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Contact: Carolyn Belardo 215 299-1043, belardo@ansp.org

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MEDIA ADVISORY/PRESS INVITATION, MARCH 24

Invitation to interview world-renowned filmmaker Feodor Pitcairn and to exclusive screening of latest underwater project

- WHO:** World-renowned underwater filmmaker and long-time ocean conservationist Feodor Pitcairn, a Philadelphia-area resident, will talk with reporters about his latest groundbreaking underwater project, "Ocean Odyssey." Media is invited to the exclusive private screening of the film in high definition on the big-screen auditorium projection system at The Academy of Natural Sciences.
- WHAT:** "Ocean Odyssey" was created for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's Sant Ocean Hall, which opened last year. The 57-minute film features stunningly beautiful, rarely witnessed underwater life from exotic locales including the Galapagos, Raja Ampat, Maldives, Azores, French Polynesia and Belize.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 24
5 – 5:30 p.m.: Feodor Pitcairn is available for media interviews in an informal setting.
5:30 – 7 p.m.: Media is invited to a private showing of "Ocean Odyssey." The showing also will be attended by invited members of The Academy of Natural Sciences, The Ocean Conservancy, Pennypack Trust, and others.
- WHERE:** The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia
- RSVP:** To take part in this free event, RSVP to Carolyn Belardo, belardo@ansp.org or 215- 299-1043.
- NOTE:** The general public will be able to see "Ocean Odyssey" during a limited, exclusive engagement at the Academy in celebration of Earth Day. The matinee will be at 2 p.m. daily from April 6 through April 19.

BACKGROUND: A pioneer in underwater HD production, Feodor Pitcairn traveled with his team to some of the world's most remote and magical ocean places to capture stunning footage of some of the last remaining pristine marine ecosystems for "Ocean Odyssey." See tiny damselfish in their splendid coral reef habitat. Witness sperm whales up close and the graceful ballet of giant manta rays. Discover ocean

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oddities such as the marine iguanas of the Galapagos, the only seagoing lizards, and California's Mola Mola, an ocean sunfish that reaches spans of up to 14 feet. Watch whale sharks at a spawning event in Belize and see a pugnacious garibaldi fish protecting its nest.

"Ocean Odyssey" debuted in 2008 on eight screens wrapping around the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's Sant Ocean Hall. It has never been shown on television or to large general audiences.

Pitcairn, who lives in Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, began photographing wildlife in his teens, and since 1967 has worked predominantly underwater, with a growing fascination for portraying marine animals within the context of the underwater seascape. He has spent more than 3,000 hours underwater, photographing and filming remote ocean wilds across the world.

His film credits include "Ocean Wilds," a 10-year effort that resulted in a 5-part television series and "Ocean Voyagers," a feature on humpback whales narrated by Meryl Streep that won Best of Nature at the Jules Verne Film Festival in Paris and Best Cinematography at the International Wildlife Film Festival. His photographs were featured in the traveling exhibit "Galapagos: Born of the Sea" that toured in the 1980s and in his book "Hidden Seascapes," emphasizing his concept of portraying the seascape in natural light. He is active in numerous environmental civic and charitable organizations. For more information, see www.feodorpitcairnproductions.com

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students with I.D. and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is an additional \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.