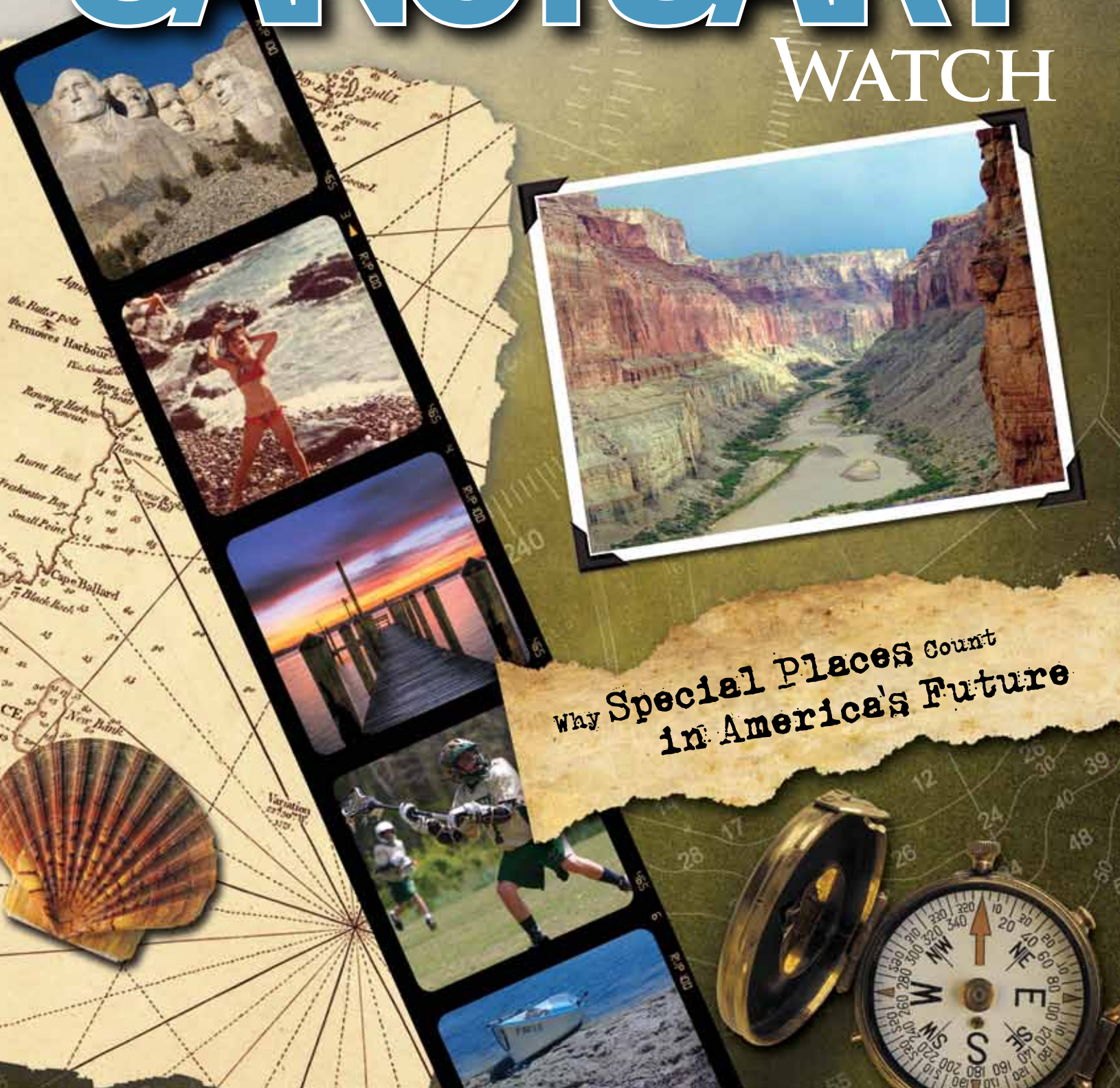


# SANCTUARY WATCH



Why Special Places Count  
in America's Future



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**THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES** is part of NOAA's National Ocean Service. 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring MD 20910 | Phone: 301-713-3125 | Web: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

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When you hear the words “special places,” you likely think of a place in a person’s life that resonates within their heart and their memories. Special places are important to us as individuals, as members of communities, and for the nation at large. They are sources of powerful emotions and we have an almost instinctive reaction to protect them, defend them and share them.

Once lost, special places can’t be recreated. If we had allowed huge hotels, chain restaurants and strip malls in Yosemite, we could not really connect the natural beauty of El Capitan to the American consciousness.

Our nation is full of special places like parks, monuments, town squares and historic homestead markers, but many more don’t have any special designation. A remote area of the Chesapeake known only to a few watermen families for generations, or a mountain stream that winds its way to Big Sur that is a spiritual retreat to dedicated hikers, are both special places to a lucky few. In this issue we celebrate special places, their importance in the lives of Americans, their role in defining our future, and their capability to help sustain our nation’s health and wealth in a time of change and uncertainty.


Special places are important because only by addressing, demonstrating and connecting attention to discrete places is it possible to convey a sense of problems, of solutions, or of opportunities that connect citizens directly to their environment and their future. A place gives context, realism, a window into which messages or solutions become understandable and digestible. The more special a place is, the more powerful the effect of demonstration; the more special places that are orchestrated and connected in demonstration, the far greater the range of effects.

Your national marine sanctuaries are not just about places on the map and the waters therein, but rather represent nationally important, transformative and beloved places of significance to our nation’s natural riches. With everything from charismatic creatures like whales and sea turtles to historic treasures beneath the waves, national marine sanctuaries are places that are truly special and representative of other areas just as exceptional — all of which can speak to us and help us navigate the future.

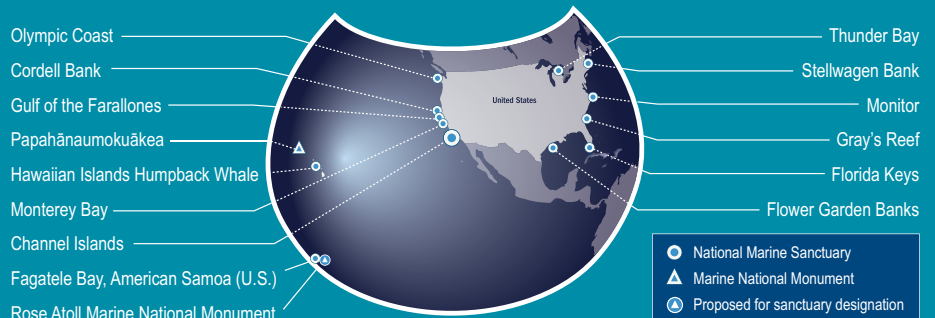
One special place that is not a sanctuary but is known to us all is the Marianas Trench. In this issue we salute Don Walsh, best known for his 1960 dive nearly seven miles beneath the surface in the Marianas Trench aboard the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, for his leadership, exploration and spirit of adventure.

