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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC IS PARTNERING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE FISHACKATHON TO FIND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS TO GROWING FISHING CHALLENGES

The Aquarium of the Pacific will be a host site for this year's Fishackathon beginning June 5 through June 7, 2015

Long Beach, CA— U.S. Department of State and partners will hold their second annual Fishackathon leading up to World Oceans Day on June 8. This year's Fishackathon will be held in venues throughout the country and around the world. The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach is one of the participating venues and the only venue in the western United States to hold the event, which will take place in collaboration with Code for Long Beach during the National Day for Civic Hacking. **Media are invited to the press conference on Friday, June 5 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with representatives from the U.S. Department of State, Code for Long Beach, and the Aquarium. The press conference with interview and photo opportunities will take place in the Aquarium of the Pacific's Ocean Science Center.**

The goal of Fishackathon is to solve the growing challenges throughout the seafood supply chain. Half of fish caught for human consumption derive from small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Global catches are declining, due to various reasons, including overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. At the same time, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing threatens the health of stocks and the livelihoods of fishers who depend on these resources. In many parts of the world, fishers do not have the tools and resources to provide the data necessary to inform responsible fisheries management. To address these fishery management challenges, it is up to citizens to find innovative ways to collect data and use it to find solutions.

The event calls for coders to create new applications and tools for mobile devices and phones that will help provide information in real-time to help fishermen work smarter and safer. These applications will also allow these fishermen to report catches and build the capacity for better management. They will also create networks to improve the monitoring of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Representatives from the State Department, Code for Long Beach, and the Aquarium of the Pacific will be at the event to answer questions. Last year the U.S. Department of State's Office of Global Partnerships brought computer coders together from Boston, New York, Baltimore, Miami, and Monterey for the first Fishackathon. Over 150 coders banded together to create applications focused on sustainable fishery problem statements, which were created by organizations, such as World Bank, USAID (ECOFISH), World Wildlife Fund, and Monterey Bay Aquarium. The success of last year's event has inspired the U.S. State Department to make this an annual event. Due to last year's success the event has gone global and has reached areas in Santiago, Chile, Durban South Africa, and Vancouver, Canada. The winner of this year's Fishackathon will be able to attend the next Our Ocean Conference being held in Chile in October 2015.

About the Aquarium

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.



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