

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Peter Benchley™ Ocean Awards Weekend

May 20-21, 2016 in Monterey, California

*Honoring Our 2016 Awards Winners*



Tommy Remengesau Jr.



Dr. Barbara Block



David Wilmot



Ian Urbina



Dr. Chris Costello



Tara Expeditions



Daniela Fernandez



Mayor, Serge Dedina

## **Tommy Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau** **Excellence in National Stewardship**

Palau's President Tommy Remengesau made a dramatic leap toward ocean sustainability by conceiving and signing into law legislation protecting 80 percent of his Pacific island nation's territorial waters from any extractive activities including fishing, drilling and mining—an area larger than California.

## **Dr. Barbara Block** **Excellence in Science**

Dr. Barbara Block is a renowned marine biologist and professor at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, whose research of tunas, billfish, sharks, and other migratory marine animals using satellite tagging and innovative tracking techniques has greatly expanded our knowledge of highly migratory fish behavior, physiology, ecology and interactions.

## **David Wilmot & Ocean Champions** **Excellence in Policy**

Dr. David Wilmot has over 30 years of experience in ocean science and policy and is co-founder of Ocean Champions, a highly respected, productive organization dedicated to making the health of our public seas a nonpartisan, national government priority.

## **Ian Urbina** **Excellence in Media**

Ian Urbina is an award winning investigative journalist for The New York Times who penned the gripping and highly acclaimed series called, "The Outlaw Ocean," revealing the shocking, lawless state of the world's ocean including piracy, illegal fishing, environmental damage, rampant murder, use of unregulated private security forces, and the barbaric use of slave crews on pirate and high seas fishing vessels.

## **Dr. Chris Costello** **Excellence in Solutions**

Dr. Costello is a ground breaking environmental economist and co-founder of the 'Sustainable Fisheries Group', whose work combines economics and marine science to implement effective strategies for restoring our world's depleted fisheries. His works across many disciplines, including statistics, ecology, biogeography, and mathematics.

## **Tara Expeditions** **Excellence in Exploration**

For more than 12-years Tara Expeditions, a French, ship-based non-profit marine conservation organization has traveled the world's seas delivering highly acclaimed and scientifically productive missions that combine innovative ocean science, conservation, education, and exploration.

## **Daniela Fernandez** **Christopher Benchley Youth Award**

Daniela Fernandez' energy and commitment drove her to create the Georgetown 'Sustainable Oceans Alliance' (SOA), a student led organization that empowers Millennials to become leaders in preserving the health and sustainability of our oceans.

## **Mayor, Serge Dedina** **Hero of the Seas**

Serge Dedina is the activist, visionary Mayor of Imperial Beach California and Executive Director and co-founder of WILD/COAST/COSTASALVAJE, an international organization dedicated to protecting some of the most beautiful and biologically significant coastal and marine ecosystems areas in southern California and Latin America.

Recognizing Ocean Excellence.

