equipment and field supplies (\$2,100.88), and crew meals during active research deployments (\$856.83).	\$41,436
Field Research and Scientific Deployments - SSI personnel conducted two major research deployments in 2025, traveling to marine field sites to collect data and advance the organization's ocean conservation mission.	\$5,608
Organizational Infrastructure for Charitable Operations - As a first-year private foundation, SSI established the legal, administrative, and insurance infrastructure required to sustain ongoing charitable research activities.	\$1,831

## Cash Distribution Explanation Statement

Part and Line Number: **Part XI - Line 3(b) - Cash Distribution Explanation**

Sustainable Seas Institute did not set aside any amounts for specific charitable projects during the 2025 tax year. All qualifying distributions of \$48,875.07 were made as direct expenditures in support of the foundation's charitable activities, including marine research vessel operations aboard the R/V Dawn, field research deployments, and organizational infrastructure. No amounts were held in reserve for future projects under either the suitability test or the cash distribution test. The foundation's qualifying distributions for 2025 substantially exceed the minimum distribution requirement under section 4942.

# Tax Exempt Entity Declaration and Signature for Electronic Filing

For calendar year 2025, or tax year beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and ending \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

# 2025

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

For use with Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, 990-T, 1120-POL, 4720, 8868, 5227, 5330, and 8038-CP

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8453TE](http://www.irs.gov/Form8453TE) for the latest information.

Name of filer \_\_\_\_\_

EIN or SSN \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I Type of Return and Return Information

Check the box for the type of return being filed with Form 8453-TE and enter the applicable amount, if any, from the return. Form 8038-CP and Form 5330 filers may enter dollars and cents. For all other forms, enter whole dollars only. If you check the box on line 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a, or 10a below, and the amount on that line of the return being filed with this form was blank, then leave line 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, or 10b, whichever is applicable, blank (do not enter -0-). If you entered -0- on the return, then enter -0- on the applicable line below. Do not complete more than one line in Part I.

1a	Form 990 check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total revenue, if any (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1b	
2a	Form 990-EZ check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total revenue, if any (Form 990-EZ, line 9)	2b	
3a	Form 1120-POL check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total tax (Form 1120-POL, line 22)	3b	
4a	Form 990-PF check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Tax based on investment income (Form 990-PF, Part V, line 5)	4b	
5a	Form 8868 check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Balance due (Form 8868, line 3c)	5b	
6a	Form 990-T check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total tax (Form 990-T, Part III, line 4)	6b	
7a	Form 4720 check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total tax (Form 4720, Part III, line 1)	7b	
8a	Form 5227 check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	FMV of assets at end of tax year (Form 5227, Item D)	8b	
9a	Form 5330 check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Tax due (Form 5330, Part II, line 19)	9b	
10a	Form 8038-CP check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	b	Amount of credit payment requested (Form 8038-CP, Part III, line 22)	10b	

## Part II Declaration of Officer or Person Subject to Tax

- 11a  I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of the federal taxes owed on this return, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. To revoke a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at 1-888-353-4537 no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment.
- b  If a copy of this return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I certify that I executed the electronic disclosure consent contained within this return allowing disclosure by the IRS of this Form 990/990-EZ/990-PF (as specifically identified in Part I above) to the selected state agency(ies).

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that  I am an officer of the above named entity or  I am the person subject to tax with respect to (name of entity) \_\_\_\_\_, (EIN) \_\_\_\_\_, and that I have examined a copy of the 2025 electronic return and accompanying schedules and statements, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the amount in Part I above is the amount shown on the copy of the electronic return. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send the return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission, (b) the reason for any delay in processing the return or refund, and (c) the date of any refund.

Sign  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Here Signature of officer or person subject to tax \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Title, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

## Part III Declaration of Electronic Return Originator (ERO) and Paid Preparer (see instructions)

I declare that I have reviewed the above return and that the entries on Form 8453-TE are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. If I am only a collector, I am not responsible for reviewing the return and only declare that this form accurately reflects the data on the return. The entity officer or person subject to tax will have signed this form before I submit the return. I will give a copy of all forms and information to be filed with the IRS to the officer or person subject to tax, and have followed all other requirements in Pub. 4163, Modernized e-File (MeF) Information for Authorized IRS e-file Providers for Business Returns. If I am also the Paid Preparer, under penalties of perjury I declare that I have examined the above return and accompanying schedules and statements, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. This Paid Preparer declaration is based on all information of which I have any knowledge.

<b>ERO's Use Only</b>	ERO's signature _____	Date _____	Check if also paid preparer <input type="checkbox"/>	Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>	ERO's SSN or PTIN _____
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP code _____				EIN _____
					Phone no. _____

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined the above return and accompanying schedules and statements, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer is based on all information of which the preparer has any knowledge.

<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	Print/Type preparer's name _____	Preparer's signature _____	Date _____	Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>	PTIN _____
	Firm's name _____			Firm's EIN _____	
	Firm's address _____			Phone no. _____	