

# COASTAL CULTURE

## Director of Sea Shepherd to speak at Maine Maritime

BATH — Join Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in Bath's Maine Maritime Museum, in Longreach Hall, for the final presentation of FOMB's 15th annual Winter Speaker Series. This program, titled "Direct Action on the High Seas," features Captain Paul Watson, Director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

In an effort to effectively grapple with and find a solution to certain environmental issues, Captain Paul Watson founded Sea Shepherd in 1977, an international, nonprofit, direct-action marine wildlife conservation organization specializing in aggressive, but nonviolent, interventions against unlawful exploitation of ocean wildlife and habitats.

Sea Shepherd now has more than three decades of experience opposing illegal whaling, sealing, and fishing operations, and has established itself as the leading marine interventionist group in the world. Whether working in partnership with government

agencies or operating in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations World Charter for Nature, Sea Shepherd is an advocate for the enforcement of international treaties, laws, and regulations protecting marine species and their environment, and does not hesitate to enforce these legal charters as circumstances require.

The efforts of Watson's largely volunteer crews in Antarctica saving whales from Japanese whalers have been popularized by the acclaimed and often harrowing Animal Planet television series "Whale Wars." Lesser known is that Sea Shepherd operations also have been successful around the globe intercepting poachers in the Galapagos Islands, shutting down illegal whaling operations in numerous oceans; blockading sealing ships, rescuing dolphins in Japan, patrolling beaches in the Caribbean to stop turtle poaching, and confiscating illegal driftnets and longlines all over the world.

In 1972, Watson co-founded the Greenpeace Foundation (GP) in Vancouver, British Columbia. From 1971 to 1977, he served as First Officer on GP voyages, and during a campaign against Russian whalers, he was the first to implement his idea of putting activists in a small inflatable boat between the harpooners and endangered whales. From 1976 to 1977, Watson led all of the GP expeditions to protect harp seals

calling as a conservationist began in 1968 as a seaman with the merchant marines and the Canadian Coast Guard. Watson majored in communications and linguistics at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and is a successful author. He has been named as "one of the environmental heroes of the 20th Century" by Time Magazine, named as one of the "50 People Who Can Save the World" by the UK's The Guardian newspaper, and received the Daily Points of Light Award from former President George H.W. Bush.



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# SEA SHEPHERD

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on the ice floes of eastern Canada.

In 1977, Watson, identifying the need for an international direct-action organization focused specifically on marine conservation, with an emphasis on marine mammals and fish that could not defend themselves, founded Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Watson's presentation will offer experi-

ences and lessons from his more than 30 years sailing under the Sea Shepherd Jolly Roger, and explore the pressing need for effective advocacy techniques, persistence, and passion to save some of the world's greatest wildlife and ourselves.

The FOMB Winter Speaker Series takes place monthly from October through May on the second Tuesday or Wednesday of the month. The series, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay with sup-

port and door prizes from Patagonia Outlet in Freeport. Note there is a venue change for this presentation and due to hall rental fee and speaker expenses, a minimum \$5 donation is requested.

For more information on FOMB's programs call Ed Friedman, Chair, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, at 666-3372 or email [edfomb@comcast.net](mailto:edfomb@comcast.net). Full speaker schedule and speaker biographies are available at [www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org](http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org).