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AQUARIUM PRESIDENT NAMED BOLSA CHICA CONSERVANCY'S CONSERVATOR OF THE YEAR

Award presented by artist Wyland at Conservancy's annual Barefoot Ball

Long Beach, CA— Aquarium President and CEO Dr. Jerry R. Schubel has been named Conservator of the Year by the Bolsa Chica Conservancy. Each year the Bolsa Chica Conservancy presents this award to an individual, business, or organization that promotes conservation through innovative ideas, scientific discovery, conservation projects, education, technological improvements, or sponsorship of any of the above. The conservancy is celebrating its twenty-fifth year in 2015.

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy selected Schubel for the award in 2015 in recognition of his visionary leadership in ocean conservation through exploration, research, and education. The award was presented at the conservancy's annual gala earlier this month, by the 2014 Conservator of the Year winner, Wyland.

"The Bolsa Chica Conservancy and the Aquarium of the Pacific share the same focus on education as a way to engage youth and the public in the long-term effort to preserve coastal resources like wetlands and the ocean" said Schubel. "To protect the ocean and marine habitats like Bolsa Chica, we must teach our children and the community. The Bolsa Chica Conservancy does this through their STEM-based work."

Schubel has been president and CEO of the Aquarium of the Pacific since 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in oceanography from Johns Hopkins University. He is a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Science Advisory Board, the Science Advisory Panel for California's Ocean Protection Council, and the Board of Governors of the Savannah Ocean Exchange.

Established in 1990 by a coalition of government, community, business, and environmental leaders, the nonprofit Bolsa Chica Conservancy provides services that inspire and connect all generations through community involvement and leadership in hands-on restoration and education in wetland science, watersheds, coastal ecology, and environmental sustainability. Over the course of twenty-five years, the Conservancy has served more than 500,000 students, visitors and volunteers.

The Aquarium of the Pacific, a nonprofit institution, is dedicated to conserving nature and its resources by building interactions among people and is home to more than 11,000 animals. Beyond its exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages, from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions. For more information, visit www.aquariumofpacific.org or call 562-590-3100.