

**2015 NATIONAL “OCEAN AWARDS” TO HONOR LOCAL VOLUNTEER AT
GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

**Richard Matzinger Named “Volunteer of the Year;”
To be Honored at Washington DC Gala**

Washington, DC; May

8, 2015 – Richard Matzinger, a volunteer at Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in San Francisco, is among the three recipients of the 2015 national “Ocean Awards,” presented by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, it was announced today by the not-for-profit organization.

Mr. Matzinger will be honored as “Volunteer of the Year” at the 13th Annual [NMSF Ocean Awards Gala™](#) on June 9 in Washington, DC, held in conjunction with [Capitol Hill Ocean Week®](#) (CHOW), the nation’s premier ocean-focused conference.

“The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is honored to recognize the achievements of our award recipients, each of whom stands out for individual achievements, but collectively represent a profound breadth of ideologies united by a common goal to protect the ocean,” said Jason Patlis, President and CEO, NMSF.

Mr. Matzinger’s contributions – over 200 hours in the past year – include supporting two citizen-science programs at the sanctuary, improving how scientific data is tracked there and volunteer training. He was chosen for this national honor from among the regional Volunteer of the Year winners at each of the 14 National Marine Sanctuary sites.

Farallones sanctuary Superintendent Maria Brown notes, “Beach Watch monitoring is often our first indicator of oil spills, where immediate data sharing with other agencies is critical to early detection, containment where possible, and effective cleanup. Richard’s work vastly streamlines Beach Watch data availability to sanctuary staff and volunteers, and to other emergency responders. It also facilitates volunteer communication, enabling rapid deployment of trained Beach Watch staff to affected sites.”

The NMSF Leadership Award will be presented to President and Mrs. George W. Bush for their collective leadership in ocean stewardship through advancing policies and laws and raising the nation’s consciousness. As President, George W. Bush established four marine national monuments totaling an unprecedented 230,000 square miles of ocean protected by executive order, the largest marine conservation effort in history at that time. These actions sparked a global movement of large-scale marine protection that, over the past decade, has nearly quadrupled the area of ocean under national jurisdictions managed as protected water. Also, by signing into law the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, President Bush launched what is arguably the single most important step toward sustainable fisheries in the US, which sparked reform in fisheries management worldwide.

As First Lady and beyond, Laura Bush has been an avid public advocate for national marine sanctuaries, ocean literacy and America’s role as a maritime nation. She actively supported the marine national monument designations process and served as honorary chair of the Preserve America program, which has helped support ocean heritage sites. She has continued her involvement in public discourse around ocean conservation, particularly on behalf of the Gulf of Mexico, since leaving the White House.

The recipient of the NMSF Lifetime Achievement Award is scientist, educator and author Jeremy Jackson, Ph.D. Among the accomplishments of his five-decade career, Dr. Jackson produced landmark research on the impacts of overfishing, marine pollution, and climate change on ocean ecology. As a science communicator, Dr. Jackson has been a powerful spokesperson on the imperative for reform in human actions and attitudes toward the ocean.

The awards will be presented at the NMSF Ocean Awards Gala, to be held in connection with CHOW. President and Mrs. Bush will be accepting via a pre-taped video. CHOW brings together policymakers, industry leaders, academics,

scientists, and conservationists to shape marine policy and provoke conversation about the nation's most critical ocean and coastal issues. The event will be [live-streamed and archived](#) for the public. CHOW 2015 and the NMSF Ocean Awards Gala are made possible by the generous support of [sponsors](#).

About Mr. Matzinger:

For three years, Mr. Matzinger has served as a volunteer at the [Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary](#), the boundaries of which [were expanded in March 2015](#). He has actively worked with the non-profit Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association in the sanctuary's [Beach Watch](#) program, a long term shoreline monitoring project, and the [Seabird Protection Network](#), a collaborative working to reduce human disturbance to seabirds and other marine wildlife along the coast. In addition to his work in the field and on the beach, Mr. Matzinger has dedicated numerous hours providing web development and computer programming for Beach Watch. His accomplishments include a total upgrade of the program's infrastructure and information management and a new system for providing expanded public access to the scientific data.

About President and Mrs. Bush:

As 43rd President of the US, from 2001-2009, George W. Bush established four marine national monuments totaling 230,000 square miles of ocean protected by executive order, far eclipsing any other land or water designation by a prior President. Creation of the monuments was the most significant use of the Antiquities Act, signed into law in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt and employed since then by successors from both parties. In 2006, President Bush established [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](#), currently co-managed by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce, as a site within the National Marine Sanctuary System. In 2009, he subsequently designated three additional marine national monuments across the US economic exclusive zone. Collectively, these designations far exceed the combined extent of all national parks, all national wildlife refuges and the National Landscape Conservation System. They further spurred other nations to establish large-scale marine protections.

The [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act](#), which President Bush signed into law in 2007, is considered the single most important step toward sustainable fisheries in the US and subsequently spurred fisheries reform in Europe and other parts of the world. Under this law, the US has seen a dramatic improvement in fisheries management, with overfishing and depleted stocks at all-time lows, according to NOAA.

[George W. Bush biography](#)

In her own right, Mrs. Bush has played an invaluable role in shaping and inspiring ocean stewardship among the public. She served as founding honorary chair of the [Preserve America](#) program, created by President Bush in 2003, to support community efforts that support, sustain and promote cultural, environmental and historical heritage sites. Ms. Bush has publicly championed the importance of growing the national marine sanctuary system and the importance of ocean conservation to local communities, tourism, recreation and the economy. [Laura Bush biography](#)

About Dr. Jackson:

Dr. Jackson's five-decade career spans the disciplines of ecology, geology, marine biology, and paleontology. He served as Director of the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation and was the William E. and Mary B. Ritter Professor of Oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA; Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the Republic of Panama; and Professor of Ecology at the Johns Hopkins University. He has worked extensively on the ecology of coral reef communities and the tempo and mode of speciation in the sea. The author of more than 150 scientific journal articles and 10 books, Dr. Jackson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

About the [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#)

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that connects people to the most valued places in our American ocean: national marine sanctuaries. Areas in our ocean and Great Lakes set aside for their cultural and ecological significance, sanctuaries protect the very best of the American ocean for the next generation.

For more information about the Ocean Awards or CHOW, please contact info@nmsfocean.org

For more information about Farallones, Beach Watch and its other programs, please contact xxxxxx