Special places give us all something to cherish, to defend and to experience. Join us in both celebrating all of the places that are special to us, and in finding ways to make them relevant to solving the emerging problems of our time. We need your creative energy.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel J. Basta, Director  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

# Reconstructed Faces of *Monitor* Crew Unveiled in D.C.

**PUBLIC'S HELP SOUGHT IN SOLVING 150-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY OF CIVIL WAR IRONCLAD'S SAILORS' IDENTITIES**

Nearly 150 years after the Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* sank in a storm the night of Dec. 31, 1862, the public got a rare opportunity to gaze into the reconstructed faces of two of the crewmembers who served on one of history's most famous ships. The skeletal remains of the sailors were discovered in 2002 during a NOAA expedition that raised the *Monitor's* gun turret from the ocean floor. Forensic anthropologists at Louisiana State University reconstructed the faces, and UPS delivered the fragile cargo safely to Washington, D.C., for a March 6 unveiling ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial. Hosted by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Navy Memorial Foundation, the event garnered national headlines and brought widespread attention to NOAA's ongoing efforts to identify the two sailors. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries also hopes to bury the remains of the two sailors in Arlington National Cemetery and erect a monument dedicated to all 16 crewmembers of the *Monitor* who lost their lives when the ship went down.



The faces of two lost crewmen of the ironclad USS *Monitor*, recreated in plaster based on skeletal remains recovered from the vessel's turret, were unveiled March 6 in Washington.

Photo: NOAA

## Thunder Bay Sanctuary Explores Potential Expansion

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR BOUNDARY SHIFT DATES BACK TO 2006**

NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary took a significant step toward broadening its reach in Lake Huron with the recent announcement that staff will prepare an environmental impact statement for possible expansion of the sanctuary. Support for the move dates back to the sanctuary's management plan review in 2006, when NOAA received public input expressing interest in extending the sanctuary's boundaries to include the waters adjacent to Alcona and Presque Isle counties. In 2007, the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council adopted a resolution that

supported expanding the boundaries. The Thunder Bay sanctuary has proven economically important to a region that has seen the loss of other industries. By increasing tourism and related business development, the sanctuary is working with partners to encourage sustainable tourism and use of the Great Lakes. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will review public and stakeholder comments on the proposed action and its alternatives. For more information, visit the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary website at <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>.

## VISITOR CENTER TO MAKE A SPLASH IN SANTA CRUZ



Photo: Mark DiOrto

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's new Exploration Center is set to open July 23, bringing a new hub of ocean education and interaction to Santa Cruz, Calif., just steps from the water and the famous Beach Boardwalk. The center, which earned a LEED Gold Certification for sustainable design, will connect visitors to the remarkable underwater world of the sanctuary, its habitats and marine life. Construction is currently underway on the center's interactive exhibits, state-of-the-art classroom, theater and bookstore. The exhibits will feature ocean ecosystems

and conservation themes ranging from deep-sea canyons to how to enjoy the sanctuary responsibly.

The Exploration Center is the product of a collaboration between NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the city of Santa Cruz. To support the center's development, individuals and organizations that make a \$500 donation can have their names engraved on commemorative tiles. Visit <http://montereybay.noaa.gov> for more information.

## APP PUTS TIDEPOLS OF CALIFORNIA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Ever explore a shoreline and come across a creature you don't recognize? There's an app for that.

Teachers, students, naturalists and anyone who is curious about Cali-

fornia's tidepools can now access a wealth of information about these remarkable places just by reaching for their iPhone or iPad. Now available in Apple's App Store, the free "California Tidepools" application offers a searchable database with photos, detailed descriptions and fun facts that make it easy to identify and learn about the creatures that live in the rocky shallows. As of early April, over a thousand people had downloaded the app.

The app was developed through collaboration between UC Santa Barbara's Marine Science Institute, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and volunteers from Citrix Systems Inc. It was also developed to promote the upcoming Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS), a state-of-the-art facility that the Marine Science Institute and Channel Islands sanctuary are developing on the UCSB campus. OCTOS will provide up-close, immersive and interactive marine science education to students of all ages.



# The Value of SPECIAL PLACES

by Matt Dozier

America is a nation filled with special places, from the sweeping grandeur of the Rocky Mountains to the idyllic shores of the Florida Keys.

From an early age, our children learn about Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rushmore, Gettysburg, the Grand Canyon — iconic locations whose names resonate with deep cultural and historical significance. We celebrate these places for their breathtaking scenery, but they mean more to us than just images on a postcard. They are part of the fabric of America, sources of national pride and inspiration that are recognized by all for their extraordinary worth.

What makes a place special? Is it scenic beauty? Economic value? Unique or endangered natural resources? Scientific or historical sig-

nificance? All of these traits and more can contribute to our appreciation of a place, and different people often value the same place for different reasons.

The wreck of the RMS *Titanic*, for instance, is an iconic piece of America's cultural memory. The dramatic, emotionally gripping story of the ship's sinking 100 years ago has been retold countless times and captivated millions of people. But the wreck site itself is also a somber memorial, a historical monument, and a scientific laboratory.

And yet, a place need not be grand or spectacular to have special meaning to us. Think about a place that's special to you.



A humble field or stream where you used to play as a child could be every bit as important to you as a national park or monument. The emotional connections we form with special places shape who we are, our memories and our values. They inspire us, support and sustain us, influence our perspectives and become part of our identity.

One characteristic is shared by all special places: They are irreplaceable. Fear of losing something evokes a strong emotional response from those who care about it, and when a special place is under threat, we will push hard to save it. And the ocean — 72 percent of this planet — is under threat.

In 1969, a disastrous oil spill off Santa Barbara — the biggest in U.S. history at the time — coated beaches with black sludge and killed marine life along hundreds of miles of picturesque Southern California coastline. The public outcry for better protection of this special place and other places like it in our ocean helped drive the creation of the National Marine Sanctuary System in 1972.



