



# Coastal America Media Advisory



## **National Ocean Art Contest Winners to be Exhibited at Smithsonian Ocean Today Kiosks Stories to Reach Audiences in Wide Network of Aquariums**

**(Media invited to meet the students and see their artwork on Friday, Sept. 26 at 12:00 p.m.)**

**WHAT:** Coastal America will be announcing the 20 students, from grades K through college who won the national Coastal America Ocean Art Contest. The student's artwork and accompanying essay each address a key ocean literacy principle. Media will have the opportunity to meet 15 of the students and their parents, traveling to Washington, DC for the announcement. The original artwork will also be on display. The artwork will be displayed at an exhibition from December through March in Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. More than 2000 students entered the contest through regional competitions held at a wide network of 22 aquariums.

Media will also have the opportunity to meet with directors from the network of aquariums, national judges, and key voices on ocean literacy from the government, artistic, and science fields, such as: Dr. Sylvia Earle, Mike Lawrence, of the Smithsonian, and Ted Beattie, CEO/President of the nation's most visited aquarium, the Shedd Aquarium.

Media will also have the opportunity to see a demonstration of the Ocean Today kiosk being deployed in all of the network's 22 aquariums reaching an annual audience of 25 million. Each kiosk has a national feed of ocean news and video features from NOAA also available to visitors to Sant Ocean Hall, as well as key regional stories from each aquarium.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p.m. (There will be opportunity to meet the students and other participants from 11:30 a.m., prior to the 12:00 p.m. press availability and 12:30 p.m. awards luncheon (see additional info below)

**WHERE:** The Senate Hart Office Building, Room 902.

**OPERATOR HOSTED CONFERENCE LINE:** 888-282-0572, pass code: ocean

### **INTERVIEWS/VISUAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Student winners and their parents
- Aquarium directors, national judges, government and science leaders
- Winning art displayed
- Ocean Today kiosk displayed

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** There will be a buffet for guests and media during the media availability, followed by an awards luncheon for the student artists which media is welcome to.

**MEDIA RSVP:** Coastal America: Steven Kinberg, m: 202-222-5336, [steven.kinberg@usda.gov](mailto:steven.kinberg@usda.gov)  
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