

BREAKING NEWS

For Immediate Release
June 8th, 2009



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Dr. Elliott A. Norse receives Dr. Nancy Foster Award for Habitat Conservation

Washington DC: On World Oceans Day, Dr. Elliott A. Norse, President and Founder of Marine Conservation Biology Institute, was presented with the Dr. Nancy Foster Award for Habitat Conservation today by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation. The Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award honors a commitment of excellence in service to habitat conservation. The award was presented at a talk Dr. Norse gave today during Capitol Hill Ocean Week titled: *The End of the Blue Frontier: Managing Places in the Sea*.

Dr. Elliott Norse received the award for "Decades of dedication to research, public policy, and education related to marine conservation issues." He was also recognized for writing two books on conservation biology, being a leading voice on marine habitat issues, for his visionary leadership on ocean programs, and for his infectious energy.¹

"Nancy and I began working together in the late 1970s to secure protection for the Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico. She was a wonderful person with an unshakable commitment to protecting places in the sea. I feel deeply honored to receive an award that celebrates her life's passion. I only wish she could see all the good things that have happened as a result of her efforts."

Since 1978, Dr. Norse has focused on environmental policy at the US Environmental Protection Agency, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Ecological Society of America, The Wilderness Society, Ocean Conservancy and MCBI, which he founded in 1996. Dr. Norse's 140+ publications include *Global Marine Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making* (1993), *Marine Conservation Biology: The Science of Maintaining the Sea's Biodiversity* (2005), "Resolving mismatches in U.S. ocean governance" in *Science* (2006) and "Essential ecological insights for marine ecosystem-based management and marine spatial planning" in *Marine Policy* (2008). He is also Adjunct Professor of Marine Conservation Science and Policy at Duke University, a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, and Brooklyn College's 2008 Distinguished Alumnus.

"Elliott Norse is one of the planet's most brilliant, meticulous, hard-working, passionate defenders of the marine environment," says Denis Hayes, President and CEO, Bullitt Foundation.

Along with MCBI partner Environmental Defense Fund, in 2006 and 2009, Dr. Norse was instrumental in persuading the Bush Administration to protect biologically spectacular sites in the Central Pacific Ocean. In June 2006, President Bush designated what became Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In January 2009, President Bush designated the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument encompassing seven sites nominated by MCBI (Jarvis, Johnson, Baker,

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Howland, Palmyra, Kingman, and Wake Island); the eighth site was designated as the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument.

“Not only did Nancy love her agency; she loved the oceans and was deeply committed to making NOAA a leader in protecting their marine ecosystems. It took decades of hard work. But now, thanks in substantial measure to her efforts, NOAA seems poised to fulfill what Nancy devoted her life to.”

Dr. Norse’s talk is in keeping with this year’s Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) focus on “the inextricable link between the ocean and the economy, and to suggest tangible ways sound ocean policies might impact improvements in our economy.”

About Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI)

MCBI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the science of marine conservation biology and securing protection for marine ecosystems domestically and around the world. Founded in 1996, MCBI is headquartered in Bellevue WA, with offices in Honolulu HI, Glen Ellen CA and Washington DC.

About the Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award

“The Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award, established by NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation in May 1997, honors a commitment of excellence in service to habitat conservation.”ⁱⁱ

About Nancy Foster

“Dr. Foster, a marine biologist, dedicated 23 years of outstanding service to NOAA...She served as Deputy Director and Director of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program. In 1986, she joined the National Marine Fisheries Service as Director of the Office of Protected Resources...Between 1993 and 1997 Dr. Foster served as the Acting Assistant Administrator and then the Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Foster left NOAA Fisheries in 1997 to become NOAA’s Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service, where she worked until her death on June 27, 2000, at her home in Baltimore, Maryland, after a year-long battle with cancer.”ⁱⁱⁱ

For More Information: Visit www.mcbi.org

ⁱ <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatconservation/nancyfoster/awardwinners.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatconservation/nancyfoster/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatconservation/nancyfoster/>