Photo: Jim Cassick



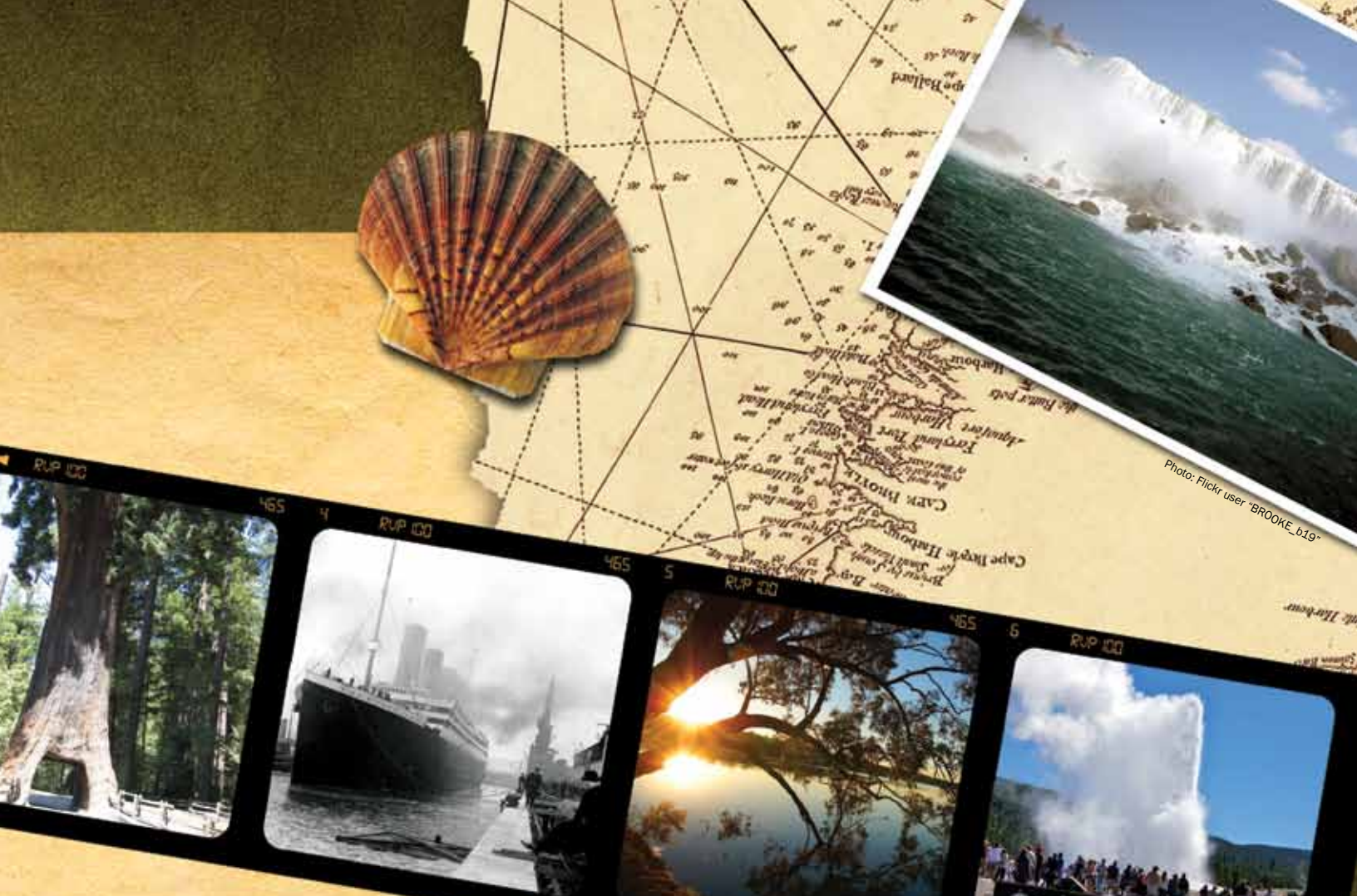


Photo: Flickr user "BROOKE\_b19"

Photos (left to right): Flickr user "rudynorff," Flickr user "V La," Library of Congress, Carey van Blommestein, Flickr user "Mike Miley"

For 40 years, our national marine sanctuaries have worked to protect special areas in our coastal and ocean waters. The sanctuaries are national treasures of extraordinary aesthetic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections and economic productivity.

Even more important than what they protect, however, is what they stand for: the idea that it's worth preserving not just these 14 unique areas, but all places, both within sanctuaries and without; under the sea and all around us. Sanctuaries help people recognize a shared set of human values that are critical to how we navigate a complex, changing world.

As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in

spirit, purpose, and method." He was talking about our responsibility to make hard choices as we consider the importance of those resources not only in the present, but in the future.

When we heed President Roosevelt's words and take responsibility for the places that matter to us, it creates an ethic of conservation that will make the world a better place — for our own sake, and for the sake of generations to come. ♪

**"The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."**

**- Theodore Roosevelt**







Photo: ©Dave Lauridsen

## MARK TERCEK PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

*Sanctuary Voices is a guest column featuring views and opinions from the national marine sanctuary community.*

I have a great job — my work at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) takes me to some of the world's most spectacular marine places. I've come face-to-face

with dozens of sharks in Palmyra Atoll, one of the world's best examples of a predator-dominated ecosystem. I've watched a pair of orcas chase a sea turtle in the Galapagos Islands. And I've met with local villagers in Papua New Guinea who have banded together to protect their piece of the Coral Triangle — home to an incredible 76 percent of the world's coral species.

What makes these places special? Why protect them?

The wonders of diving on a vibrant, thriving coral reef or kayaking through a healthy salt marsh are important reasons for protecting our oceans and coasts. But to succeed in ocean conservation at scale, we must do more than celebrate the innate wonders of special places. We need to talk much more about their value.

In the marine realm, for example, protecting our planet's special places can improve fish catches, create new jobs, enhance livelihoods of coastal communities and protect important sources of medicine.

Right now, work is happening in the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary that does all of these.

Scientists from TNC, NOAA and partner organizations — Mote Marine Lab, University of Miami, Nova Southeastern University, Coral Restoration Foundation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks — have grown 30,000 nursery-grown staghorn and elkhorn corals and begun to transplant them onto reefs in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our hope is that the transplanted young corals will thrive and reproduce, speeding the recovery of these two threatened species, and by extension provide even better habitat for the myriad species that people depend on in these locations.

Coral reefs are among the most biologically rich and productive ecosystems on earth. Their structure attracts thousands of young fish seeking a safe place to hide from predators as they grow into adulthood. Home to 25 percent of the world's marine species, reefs provide the very foundation for local fisheries, tourism and recreation economies.

What's more, this diversity holds great potential for medical research. Compounds found in coral reefs are essential sources of medicine for everything from cancer to diabetes to Alzheimer's. For example, the drug Ara-C — derived from a compound discovered in a Caribbean sea sponge — has helped save the lives of millions of people with leukemia. And today, women battling breast cancer have a new weapon in Halavan, a drug derived from a sponge found in the temperate reefs off the coast of Japan. These medicines are now created synthetically in a lab, so we don't need to keep going back to the reefs to maintain our supply. But the sponge had to be there for scientists to study in the first place.

These values are worth fighting to keep. When the Caribbean's main reef-building species of coral was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2006, it became clear that our coral reefs were in need of some direct and innovative intervention.

Our coral planting work funded by NOAA in the Florida Keys is the largest marine restoration project of its kind. With an infusion of Recovery Act funds in 2009, the project sought to grow 12,000 corals and instead has grown 30,000 and employed 80 people — a terrific return on investment.

