



For immediate release

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society supports Palau in protection of marine sanctuary and law enforcement

Sea Shepherd to send one of its vessels to patrol the territorial waters of Palau

Koror/Palau, March 31, 2011 – The support of a high-tech vessel will have a significant impact on the marine law enforcement against illegal fishing practices after Palau declared its waters a marine sanctuary.

On March 11, 2011, H.E. Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, Paul Watson, President and Founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Steve Roest, Chief Executive Officer of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society signed a Memorandum of Agreement through which Sea Shepherd, a global marine conservation organization, will undertake an initial patrol campaign in the territorial waters of Palau and will provide advice in assessing options and best procedures for ongoing marine conservation operations. In addition, Sea Shepherd will fully fund the operations of its vessel M/Y Bob Barker, a former Norwegian whaler, and assets and will provide support and training to local authorities where needed or appropriate.

The well equipped conservation society taps into high-tech resources such as helicopter surveillance, drone (UAV) technology, fast interceptor boats, and radar tracking systems, putting the marine enforcement entity of Palau at par with the illegal fishing operations it is trying to fight since the implementation of the world's first shark sanctuary in September 2009, followed by the extension to a complete marine sanctuary in November 2010.

Dermot Keane, Founder of non-profit organization Palau Shark Sanctuary, who established the contact between Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the Presidential Office of Palau, and signed the Memorandum of Agreement as a witness, comments: "This is a major milestone for Palau's conservation efforts and clearly sends the right message to the world: our nation is serious about the enforcement of our marine protection laws, and with the help of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, even small nations can make a big difference."

###



To interview Captain Watson or for general media requests, please contact the U.S. IHQ Media Department of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society:

Traci Walter or Katia Carter, phone +1-360-370-5650, media@seashepherd.org

Australia: Jeff Hansen, phone +61-409-472-922, jeff@seashepherd.org

Europe: Brigitte Scheffer, phone +44-7969-297726, brigitte@seashepherd.org or Laurens de Groot, phone +31-64-22-99-727, laurens@seashepherd.org

For image material, please visit: <http://media.seashepherd.org>

###

For more information on Palau Shark Sanctuary, please visit the press lounge:
<http://www.tourism-unlimited.com/PSS>

If you would like to arrange for an interview by phone, Skype or e-mail with Dermot Keane, please contact Judith Hoppe for coordination purposes.

Press Contact:

Tourism Unlimited

Judith Hoppe
Partner
Schmid-Wildy-Weg 46
81739 Munich, Germany
phone: +49-89-673 78 619
e-mail judith.hoppe@tourism-unlimited.com
www.tourism-unlimited.com/PSS

Palau Shark Sanctuary

Dermot Keane
Founder
Box 7076
Koror, PW 96940, Palau
phone: +680-488-7267
e-mail sharksanctuary@gmail.com
www.sharksanctuary.com

About Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Established in 1977, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) is an international non-profit, marine wildlife conservation organization. The Society's mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species. Sea Shepherd uses innovative direct-action tactics to investigate, document, and take action when necessary to expose and confront illegal activities on the high seas. By safeguarding the biodiversity of the planet's delicately-balanced ocean ecosystems, Sea Shepherd works to ensure their survival for future generations.

About Palau Shark Sanctuary

Palau Shark Sanctuary was founded in 2001 in an effort to end the annihilation of Palau's sharks as a result of rampant shark-finning at the hands of foreign long-line fishing vessels licensed by Palau to fish in their waters. In May 2003, former Palau President Mr. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., became a key supporter of the efforts of Palau Shark Sanctuary; in September 2003 he signed in to law some of the toughest anti-shark-finning legislation in the world. On September 25, 2009, President Johnson Toribiong from Palau declared the EEZ of Palau the world's first shark sanctuary during a speech in front of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. Palau Shark Sanctuary remains committed to the full implementation, enforcement and success of Palau's marine sanctuary.

All communication activities for Palau Shark Sanctuary are executed on a pro-bono basis by Tourism Unlimited.