Portland, OR (March 8, 2012) – In partnership with National Geographic, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is pleased to announce the opening of *Ocean Soul: Photographs by Brian Skerry* Wednesday, March 28. The photographic exhibition will guide visitors on a journey through the mysteries of the ocean depths as brought to life by award-winning National Geographic photojournalist Brian Skerry.

A lifelong diver, Skerry has spent more than 10,000 hours underwater profiling marine wildlife and ocean environments. Whether beneath the Arctic ice or in predator-infested waters, Skerry’s dives in extreme conditions have captured rare and intimate moments with sea creatures in their natural settings.

“To make great pictures, a photographer must observe and truly see,” said Skerry. “Over time I learned that the real value is in being patient, slowing down and watching the world around me.”

Skerry’s photographs tell compelling stories of survival, from harp seals fleeing execution by commercial hunters in the North Atlantic to damaged coral ecosystems beginning to rebuild themselves in the central Pacific.

“Beyond their artistic value, these beautiful images also relay important information,” said OMSI President Nancy Stueber. “By increasing awareness, they have the power to move OMSI visitors to action, which is the kind of inspiring experience the museum always strives to provide.”

The more than 50 photographs in the *Ocean Soul* exhibition are drawn from Skerry’s fall 2011 National Geographic book of the same name, a retrospective of his photography from the last 20 years. Both follow four key creatures whose gripping stories illustrate the health of the world’s oceans: shark, right whale, leatherback turtle and harp seal.

*Ocean Soul: Photographs by Brian Skerry* is produced and traveled by National Geographic. The exhibition will be open to OMSI visitors from March 28 to July 10, 2012.

The price of the exhibit is included in general admission. Members are free. For more information, visit [www.omsi.edu](http://www.omsi.edu).
Related Programs:

Science Pub – Portland: (Bagdad Theater)

*Ocean Soul: Photographs by Brian Skerry*
Tuesday, March 27, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Brian Skerry will make a special appearance as presenter. Science Pub-Bagdad Theater is a monthly event open to all ages. No RSVP or scientific background required. Just bring your curiosity, sense of humor, and appetite for food, drinks, and knowledge!
Copies of Skerry’s book, *Ocean Soul*, will be available for purchase and signing at this Science Pub.

OMSI Pacific Marine Science School
OMSI offers summer camps for kids, grades 2 – 12, which teach coastal ecology and marine biology in various locations. A San Juan Island facility hosts multiple programs including *Orca Camp*. *Marine Wildlife* and *Ocean Shores* camps explore the Oregon Coast, and *Towering Trees and Tide Pools* drive to the California Redwoods. For more information or to register, visit [www.omsi.edu/camps](http://www.omsi.edu/camps) or call 503.797.4661.

About OMSI
Founded in 1944, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is one of the nation’s leading science museums, a world-class tourist attraction, and an award-winning educational resource for the kid in each of us. OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue, Portland, OR 97214. For general information, call 503.797.4000 or visit [www.omsi.edu](http://www.omsi.edu).

About National Geographic Traveling Exhibitions
The National Geographic Society is one of the world’s largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations and one of the world’s leading organizers of large-scale, traveling exhibitions. Since it launched “Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs” in 2004, National Geographic has organized two more Egyptian-themed exhibitions, “Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs” and “Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt.” Other exhibitions National Geographic has organized include the four-city U.S. tour of “Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul.” National Geographic also offers a collection of photography exhibitions available to museums around the world. For more information, visit [http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits](http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits).

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