And this is just one of eight Recovery Act-funded coastal restoration projects TNC is working on with NOAA — projects that have created or sustained more than 870 jobs. That compares very favorably to the number of jobs typically produced by "gray" infrastructure projects, such as levees, dams, roads and bridges.

And once complete, these coastal restoration projects will pay for themselves many times over through economically valuable services that healthy, functioning coastal systems provide to people. Already, these investments in habitat restoration are producing fish for recreational and commercial harvests, filtering water and reducing pollution, and making coastal communities more resilient to sea level rise and coastal erosion.

While this one project won't put us at the finish line from a restoration standpoint, results like this suggest there is reason for cautious optimism for the world's special places, from the coral reefs of the Caribbean to the rainforests of Brazil. But to succeed in the long-term protection of these places, we need to think beyond their aesthetic values and connect nature to what concerns many people the most today — how to make their lives better, safer, healthier and more prosperous.

By considering nature's value as well as its wonder, we can better safeguard the lands and waters that sustain us all.

*The Nature Conservancy is a leader in working to solve complex global challenges and conserve special places both on land and in the ocean.*



Photo: Mark Godfrey ©2008 The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's President and CEO Mark Tercek snorkels with members of the Asia Pacific Council in Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea.



Photo: Sue Flood

## CAPTAIN DON WALSH, USN (RET.)

Honorary President, The Explorers Club | President, International Maritime Inc.

### Finding Inspiration in the World's Least Hospitable Places

Don Walsh doesn't think of himself as an explorer.

"I don't think I've ever considered myself an explorer," says the man who completed the first descent to the bottom

of the Marianas Trench and whose decorated career includes more than 50 expeditions to the polar regions. "Other people call me an explorer, but that's for them to judge, not me."

Walsh isn't just being modest. A renowned oceanographer, engineer, author, educator and retired U.S. Navy captain, he has traveled to the far reaches of the planet in the name of science, but says he doesn't fit into the "traditional mold" of explorers like Magellan or Captain Cook. For him, exploration has a different meaning.

"I define exploration as curiosity that's acted upon," Walsh says. "Anyone can be curious about something, but not everyone is willing to follow that impulse."

Before he ever set foot aboard a submarine or braved the bitter cold of Antarctica, Walsh developed a fascination with the water as a young man growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1930s and 1940s. He says he remembers riding ferryboats across the Bay, hanging around the waterfront, and watching the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge from the living room of his mother's house in Berkeley.

"I just liked to be down on the waterfront, to see the ships, the beach,"

*"I define exploration as curiosity that's acted upon... not everyone is willing to follow that impulse."*

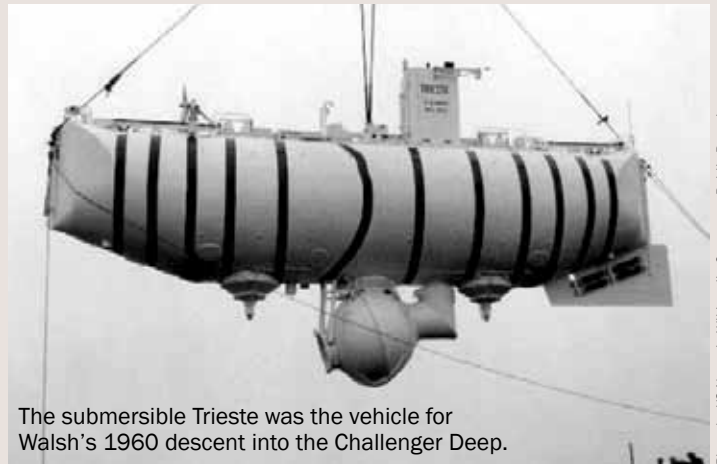
he remembers. "From my earliest recollection I wanted to be a sailor."

Walsh says he dreamed of one day sailing on the big ships he watched streaming endlessly through the Golden Gate. Little did he realize that he would spend much of his adult life not on the waves, but under them.

In 1959, after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy and serving on Navy submarines for several years, Walsh took a position as first officer-in-charge of the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, a deep-diving submersible based out of the Navy Electronics Laboratory in San Diego.

On Jan. 23, 1960, Walsh and co-pilot Jacques Piccard took *Trieste* on a record-breaking dive to the deepest place in the world's ocean: the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, 35,840 feet (almost seven miles) below the surface.

Only one other person has repeated the feat — filmmaker James Cameron, who made the descent solo in the *Deepsea Challenger* in



The submersible Trieste was the vehicle for Walsh's 1960 descent into the Challenger Deep.

Photo by US Navy via Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

March. Walsh was there as a consultant, and says he was the "last person to shake [Cameron's] hand before he closed the hatch, and the first person to shake his hand when he opened it."

For someone who has spent so much time on and under the water, it may come as a surprise that one of the places closest to Walsh's heart is Antarctica, the driest continent on Earth. He first visited the frozen land in 1971, and it left a lasting impression. "You look out there and you can see these wonderful mountains — it's indescribable, and you just keep going back," he says.

And go back he has, returning for numerous expeditions over the years, including a 74-day circumnavigation of the continent in 2002-2003. He says it's impossible to travel there without feeling a special connection to the place.

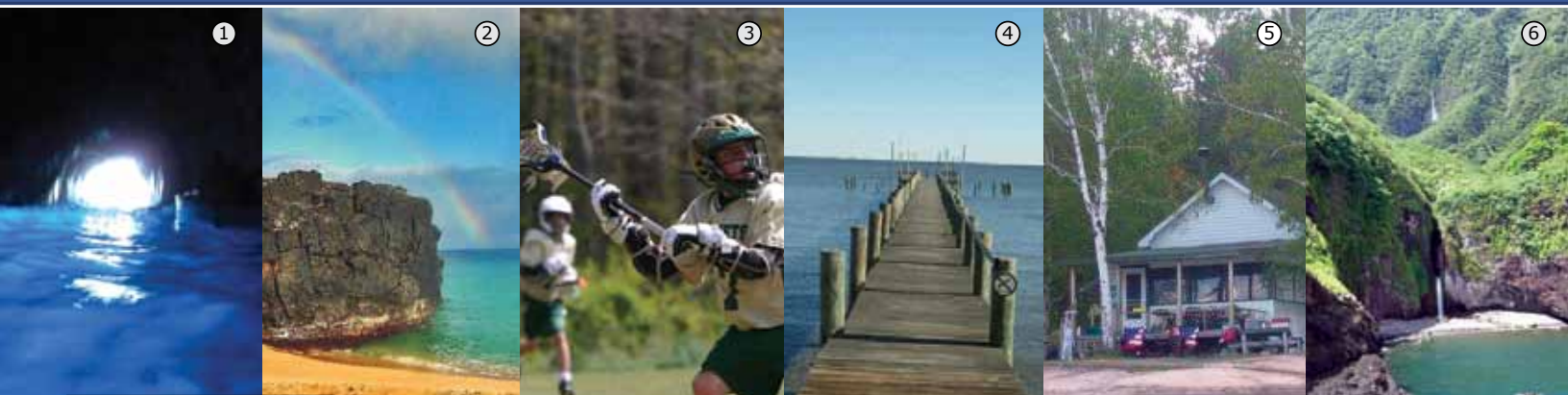
"There's this sense of history when you walk in the footsteps of these great explorers," Walsh says. "You feel it's worthwhile showing people the grandeur of these places."

