



Media information: Jim Graves, (949) 719-0588

Ocean Institute Welcomes Guest Speakers, Presents Film for International Polar Year 2008

December 17, 2007, DANA POINT, Calif. – The Ocean Institute will welcome two speakers and present a film in conjunction with the International Polar Year (visit www.ipy.org).

Guest speaker **John Wood** will discuss his experience of working and living in a polar region on **Saturday, January 12, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.** He spent nine summers in the Antarctic as the Laboratory Facilities Manager for the United States' program, as well as overseeing the research diving operations. Wood also visited all of the U.S. Antarctic stations between the years of 1978-1989.

Guest speaker **Bill Cooper**, professor at UC Irvine and Director of the Urban Water Research Center, will discuss the several seasons he spent on the Otago Peninsula in New Zealand studying Yellow-Eyed penguins on **Saturday, January 26, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.** Cooper will share his photography and insight into the world of penguins, the flightless marine birds of the south.

The Institute will present a new documentary film, *A Seal's Life*, on **Saturday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** The documentary's producer, **Drew Wharton**, will be on hand to discuss his film following the majestic Northern Elephant Seal on an amazing two-year journey (visit www.whartonmedia.com).

The Ocean Institute is celebrating the International Polar Year with hands-on labs, exhibits, art and speakers that explore the Polar Regions on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. through February 29, 2008. The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) declared 2007-2008 the International Polar Year (visit www.ipy.org).

Founded in 1977, the Ocean Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to ocean preservation through education, setting the standard for educational excellence and serving as a leading resource for universities, museums, teachers and all others seeking to increase their knowledge of the ocean. The Ocean Institute is open to the general public on weekends, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cost: \$6 adults, \$4 children (ages 4-12), Ocean Institute members free. Unique maritime and ocean-themed items are available in the Chambers Gallery everyday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Institute address: 24200 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point. Website: www.ocean-institute.org. Phone: (949) 496-2274.

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