



NEW ENGLAND
OceanOdyssey



Photo credit: Brian Skerry

NewEnglandOceanOdyssey.org

A journey beneath New England's waves



The wolffish population is dwindling in New England

“Coming home to New England to undertake this project has special meaning for me. While I have dived here all my life, the New England Ocean Odyssey is an opportunity to bring my fellow New Englanders along with me and show them that our ocean is every bit as thrilling and surprising and beautiful as seemingly more exotic locales. I’m excited to be working with CLF to help raise awareness of both the amazing riches of New England’s ocean and the very real issues facing it, and to advance their efforts to sustain it for future generations.”

—Brian Skerry

**TO FOLLOW THE JOURNEY, VISIT
NEWENGLANDOCEANODYSSEY.ORG**

Although it is one of the most extraordinary and biologically productive ecosystems in the world, New England’s ocean – deep, dark and cold – remains unknown to most. Now, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and renowned photojournalist Brian Skerry will reveal its mysteries in the New England Ocean Odyssey, a first-of-its-kind journey beneath New England’s waves.

Extending from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia, the Gulf of Maine and its surrounding waters have been the economic bedrock of New England’s coastal communities, supporting a wide variety of commercial and recreational activities. Unfortunately, many factors currently threaten the vitality of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Decades of pollution of our marine waterways, coastal habitat destruction, overfishing and bottom trawling have wrought havoc in the form of extensive habitat loss and diminished biodiversity. Growing world-wide demand for seafood, coupled with reduced ecosystem productivity, has depleted fish populations, threatening the economic vitality of our coastal communities. New uses of our ocean for renewable energy, gas pipelines, desalinization and sand and gravel mining are further taxing the ocean ecosystem, and global warming is affecting the productivity of our oceans in profound ways that we are only now beginning to understand. Restoring health to these important

resources as rapidly as possible is a national imperative.

After three decades of exploring the world’s oceans, Uxbridge, Massachusetts resident Brian Skerry will return to his native New England to conduct a series of dives for CLF, exploring both coastal areas and deep sea habitats far offshore. Through Skerry’s exclusive photographs and first-hand accounts of his diving expeditions, the New England Ocean Odyssey will provide a never-before-seen view of the amazing riches of New England’s ocean and bring attention to the very real issues facing it. Over the next five years, the New England Ocean Odyssey will explore a half-dozen special places in the Gulf of Maine, including Cashes Ledge, Jeffreys Ledge, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Jordan Basin, Deep Sea Canyons and Seamounts.

With Skerry as your guide, you will come to know and appreciate your ocean in ways you never imagined.



MEET BRIAN SKERRY

Brian Skerry is praised worldwide for his aesthetic sense as well as his journalistic drive for relevance. His images tell stories that not only celebrate the mystery and beauty of the sea, but also help bring attention to the large number of issues that endanger our oceans and their inhabitants.

Unique within the field of underwater photography is Skerry's ability to pursue subjects of great diversity. He typically spends eight months each year in the field and frequently finds himself in environments of extreme contrast, from tropical coral reefs to beneath polar ice. While on assignment, he has lived on the bottom of the sea, spent months aboard fishing boats and traveled in everything from snowmobiles to canoes to the Goodyear Blimp to get the picture. He has spent more than 10,000 hours underwater over the last thirty years.

A contract photographer for *National Geographic Magazine* since 1998, Skerry has covered a wide range of stories, from the harp seal's struggle to survive in frozen waters to the alarming decrease in the world's fisheries, both cover stories. Other NGM features have focused on subjects such as the planet's last remaining pristine coral reefs, the plight of the right whale, sharks of the Bahamas, marine reserves, sea turtles and squid.

Skerry has also worked on assignment for or had images featured in magazines such as *Sports Illustrated*, *US News and World Report*, *BBC Wildlife*, *GEO*, *Smithsonian*, *Esquire*, *Audubon*, *Men's Journal*, and in countless publications worldwide. His latest book, a 160-photo monograph entitled *Ocean Soul*, was published in 2011.



JOIN CLF

Conservation Law Foundation relies on contributions from its members to do the work of protecting New England's environment: holding polluters accountable for protecting our health and natural resources, fighting for environmental policies that create jobs and save money, helping businesses operate responsibly and profitably, planning for the future. That's what we do, where you live and across New England. You can help by becoming a member of CLF.

To become a member of CLF today, use the Donate button at CLF.org. You can also contact: Devon Parish, dparish@clf.org

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conservation law foundation

Conservation Law Foundation's Ocean Conservation program is a leader in ocean conservation, working to create sustainable fisheries, protect special places, manage ocean sprawl, and fight ocean pollution. Using innovative approaches backed by sound science, and legal advocacy, CLF aims to protect ocean ecosystems and help our coastal communities thrive. Founded in 1966, CLF is a non-profit, member-supported organization with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.