Scenic beauty aside, Walsh says, places like Antarctica and the Challenger Deep are special because of what we can learn from them. Where pioneering expeditions once planted flags, scientists now plant instruments that reveal insights into the past, present and future of our planet — and how we can best adapt to a changing world.

Even in an era of remote-controlled robots and unmanned submersibles, Walsh says, science like this is still at its most compelling when it's a human being braving the polar elements or plunging to the bottom of the sea. "There's a certain interest in humans doing things in extreme environments, the drama of it," he says.

And that drama is what gets people to care — about protecting a special place, learning more about the world, or even doing some exploration of their own.





# What's Your Special

## Celebrating 40 Years

To celebrate the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' 40th anniversary, we asked you to

- ① Andrea G. - This blue grotto on the Island of Capri. It's really that blue!
- ② Leilani T. - Waimea Bay, Oahu. Its status as a sanctuary is so very important.
- ③ Tad N. - The lax field!
- ④ Katalin Z. - Walking to this pier to see the sunrise when I was little.
- ⑤ Vicki W. - Canada family retreat my great-grandfather built in the '40s.
- ⑥ Andy C. - I paddled into this amazing bay on North Shore Moloka'i.

Highlights ▾

### Hallie Sacks

My special place is Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. I've never felt smaller than I did there, standing in the vastness of true wilderness. I also saw the aurora borealis that night!



### Jim Cassick

My favorite place is diving with the Tarpon Springs SCUBAnauts. Here we are preparing for a dive at Shark Alley in Freeport, Bahamas.



### Eric A. Evans

My Special Place is within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary — James Island outside the Quileute village of La Push. The Quileute tribe used the island much like a castle in times of war. Tribal chiefs are buried on its top, a place of honor off limits to outsiders. Still, it is a wonderful, warming view from First Beach on the Olympic Coast.



These photos are part of our "Sanctuary Friends" board on Pinterest, where we're collecting awesome ocean images pinned by other Pinterest users. Join the fun at <http://pinterest.com/nmsanctuaries!>



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)



Aquarius Laboratory; "A school of fish swims past the underwater research laboratory Aquarius, located 62 feet (19 meters) beneath the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary." (National Geographic)

[webshots.com](http://webshots.com)



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

[flowergarden.noaa.gov](http://flowergarden.noaa.gov)



Midway Atoll - Eastern Island at sunrise. Andy Collins

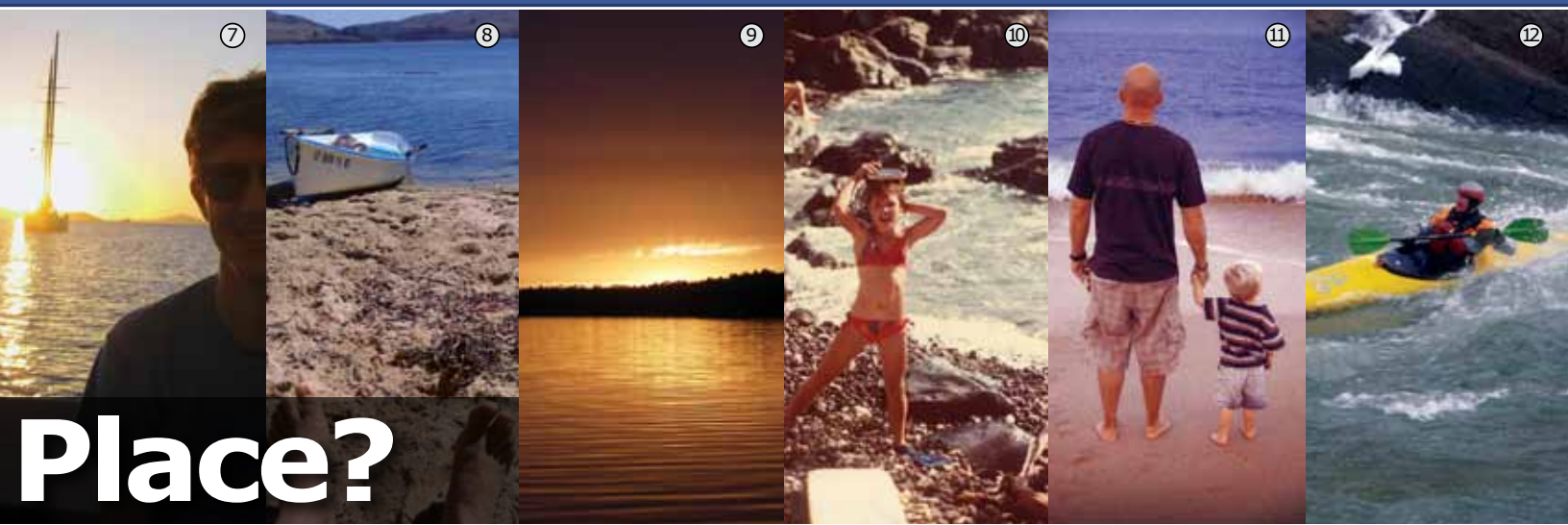
[papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://papahanaumokuakea.gov)



Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Maui, Hawaii, USA

[wikimedia.org](http://wikimedia.org)





# Place?

share your special places with us. See more on Facebook!

✓ Liked

✓ Special

4,827

- ⑦ Matt D. - A sunset sail in Maho Bay, St John - I've never felt so relaxed.
- ⑧ Jenny S. - Trans-bay swims across the San Andreas Fault, Tomales Bay.
- ⑨ Kate T. - My family memories at Lake Tomahawk, Wis.
- ⑩ Claire F. - Secret coves in Hawai'i where I grew up snorkeling.
- ⑪ Matt M. - Bethany Beach where I spent summers as a kid. Now my 3 boys do!
- ⑫ Helene S. - Rocky Island Wave in the Potomac where I met my husband.

