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NEW AQUARIUM SHOW DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION INVESTIGATES IMPACT OF FUKUSHIMA AND RADIOACTIVITY IN THE OCEAN

Science on a Sphere® show uses latest measurements and data to address water and seafood safety concerns of U.S. West Coast residents

March 11, 2015, Long Beach, CA—On March 11, the fourth anniversary of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Aquarium of the Pacific will officially debut a new show developed in collaboration with scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) about the Fukushima nuclear accident and its impacts on humans and marine life. The *Fukushima and Our Radioactive Ocean* show plays daily in the Aquarium's Ocean Science Center on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Science on a Sphere®.

"People want to know if they will be safe swimming or surfing in the Pacific Ocean, eating seafood, and consuming products from Japan. This new show addresses many of the public's questions about radiation from Fukushima, relying on recent data collected by scientists from WHOI, models of ocean currents and other information," said Dr. Jerry Schubel, president and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific.

"We wanted to provide some background in this show, on the sources of radioactivity in the oceans prior to, and now across the Pacific, after Fukushima. That perspective is important as we live in a radioactive world, with many sources of both naturally occurring and man-made radioactive materials," said Dr. Ken Buesseler, senior scientist at WHOI and lead scientist on the project who has been studying ocean radioactivity for more than thirty years. "So the important question is not whether the oceans already contain radioactive materials—they do—but how much more radioactivity did Fukushima add to the ocean?"

In March 2011 one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded shook Japan for nearly six minutes, creating a devastating tsunami that engulfed more than 200 miles of Japan's coastline. Nearly 16,000 people died. The tsunami also damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, resulting in the largest accidental release of radioactivity into the ocean in history.

Today residents of the West Coast of the United States are particularly concerned about radiation from Fukushima reaching local shores and associated risks to humans and marine life. Viewing the new show, visitors to the Aquarium will be able to learn more about levels of radioactivity in the ocean and whether significant increases have been measured since Fukushima. The Aquarium and WHOI will make their new Fukushima show available to more than 100 institutions around the world through NOAA's SOS Network with a capacity to reach over 50 million combined visitors. *Fukushima and Our Radioactive Ocean* is also slated to be shown at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland. The film will be shown at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. This collaborative project was funded by a grant to WHOI from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

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The Aquarium also invited the public to have their questions about Fukushima answered by experts during a live webcast. Buesseler, who is in the department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, specializes in the study of natural and man-made radionuclides in the ocean. He organized the first oceanographic expedition to the region following the Fukushima disaster, and has done subsequent field work in the area. More recently, he has been using crowd funding to enable citizen scientists to collect samples along the U.S. West Coast that he analyzes for Fukushima radionuclides under a project found at OurRadioactiveOcean.org. In the live webcast he and Dr. Schubel explained radiation in the ocean and levels seen since the Fukushima disaster. Archived footage of the full webcast can be viewed at aquariumofpacific.org/afukushima.

The Aquarium regularly hosts scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders in forums to search for solutions to the most pressing and complex problems facing the ocean and environment. The Aquarium of the Pacific is a nonprofit dedicated to ocean and environmental education. For more information, visit aquariumofpacific.org or call (562) 590-3100.



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