



*****NEWS ADVISORY*****
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CONGRESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ROLES IN OCEAN PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

On June 10, 2003, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) will present its *Leadership Award* to **Senator Ernest F. Hollings** (D-SC) and **Representative Jim Saxton** (R-NJ) for their roles in introducing the Oceans Act of 2000, which led to the creation of the U.S. Ocean Policy Commission. The awards will be presented by NMSF Trustees **Dr. Robert Ballard** and **Jean-Michel Cousteau** at the Foundation's 1st Annual Leadership Awards Dinner, featuring **Lauren Hutton** as the Master of Ceremonies. The Foundation will also present its first *Volunteer of the Year* Award to Mr. Gordon Bennett of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in San Francisco, California, and Mr. Alan Brooks of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Port Angeles, Washington.

WHO: Honorees: **Senator Ernest F. Hollings** and **Representative Jim Saxton**
Master of Ceremonies: **Lauren Hutton**, actress, model and diver
Presenters: **Dr. Robert Ballard**, **Jean-Michel Cousteau**, and Deputy Secretary of Commerce **Samuel W. Bodman**
Tribute Speakers: **Senator Daniel K. Inouye** and **Congressman Wayne Gilchrest**

WHAT: The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Leadership and Volunteer of the Year Awards recognize national, as well as community leadership, in ocean protection and preservation. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is the private, non-profit partner to the federally managed National Marine Sanctuary Program, part of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

WHEN: Tuesday, June 10th
6:00 pm – Media Availability
8:00 pm – Awards Presentation

WHERE: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Pavilion Room, Second Floor
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

WHY: Senator Ernest F. Hollings and Representative Jim Saxton were selected for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Leadership Award because of their long-term advocacy of ocean preservation and support of the National Marine Sanctuary System, and specifically for their introduction of the Oceans Act of 2000 in their respective chambers of Congress.