## Erdem Dedebas

My most special place: Istanbul, Turkey. I have this special connection with my home city (and that's probably why I go back every summer). The city is divided in two by the sea and in order to travel between the two parts, you need to take a ferry like the one pictured.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

google.com



The West Indian manatee in Florida, which can live as long as 60 years, is protected under several federal laws.

treehugger.com

twitter

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### Tweets

**Sanctuaries (NOAA)** @sanctuaries 3m

For NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries 40th, we're asking you to share your special places with us. Twitpic with why it's special @sanctuaries

**John Ewald** @JohnNOAA 13m

@sanctuaries My pic last yr of Santa Barbara coast near Channel Is Sanctuary; an amazing place with so many ocean users [pic.twitter.com/yGDrQdub](http://pic.twitter.com/yGDrQdub)

**Andrew Snowwhite** @asnowwhite 21m

@sanctuaries Yes! Lucky enough to see Eastern North Pacific Gray #whales in Baja!

**Nicole Marie** @nicolemarie212 24m

@sanctuaries My favorite place is Sandy Hook, NJ. [pic.twitter.com/Qdp6WESS](http://pic.twitter.com/Qdp6WESS)





# REFLECTIONS ON THE BAY

## A CONVERSATION WITH CHESAPEAKE WATERMEN

*To find out more about the connections between people and special places, we sat down with Chesapeake Bay watershed residents Joe Scrivener, Tommy Zinn, Craig Kelly and Phil Watson to talk about life along the bay.*

Photo courtesy of Jay Fleming Photography, [www.jayflemingphotography.com](http://www.jayflemingphotography.com)

### GROWING UP ON THE WATER

**Sanctuary Watch (SW): Did your family work the water when you were growing up?**

**Craig Kelly (CK):** No, but I grew up around it. I was born and raised at Point Lookout, before the state even thought of having a state park down there. Y'know, being a seven- or eight-year-old kid, catching crabs and oysters and fish, I mean that's exciting as hell!

**SW: How did you get hooked on the water?**

**CK:** I was working with [a friend], and he'd inherited fish nets from his dad, so I was helping him, you see... we said, "Let's put some crab pots out." Caught a few crabs, sold them, next thing you know we was oysterin'. Then I found a girlfriend and we kinda parted ways, but I just picked up where we left off, and I've been making a living out of it ever since.

**Phil Watson (PW):** I grew up on a farm, my dad was a farmer and he was also a waterman, and a lot of the time he would fish gill nets. I'd go down with him and I'd sit in the back of that boat and damn near freeze to death. He'd never seem to get cold! I didn't find out until later on in the years when I started working the nets that when you're active you don't get cold!

**PW:** We've had a lot of hours on the water, fortunately, and to grow up in the area that I grew up in and have access to the river and the bay and marshland — I've had a good life.

### A SPECIAL PLACE

**SW: What makes the bay special?**

**Joe Scrivener (JS):** There's so many things here, it's not just crabs and fish and oysters. It's the daggone ducks swimming up and down this creek here, the seagulls, the bald eagles we see around here all the time.

**CK:** The mama duck with the babies...

**JS:** ...the eggs that my grandson found that the duck just laid down there underneath the truck.

**Tommy Zinn (TZ):** Sunrises, sunsets...

**JS:** When [charter passengers] ride out there with us to go fishing in the morning, and they get to see that sun come up over that water, that's the only thing they can think of when they get home, seeing that sunrise, how we caught a fish this long...

**TZ:** At the Solomon's boardwalk, every night during the summer there's probably 20 people taking pictures of the sunset. Doesn't cost them a nickel. Don't have to be rich just to come down and see some of the sights.

**JS:** Just take a picture right here, looking down this creek out there to the river.

**PW:** You can't do any better than this. [laughs]



## CHANGES IN THE CHESAPEAKE

**SW: What kind of changes have you seen in the Chesapeake over the years?**

**PW:** I've seen so many changes. I'm 82 years old, and I've lived here all my life. One of the biggest changes in the latter years is the marshes where I live [along the Patuxent River] are dying. I would safely say we're losing at least two, maybe three feet of marsh a year. In 50 years, a lot of places where we have marsh now there's going to be all water.

**TZ:** Back in the day, guys from southern Maryland used to go to the Eastern Shore and tong over there during the good weather up till Christmas because it was more productive. Now, the average age of watermen is late 50's, and they don't want to travel like they used to. It's more competitive trying to work an area where there used to be oysters everywhere.

**SW: With all the changes you've seen, do you think the Chesapeake is losing a lot of what makes it special?**

**JS:** I don't think anyone would ever lose their love for this body of water. Craig, if he quit crabbing tomorrow, he would still be out there doing something... But to lose it

so you can't put your foot in the water or your grandchildren can't go in there or even be close to it because [they might get sick], that's heartbreaking just to think about.

**SW: You must feel protective of this place, having spent so much of your lives here.**

**JS:** It just makes you mad, because you love it so much. But what can one person do? Unfortunately, there's how many people on the bay between here and the Susquehanna? It's not just the five of us sitting at this table.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS, CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

**SW: Do you think bringing people out on the water will give them a greater appreciation for what makes it special?**

**TZ:** You try to encourage people to come down and have a positive experience, soak their feet in the bay, walk down the bay shore and pick up some shells, get them to interact or connect with that resource, and maybe that can draw an appreciation for it like we do.

**JS:** You need to have some positive talk about the bay, how valuable it is to us, how

pretty it is — the birds and everything else around here.

**TZ:** They would see that it's just as important as Mount Rushmore, or some of them landmarks... That's our national monument right here, the bay, and we want to preserve it, and we want them to take care of it along with us.

**PW:** Absolutely.

**SW: When you have a bunch of people that care very deeply about some place, that's infectious, and that can help others understand.**

**PW:** Of course, no doubt about it.

**JS:** And that's probably what we need more of here, too.

**TZ:** Joe probably spends half his time taking fishing parties out, telling them the right thing to do, and why he might do something a certain way, and I hope some of it sinks into those people.

**TZ:** I think maybe they will connect the dots and say, "Hey, if we don't start cleaning up our act this isn't going to get any better, it's going to get worse. We're not going to have any more watermen, they're all going to be tour guides! They're all going to be in a museum." 🦀



### JOE SCRIVENER

A second-generation waterman from Drayden, Md., Scrivener makes his living as a charter captain and owns a seafood wholesale company with his son. Previously, he has worked as a full-time fisherman, oysterman and crabber.



### PHIL WATSON

As a fourth-generation Maryland native born and raised in Baden, Watson has been a lifelong steward of the watershed. Originally from a family of farmers and watermen, he now spends much of his time crabbing and fishing on the middle Patuxent River.



### TOMMY ZINN

Zinn is full-time commercial crabber employed as a trotliner on the lower Patuxent River. He was born into a family of working watermen in Lusby, Md., and has served as the president of the Calvert County Watermen's Association for the last eight years.



