



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sea Pact Congratulates and Looks forward to Working Collaboratively with Seafood Champion Award Winners

Sustainability advocates from around the world, working up and down the supply chain, drive progress through leadership, innovation, vision and an activist spirit

SEATTLE, JUNE 6, 2017—Sea Pact, an innovative alliance of nine leading North American seafood businesses, wishes to congratulate the 2017 SeaWeb Seafood Champion Award winners, announced at an amazing awards ceremony reception at Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle last night.

The winners announced in each of the four categories were as follows:

- 1. Leadership category:**
Susi Pudjiastuti, Indonesia's Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries since 2014. She has banned the use of bottom trawlers and other unsustainable catching devices; led the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in her geographically dispersed island nation; and fought against the use of forced labor on fishing vessels.
- 2. Advocacy category:**
A tie between **Ned Bell**, Ocean Wise executive chef at the **Vancouver Aquarium** and founder of **Chefs for Oceans**, who has made sustainable seafood his mission. In 2014, he rode his bike 8,700 km across Canada, hosting 20 events alongside some of the country's best chefs to raise awareness of sustainable seafood, and
The **International Pole & Line Foundation**, which spearheaded an effort by Indian Ocean countries to reform tuna fisheries management and played a central role in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's groundbreaking adoption of a precautionary harvest strategy.
- 3. Vision category: Matthew Beaudin**, executive chef of the **Monterey Bay Aquarium**, who moved \$1 million in buying power to seafood producers within a 90-mile radius. He also is a regional and cross-border leader, developing aquaponics programs to support orphaned, HIV-positive children in Mexico.
- 4. Innovation category: FISH-i Africa**, a partnership of eight East African countries that combats large-scale illegal fishing by sharing information and taking collective enforcement action. FISH-i's string of investigations and prosecutions has created a more responsible fisheries sector.

A panel of seafood sustainability experts from industry and nonprofit organizations based in Asia, Europe and North America recognized these individuals and organizations as the top actors in the global seafood sustainability movement.

"It was a tremendous honour for Sea Pact to be selected as one of four finalists globally for the 2017 Seafood Champion Award for Leadership, being in the same amazing company as Susi Pudjiastuti, Indonesia's Minister of Marine Affairs & Fisheries, Wally Stevens of the Global Aquaculture Alliance, and Mariah Boyle, FishWise Traceability Division Director, said Rob Johnson, Managing Director for Sea Pact.

The Seafood Champion Award for Leadership recognizes people and organizations that bring stakeholders together to improve seafood sustainability or ocean health.

“Sea Pact wishes to express our energy and interest to work collaboratively with the winners and finalists—the important leaders, visionaries, innovators, and advocates in the seafood world to accelerate progress and drive positive lasting change.”

The annual Seafood Champion Awards program, now in its 11th year, recognizes individuals and organizations for excellence in promoting environmentally and socially responsible seafood. There were 16 finalists in four categories, culminating in last night’s award ceremony and winners announcements.

For more information on Sea Pact, go to www.seapact.org.

For more information on the awards, finalists, and winners, go to www.seafoodchampions.org. For more information on the awards ceremony and the Seafood Summit, go to www.seafoodsummit.org.

About Sea Pact

Albion Farms & Fisheries, Fortune Fish & Gourmet, Ipswich Shellfish Group, Santa Monica Seafood, Seacore Seafood, Stavis Seafoods, J.J. McDonnell, A.C. Covert and Seattle Fish Co. comprise [Sea Pact](#) and all share an active and progressive approach to their sustainability commitments. These nine companies have joined together and are using their collective power to lead and drive improvement of environmental, economic, and social responsibility throughout the seafood supply chain. Sea Pact receives sustainability counsel from non-profit organizations FishWise, Ocean Outcomes, and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), and is a project under New Venture Funds 501(c)3 non-profit status. Project funding opportunities are available through an annual request for proposals.

About SeaWeb

[SeaWeb](#) serves the sustainable seafood community by nourishing a coordinated infrastructure of people and knowledge to guide, inspire and reward the seafood industry’s adoption of sustainable practices. SeaWeb is a project of [The Ocean Foundation](#), a unique community foundation with a mission to support, strengthen and promote organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. SeaWeb produces the Seafood Summit in partnership with [Diversified Communications](#).

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