

Press Release
For Immediate Release

To: All News Media
Date: January 12, 2010
From: Greenrock
Re: *Jan 21st Sea Dragon Presentation at G135 (corner King/Front St.), 6-8 pm*

Dr. Marcus Eriksen

Principal Scientist on Sea
Dragon and Presentor



As a US Marine serving in the first Gulf War, Marcus Eriksen stood in the middle of the burning oil fields, covered with soot and burnt crude, and was struck with the senselessness of it all. From that point, he decided that something needed to be done to bring attention to the ongoing issues of environmental destruction. He realized that if he could make saving the environment an adventure, if he could make it cool, then the much needed press coverage would follow. He reinvented himself - leaving behind the life of as Marine Commando to become a commando warrior on a different front.



At the forefront of his concerns is the problem of plastics pollution in the oceans. Plastic particles can now be found everywhere, in every ocean, and the North Pacific Gyre is one of the most heavily polluted. It's not a floating island of plastic as some have said, but a plastic soup - where everywhere you look, there's plastic floating just under the surface. Dr. Marcus Eriksen tells us that these non-soluble chemicals bond to the plastics, the fish ingest the small particles, and these chemicals then work their way up the food chain, sometimes ending up on our dinner plates.

So the problem of plastic in the waterways of the world is not just an issue of unsightliness or long-term environmental questions, it is becoming a real public health issue facing us all, here and now. This is exactly why Marcus invented the Junk raft, to get us talking about this issue - to get our attention. A tough-as-nails skydiving Marine

and admitted tree-hugging adventure junkie who just sailed across the Pacific on a boat made of recycled bottles - now that's a YachtPal worthy of our spotlight.

Academic Qualifications:

Marcus Eriksen received his Ph.D. in Science Education from University of Southern California, and his M.A. and B.S. from the University of New Orleans. During this academic career Marcus worked many different jobs, ranging from Research Assistant in University of New Orleans Vertebrate Paleontology Lab to Educator and Exhibit Supervisor at the Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles Museum of Natural History, and New Orleans Audubon Park and Zoological Gardens. He teaches and conducts research in earth science, lectures at schools and museums and supervises an annual field course in paleontology in Wyoming. Currently he is AMRF's Director of Research and Education and hosts "Commando Weather," a series of public service announcements about the science of weather, for the Weather Channel. In 2006, he won the H. David Nahai Water Quality Award in Education, presented by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

In 2005, Marcus created Watershed Wonders, an educational video series packaged with curriculum materials for Junior and Senior High Schools. Episodes include "Bottle Rocket down the Mississippi River," "Coastal Wetlands and the Journey of Fluke," and "Cola Kayak and the Los Angeles River." Marcus recently published his first book, titled "My River Home" (Beacon Press, 2007) chronicling his experience as a marine in the 1991 Gulf War and a rafting journey 2000 miles down the Mississippi River on a raft of plastic bottles

Or contact:

For more information on Greenrock, visit our website – www.greenrock.org
or contact: Suzanne Wilson at PR@greenrock.org.

Greenrock is a registered Bermuda Charity focused on sustainable development. We act as a **catalyst** (an agency for meaningful change), working with the public and private sector in order to create sustainable solutions. We encourage individuals, communities, and companies to join this movement by showing them how a sustainable state of living in Bermuda is good for all of us from an economic, social, and environmental perspective - the triple bottom-line. In this way, we are '**Changing the Mindset**' in Bermuda.