### CRAIG KELLY

Kelly settled in Point Lookout, Md., in the '40s, where he discovered and developed his love for the water business. For the last 40 years, Kelly has worked as a commercial waterman crabbing and oystering along the lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

Photos: Michiko Martin





# THE POWER OF PLACE:

SURFING OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

*by Robert Steelquist*



**B**one-chilling water. A thousand shades of gray. A northwesterly swell, just in from somewhere near Kamchatka. Two veteran surfers start down the steep cliff-face on the Makah Indian Reservation. Beneath them, confused waves bend and collide around rocks near the beach. But offshore, the sets are lining up perfectly with jade-green barrels breaking to the right.

For Arnold Schouten, 62, and Darryl Wood, 64, who have surfed Washington's frigid waters for a combined nine decades, the waters of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary have no equal. For one thing, they

out there — seabirds, marine mammals, the beach animals, so I like to take it all in when I go out there."

Both men are active with the local chapter of Surfrider Foundation, an emerging force in local conservation activities, including beach cleanups, trail maintenance, relationships with property owners and advocacy for the ocean, including what happens upstream. Asked about the younger generation of surfers and their conservation, Wood said: "I work with several other volunteer groups. It's the same in any volunteer group. You always have five to 10 percent who do all the work." Schouten picks up "I'm disappointed when I see people come here to surf and not be very interested



Photo: Debbie Schouten

ocean. That feeling that you conquered something in that wave and you kicked out on the back side of it. That never, ever, went away. I think that's the essence of it."

But clearly, for both men, it's not just about the waves or the ride. It's about the whole

## "Surfing the Olympic Coast isn't just about riding the waves, but it's the environment you are in."

are close to home. For another, as Schouten puts it, "there's the whole package — the color of the water, sea otters popping up, seabirds and the incredible coastline."


Schouten learned to surf on Long Island, N.Y., where, as a kid, he and friends pioneered many of the local surf spots. His first encounter with the Olympic Coast came after moving here in the '70s and meeting Darryl Wood, who had been surfing the Olympic Peninsula since 1963. Darryl had scouted many breaks, but settled on one particular wave near Cape Flattery. For years, Darryl and Arnold were the only two surfers on the water. "We would have been happy to see other surfers out there, mainly because we were tired of hearing each others' stories," Schouten joked.

What started out as their "secret spot" has attracted more, but still not a lot more, surfers. Both agree that it's their favorite wave in the world. Schouten points out, however, that "Surfing the Olympic Coast isn't just about riding the waves, but it's the environment you are in. On a sunny day, there's no place more beautiful anywhere in the world. In addition, I have an attraction to the wildlife that's

in what's around them — the wildlife, or the whole ecosystem of the marine environment."

What is the force that both men feel in surfing? "Ocean Juice," they say in unison, laughing that the words come from both at the same time. Schouten elaborated, "I spent some time in my life not surfing, but I never forgot that feeling of catching a wave, standing up, dropping in and riding along the face of the wave, appreciating the energy of the

who have discovered a place of their own on this ocean planet. It's called Cape Flattery.

Ocean Juice. The Power of Place. The desire to preserve these qualities in the environment and to encourage younger surfers to discover and practice their own brand of stewardship. For these elder statesmen of Olympic Coast waves, twin passions of surfing and serving the environment are shining examples for young and old alike. 

Arnold Schouten catches a wave on Washington's Olympic Coast. Schouten (above, right) and Darryl Wood (above, left) have been surfing this coastline for decades.





**ASSIGNMENT:**

# SPECIAL PLACE PROTECTION



Photo: Flickr user "forthrock"

Few creatures on Earth evoke images of endangered wild-life and environmental stewardship quite like the giant panda. This iconic symbol of the global conservation movement is loved by millions, and yet it still faces the very real threat of extinction. Agriculture, poaching and other human activities have drastically reduced the panda's range and population to a fraction of what they once were.

In many ways, the plight of the panda represents the delicate relationship between humans and nature – not just on land, but in the sea as well. The ocean may be vast, but many marine species rely on very specific habitats and environmental conditions for survival. The endangered black abalone, for instance, would survive a move from its preferred rocky shores to deeper water about as well as a panda would a move to the desert.

Like the panda, ocean-dwelling creatures face threats from human activities that have left their natural habitats ailing and fragmented. Protected areas like panda reserves and national marine sanctuaries are working to preserve and restore these special places, but much work remains to be done.

## RETURN TO TURTLE BEACH

**COMMON NAME:** Olive Ridley Sea Turtle  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Lepidochelys olivacea*

- MAX. LENGTH:** 31 inches (80 centimeters)
- MAX. WEIGHT:** 110 pounds (50 kilograms)
- DISTRIBUTION:** Tropical oceans worldwide
- DIET:** Crabs, shrimp, jellyfish, mollusks, tunicates, algae
- STATUS:** Endangered/threatened

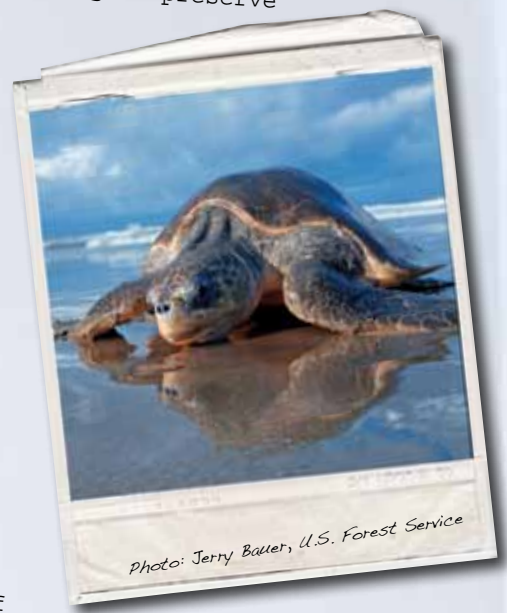


Photo: Jerry Bauer, U.S. Forest Service

All sea turtles leave the water to lay their eggs, making the beaches where they nest critical to their survival. The olive ridley takes this behavior a step further, with one of the most extraordinary nesting habits in the natural world.

Every year, generation after generation, olive ridleys return to the beach where they were born to lay their eggs. Sometimes, huge numbers of female turtles converge on a single beach at once in what is known as an "arribada." The Spanish word for "arrival," an arribada can involve anywhere from hundreds to thousands of turtles, each one laying a clutch of about 100 eggs. No other turtle species nests in such massive gatherings.

While the olive ridley is widely distributed throughout tropical ocean waters – sailors have reported seeing them more than 2,400 miles from shore – these arribadas only happen at a select few beaches around the globe. Scientists have yet to unravel the mystery of what triggers an arribada, but what we do know is that these remarkable events are a powerful reminder of the importance of place in the natural world.

**CRITTER FILES**

## HOME IS WHERE THE HERMIT IS

**COMMON NAME:** Hermit Crab

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Pagurus* spp.

