

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 3, 2017**

**Contact:** Karen Meyer, Executive Director, Green Fire Productions  
[karen@greenfireproductions.org](mailto:karen@greenfireproductions.org), 503-709-5467

***NEW DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF OCEAN PLANNING***  
***Award-Winning Film Series Chronicles New Era of Ocean Stewardship***

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – The world premiere of *Ocean Frontiers III: Leaders in Ocean Stewardship & the New Blue Economy*, will take place Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. [Ocean Frontiers III](#), produced by Green Fire Productions, chronicles recent efforts along the Eastern seaboard to plan for healthy oceans, robust ocean economies and a sustainable future.

The film’s release coincides with the recent finalization of the nation’s first ocean plans in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. The plans, which are based on the most comprehensive database of scientific and ocean use information ever compiled across the regions, will help manage the ocean’s many uses, including shipping, recreation, fishing, offshore energy and wildlife habitat protection.

“Ocean planning is essential for protecting the health and resilience of our oceans,” said Karen Meyer, Executive Director of Green Fire Productions and producer of *Ocean Frontiers III*. “We want to use this film as a way to continue building support for the new Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ocean plans, and keep the momentum strong in the regions that are developing their plans – including the West Coast and the Pacific Islands.”

*Ocean Frontiers III* explores the intersection of national security, marine commerce, recreation and conservation. It also dives deeper into expanding industries such as offshore wind energy and aquaculture. The film allows viewers to witness an unprecedented collaboration of stakeholders – including fishermen, coastal planners, military officials, Native American leaders, environmental advocates, scientists and wind energy executives – who are working to manage and balance all the uses of the ocean so it can thrive for generations to come.

The award-winning [Ocean Frontiers film series](#) follows North American ocean planning from its early days, highlighting the use of new ocean data and extensive stakeholder input to keep national security strong, the economy growing, and ocean habitats protected.



“There’s a huge amount of pride in the work that’s been done to identify solutions that benefit our communities, our economy and our ocean,” Meyer said. “I’m inspired by all of the people who are part of this collaborative effort and are leading the way to a sustainable and thriving ocean.”

### **Film Premiere Details**

**What:** World Premiere of *Ocean Frontiers III: Leaders in Ocean Stewardship & the New Blue Economy*

**When:** February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the [Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center](http://www.virginiaaquarium.org)

- Light reception at 6:30 p.m., film screening at 7:00 p.m., and panel discussion at 8:00 p.m.

**Details:** The event is free. To save your seat, RSVP online at: <http://bit.ly/2k4je9W>.

The panel discussion features the following regional experts who are featured in the film:

- Laura McKay – Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
- Joe Atangan – U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Navy
- Chris Scraba – Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard
- Matt Gove – Surfrider Foundation
- Capt. Chris Ludford – Pleasure House Oysters
- Mark Swingle – Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center (moderator)

### **Event Presented By:**

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Virginia Coastal Zone Management, Virginia Sea Grant, Old Dominion University, Virginia Beach Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, Virginia Marine Trades Association, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Port Authority, Pleasure House Oysters, Virginia Maritime Association, Virginia Conservation Network, North American Marine Environment Protection Association, Elizabeth River Project, Lynnhaven River Now, American Planning Association – Virginia Chapter, Virginia Wesleyan College, Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Wild Oceans and Green Fire Productions.

For a list of upcoming *Ocean Frontiers III* screenings and more information about the film series, visit [www.ocean-frontiers.org](http://www.ocean-frontiers.org).

###



***About Green Fire Productions:***

*Since 1989, Green Fire Productions has created inspiring, award-winning documentaries on conservation and sustainability with a focus on success stories. Green Fire films air on PBS and are screened worldwide by NGOs, educators, industry associations, citizens, government agencies, First Nations and Native American tribes.*

