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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL BRINGS WORLD
FAMOUS CINEMATOGRAPHERS TO NAPLES

NAPLES, FL: Several of the world's top underwater photographers will be presenting film footage in Naples, Saturday, May 15th at the second annual Underwater Film Festival. The festival, which benefits the Oceans for Youth Foundation, begins at 7 PM at the Gulf Coast High School auditorium. This year's featured presenters are five time Emmy award winning cinematographer Stan Waterman, Fabien Cousteau (explorer, diver, film producer), Dr. Guy Harvey (artist, diver and adventurer), and Wayne Hasson (professional photographer and explorer). Actor Leslie Nielsen will serve as the emcee for the evening's festivities.

"We are thrilled to bring this rare underwater film footage to Naples," said Wayne Hasson, a presenter and also Oceans For Youth founder. "Each cinematographer is bringing film shot on one of their own adventures. The film footage brings the viewer eye to eye with the creatures of the deep. It is not often that world class underwater cinematographers gather in one room, at one time, to present their own film footage," he said. Founded in 1999, Oceans For Youth, a nonprofit foundation, encourages marine environmental education for youth worldwide. "Educating children on the condition of our marine environment and on the future of our oceans is what we feel called to do," said Hasson. Recently, Oceans for Youth received compliments and an endorsement from Craig Seibert, Collier County Coordinator for Science & Environmental Education. "Collier County Public Schools is excited about the opportunity to partner with

Oceans for Youth Foundation, to improve our marine science education district wide.

Their DVD is a wonderful tool to be used in our classrooms, to enhance our instruction.

What an outstanding experience this provides to our students and teachers," commented Seibert.

In conjunction with this year's film festival, Leslie Nielsen, Fabien Cousteau, Dr. Guy Harvey and Wayne Hasson will also be doing presentations to both Pine Ridge Middle School and Seacrest Country Day School on Friday, May 14th. "We believe in bringing the issue of marine education into the schools so that all children have the opportunity to learn that the future of our oceans lies in their hands," said Hasson.

To compliment the weekends' festivities, Isles Under the Sea, a gala fundraising dinner event is being held at a private Port Royal home Friday, May 14th. The event will also feature an auction of original works of art by noted marine artists Guy Harvey and David Dunleavy. Jewelry, vacation adventure packages and numerous other art items will be up for bidding as well. All profits from the weekends festivities will go toward the completion of a second DVD, designed to further the educational goals of the Oceans for Youth Foundation.

Seating for the film festival is limited and festival organizers are advising the advance purchase of tickets. Tickets for the Saturday film festival are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students 18 and under. Tickets are available in Naples at SCUBAAdventures, Naples Dive Center, and Sunshine Ace Hardware. In Bonita, tickets can be purchased at Eagle Ray Dive Center. For Will Call tickets, Isles Under the Sea gala dinner tickets and for further information on Oceans For Youth Foundation, please call 593-8652.

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