**MAX. LENGTH:** 3.25 inches (8 centimeters)

**MAX. WEIGHT:** 3.35 ounces (95 grams)

**DISTRIBUTION:** Rocky or sandy bottom; temperate and tropical oceans worldwide

**DIET:** Detritus, plankton

**STATUS:** Stable

Have you ever spotted a seemingly empty shell on a beach suddenly sprout claws, eyes and legs before scurrying away at top speed? That's no ordinary shell – it's a mobile home for one of nature's pickiest house hunters: the hermit crab.

Hermit crabs rely on their shells. These special places are both their home and protector, and they take the selection of their next dwelling quite seriously. When a hermit crab outgrows its shell, it needs to search for a suitable replacement. Once it finds a roomier option, it will often pick up the shell, turn it over, poke its claws inside, and inspect it from the back, just like a discerning homebuyer. It may try the new shell on, wiggling its soft posterior into the shell, then jump right back into the original. The best shell wins – even if they have to wrestle it from a neighbor.

In some areas, hermit crab growth and reproduction can be limited by a short shell supply. In a tough housing market, hermit crabs have to be picky – and even a little aggressive – because nothing is more important than the place we call home.



Photo: Warren Rehner

## NOWHERE ELSE TO GO

**COMMON NAME:** Vaquita

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Phocoena sinus*

**MAX. LENGTH:** 4.9 feet (1.5 meters)

**MAX. WEIGHT:** 120 pounds (55 kilograms)

**DISTRIBUTION:** Northern Gulf of California

**DIET:** Fish, squid

**STATUS:** Critically endangered



Illustration: Barbara Taylor

This little porpoise with a shy smile is one of the rarest sights in the animal kingdom, and sadly, it continues to get even rarer. Distinguished by the dark patches around its eyes and lips, the vaquita (Spanish for "little cow") is the smallest and most endangered cetacean on Earth. Catching a glimpse of this elusive creature requires a trip to the warm, muddy waters of Mexico's northern Gulf of California, where fewer than 300 vaquitas remain in the wild. Its tiny geographic range of less than 900 square miles is reflected in its scientific species name, *sinus*, Latin for "pocket" or "recess."

Every year, an estimated 40 vaquitas are killed by accidental capture and drowning in fishing nets – a heavy blow to an already fragile population. Ongoing research and conservation efforts are working to rescue this species from extinction, but time is running out. As an endemic species (one found nowhere else in the world) the vaquita is a symbol of the importance of special places to many marine creatures. Without swift action, it may soon become a cautionary tale.



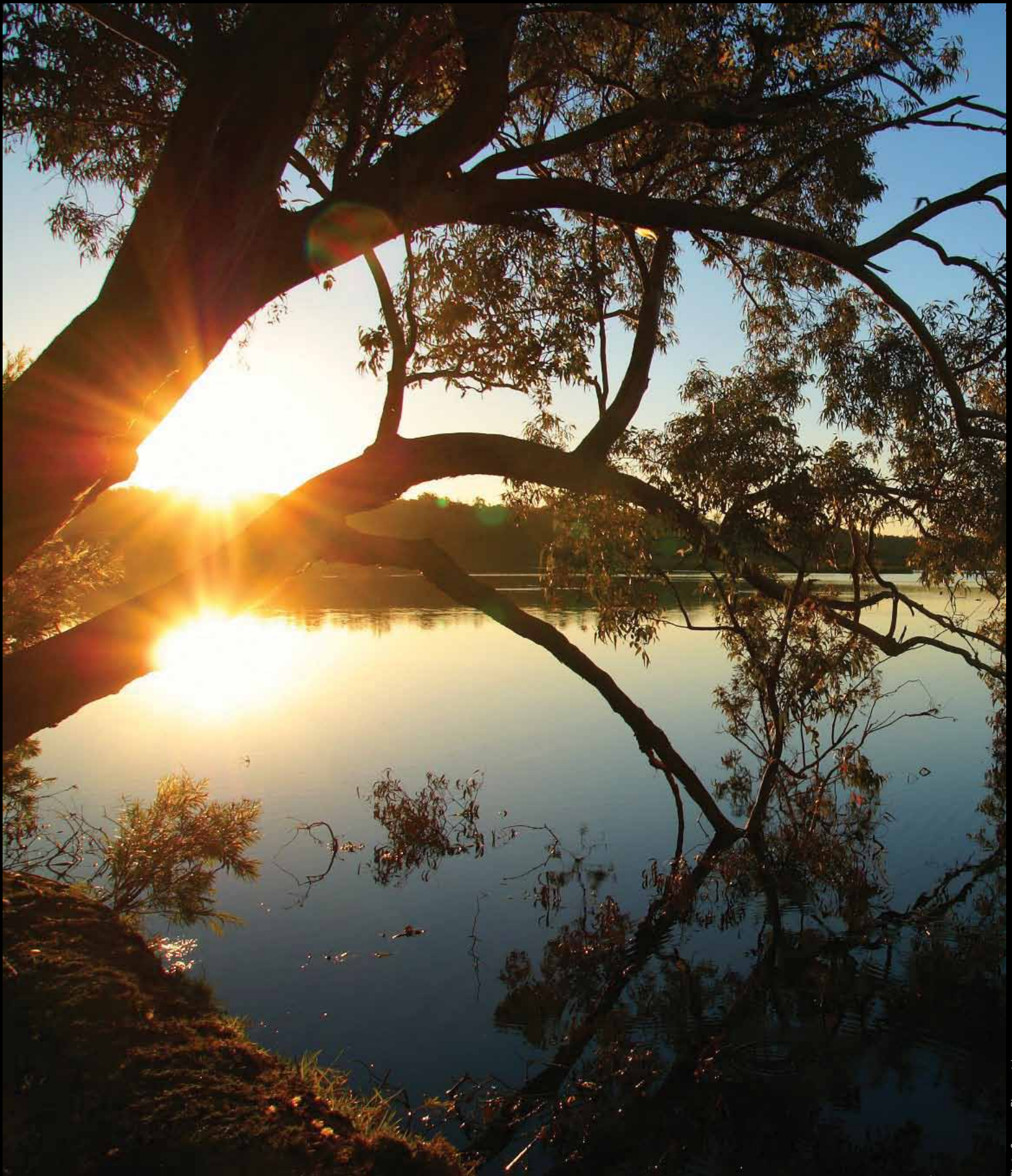


Photo: Carey van Blommestein

**SANCTUARYSNAPSHOT** In celebration of the 40th anniversary of our national marine sanctuaries, we asked readers to show us their favorite places. Carey van Blommestein shared this photo of Yanchep National Park in western Australia, where she loves to watch the sun go down while listening to the sounds of kookaburras, kangaroos and other wildlife. Look inside this issue for stories about how our connection to special places like this one can help us adapt to a changing world.