



Clockwise from left: A crew unloading the Oceana Lat-Long off the coast of Key West; crew testing the ROV in Fort Lauderdale; Oceana marine scientist Margot Stiles doing baby fish testing off the coast of Key West; coral at the Western Sambo Reef off the coast of Key West



THE ADVOCATES

Oceana, the world's largest ocean-based non-profit organization, is clearly good at what it does. Over the course of the past decade it has had a string of incredible successes in helping to affect ocean-related policy change worldwide. It has also built a reputation for accountability to its donors—recently *Kiplinger Magazine* named the organization one of the nation's top 20 most effective environmental groups. But ocean advocacy isn't Oceana's only strength...it also knows how to throw a great party.

This month, Oceana will host their third annual SeaChange Summer Party in Laguna Beach. Local resident and event co-chair Valarie Whiting describes the event as a chance "for Orange County residents to be part of the collective solutions to challenges facing the ocean."

Founded in part by actor Ted Danson, the non-profit has always been savvy at using high profile friends to help spread their message. This year's event will be attended by special guests Pierce and Keely Brosnan as well as Jeff Bridges. Their attendance won't be superfluous either. Like other past Sea Change guests, the Brosnans and Bridges are true champions for the environment, and sincerely interested in protecting the state of oceans around the world. "They help bring awareness to the issues through media, excitement and buzz," Whiting says, "but the fact is they wouldn't come to the event if they didn't have a passion for our cause. They are

genuinely interested in the work we do."

Though the celebrities are a nice touch, the real stars of the evening will be the kids. The event's theme is "A healthy ocean is every child's rightful inheritance." Money raised throughout the evening—complete with a live-auction, dinner and dancing—will go toward funding Oceana's goals of securing the ocean's safety for future generations. "More than anything, our efforts are about what legacy we're passing along to our children," Whiting continues, "Do we want to leave them an imperiled ocean? Or do we change the direction things are heading and take steps to bring back the ocean's abundance?"

:: PULL UP A CHAIR: If you're interested in attending this year's SeaChange Summer Party visit seachangesummerparty.org.

:: LEARN MORE: Visit Oceana's revamped website at oceana.org.





CREDIT © OCEANA | EDUARDO SORESENSEN

The Mission

Considering that they've been at the forefront of ocean-environmentalism for most of the past decade, it's no surprise to find that Oceana has joined the effort to carefully examine the effects of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Last month, **Oceana Latitude** was dispatched to the gulf on an exploratory mission to investigate how the spill has affected life below the ocean's surface. The organization's senior VP for North America, Dr. Michael Hirshfield, is aboard the Latitude heading up a team of scientists, divers and videographers.

"Most of the public's attention has been on the visible oil on the surface of the Gulf and the beaches and marshes," Hirshfield says "Oceana wants the public to understand the impacts of the unseen, underwater oil that is damaging marine wildlife and habitats in the Gulf and will likely continue to do so for years to come."

The research of Oceana's team will be used to help encourage congress to ban new off-shore drilling sites and continue to push for clean energy alternatives.

FOLLOW THE LATITUDE :: See the progress on the Oceana website: na.oceana.org/en/blog

THE EXHIBITION

The Ecology Center, in a collaborative project with Hurley's H2O Initiative, will open "Splash! How Good Water Works," a free interactive exhibition which just launched at the end of August and will run for a year to bring attention to the more than 1,800

gallons of water the average Southern Californian uses each day. Visitors are greeted by a 13-foot-tall "Juggernaut monster," a sculpture made of 365 five-gallon water bottles, standing in front of the entrance to emphasize our average daily water usage. "Splash!" also features interactive, family-friendly exhibits throughout The Ecology Center's campus, demonstrating how water relates to everything we do – the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the lifestyle we live. The exhibition highlights ten solutions to reduce our water footprint, including reusable water bottles and buying local and seasonal foods, among other daily behavior changes.

"The world's poorest survive on less than five gallons of water a day, and yet we continue to feed the Juggernaut monster," said Evan Marks, executive director of The Ecology Center. "A daily water footprint of 950 gallons is a sustainable global standard. I'm confident that we can win this war on water scarcity, and The Ecology Center is committed to providing our community with solutions to decrease our water footprint."

SEE IT :: The attraction is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Ecology Center, located at 32701 Alipaz St. in San Juan Capistrano. 949.443.4223 :: theecologycenter.org



The Monitors

The biggest two problems **Miocean** has recognized with water quality testing in Orange County have been 1) the lag time between tests and their publication 2) the difficulty in getting that information to the public. Recently, the locally based organization has made incredible progress on both counts. New systems developed

for testing allow results to be uploaded the same day as they are taken and monitors placed at beaches relay this information immediately to visitors. So far, Miocean has set up water quality monitors at Newport Pier, Corona Del Mar, Doheny and Huntington State Beach.

SEE THE TEST :: Results can also be viewed online at miocean.org

COAST

ORANGE
COUNTY

How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean. -Arthur C. Clarke



THE **BLUE** ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2010