

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 2011

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Cold Spring Harbor, NY –

Dear Friend,

On a recent expedition to the Sub-Antarctic--ringed by high, wind-bitten slopes and in the exquisite company of penguins, albatrosses and seals--I felt my faith in nature's resilience renewed. In that remote corner of the world where animals don't fear us, the intimacy, the eye-to-eye looks, are very special.

While on the voyage, I received the UN's announcement that the Earth now hosts over 7 billion people. The implications encompass everything. Most of these 7 billion have never heard of the creatures we saw on this trip. Extinction of wandering albatrosses, king penguins, and elephant seals would create scarcely a ripple across most human minds. If people care to protect only what they love, what hope is there for the vast majority of animals whose existence means so little to so many?

That's why we're here--to create a little hope.

Seven billion people require a lot of food. We learned that overfishing of anchovies off Argentina is leaving too little food for the Magellanic penguins we saw. Wandering Albatrosses glided around our ship on the longest wings in nature: up to eleven and a half feet tip-to-tip. But we learned that because of fishing gear, Wanderers have been slowly declining for over 20 years.

But there is recovery too. Southern Elephant Seals, like the whales, had been slaughtered for oil. But since their slaughter stopped about 60 years ago, those seals have rebounded. And Antarctic Fur Seals, once so demolished they were believed extinct, again crowd beaches by the millions. And we went ashore at one wide plain that seemed the Serengeti of penguins.

In the Antarctic we found a wild, Lord-of-the-Rings landscape of high-spiring peaks, massive ice, steep slopes, howling winds, shrouding mists, and loud throngs of noisome animals. Nature's resilience can certainly confound pessimism. Life strives against all odds. These creatures, our co-voyagers on this ship called Earth, have impressed themselves forever into my mind. I wanted to live up to their efforts and their optimism.



Optimism and a way forward are what Blue Ocean Institute strives to create. We're finding and showing what works. There are solutions.

2011 turned out to be our most productive and influential year ever: two new books, the first two episodes of Saving the Ocean on over 100 PBS television stations, and two more episodes filmed and in production. Our education and research programs keep advancing and our new initiatives for 2012 are exciting. Click here for our 2011 annual report for more about Blue Ocean's progress.

As human demands on nature intensify, so does the urgency of creating broader public understanding of how we're driving these changes. Your support helps us change people's understanding of their place in our world, and where they might direct their life's energies.

Please consider making a year-end tax-deductible gift to Blue Ocean to fuel our work to create better understanding, inspire involvement and foster solutions. Your contribution will help accelerate change. To donate online via our secure PayPal account, click here.

Thanks for all you do to help restore living abundance to the sea.

Gratefully,

Carl's Safina, Founding President  
Blue Ocean Institute

P.S. If you prefer to send a check, here's the address: 250 Lawrence Hill Rd, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724.

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