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Hundreds of Ocean and Coastal Leaders to Converge in Washington to “Turn the Tide,” for our Endangered Seas

Blue Vision Summit addresses critical needs of ocean and coasts

Washington – Hundreds of “Seaweed” (marine grassroots) leaders will gather in Washington next month for the second national Blue Vision Summit. The Summit March 7-10, will center on encouraging the new Obama administration and 111th Congress to become champions for our public seas, highlighting practical solutions to marine environmental problems and focusing on critical links between the ocean and fossil-fuel fired climate change.

Among the list of distinguished speakers are: **White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) California Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman, NOAA Administrator designate Jane Lubchenco** (invited, awaiting Senate Confirmation), **Ralph Nader, Sylvia Earle, Philippe Cousteau, Thomas Lovejoy, Bill McKibben, Carl Safina**, marine artist **Wyland**, Sherman’s Lagoon cartoonist **Jim Toomey** and National Geographic photographer **Brian Skerry**.

Panels of experts will focus on an array of issues including marine policy, exploration, aquaculture and fishing, clean ocean energy, green ports, the Arctic meltdown, ocean acidification, pollution, public health and marine education such as Google Ocean.

The Summit will also feature an evening with explorers at the Carnegie Institution, an evening ‘Celebration of the Sea’ at the Smithsonian Ocean Hall and a Capitol Hill Day. Summit Panels will take place Sunday and Monday March 8 and 9 at George Washington University’s Marvin Center.

“The Obama Administration and Congress are inheriting the worst economy of our lifetimes not to mention two wars and a climate crisis,” says David Helvarg president of the Blue Frontier Campaign, one of nineteen organizations sponsoring the Blue Vision Summit. “With over half the U.S. GDP generated by our coastal communities the Summit aims to show how vital a healthy ocean and coast are to our economy, security and climate both in the United States and around the world. It’s not too late to turn the tide for our ocean planet.”

Sponsors to date include:

Blue Frontier Campaign
The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation
National Geographic
The Pew Environment Group
Oceana

The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Champions
The Ocean Conservancy
Project AWARE
Clean Ocean Action
Care2.com
The Ocean Foundation
The Henry Foundation
The Baum Foundation
Environmental Defense Fund
The Nature Conservancy
IFAW
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For more information about the Blue Vision Summit, please visit:

www.bluefront.org/bluevision