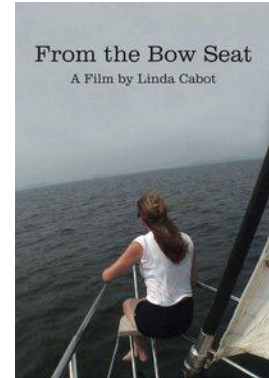


For immediate release: Tuesday, 15 February 2011

Contact: Susan Ryan: suzyryan08@gmail.com

Linda Cabot and Kristie Jochmann: info@fromthebowseat.org



“From the Bow Seat” film release and student essay contest

New documentary on the Gulf of Maine is a “*a film of exploration with gems of ocean learning throughout*”

The Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association (GOMMEA) has announced a collaborative effort to increase ocean literacy and student awareness of the Gulf of Maine, the rich marine ecosystem bounded by the coasts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and the Canadian Maritimes. The 30-year-old local chapter of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) is partnering with independent film maker Linda Cabot to promote and share the film, “From the Bow Seat.” The film profiles a “voyage of discovery” of a mother and her teenage daughters as they seek out people engaged in understanding and protecting the living resources of the Gulf of Maine.

As a way to engage high school students, the partnership is sponsoring an essay contest challenging students around the region and the US. Essays may be submitted until September 15th. Educators, including high school teachers and home school instructors, may receive a free teacher packet and copy of the DVD by emailing info@fromthebowseat.org. Prizes for students who write the winning essays are \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$500; the science department of the first-place winner receives an additional \$2,500. FMI, go www.fromthebowseat.org.

“From the Bow Seat” is an hour-long film featuring interviews with leaders in marine research and conservation. Diane Cowan of The Lobster Conservancy, Stephen Kress of Project Puffin, Carl Wilson, lobster biologist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Colin Woodard, author of *Lobster Coast* and *Oceans End*, explain the issues that affect the birds, lobsters, and fishes of the Gulf.

The film has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from marine educators throughout the region:

- Jeff Sandler, who performs for audiences of all ages as *Mr. Fish*, a founder of GOMMEA, calls it “*a film of exploration with gems of ocean learning throughout.*”

- Marine scientist and local author Mary Cerullo of Friends of Casco Bay said, *“The film shows the rich mix of marine resources within the Gulf of Maine from the perspective of harvesters, ecologists, and researchers.”*
- Perrin Chick, Education Director of Seacoast Science Center of New Hampshire and former teacher: *“...the still images in this film were very powerful and really captured the change that has occurred over time.”*
- Susan Ryan, President of the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association: *“This film is timely, informative and engaging – think of PBS documentary meets YouTube video - a perfect venue for reaching high school students.”*
- Robert Rocha, President of Massachusetts Marine Educators and Chair of NMEA 2011 Annual Conference: *“This film is a great mix of human and natural resources, education by example, and an honest portrayal of alterations to Gulf of Maine ecosystems, all without preaching at the audience.”*

Sponsors include the Gulf of Maine Marine Educators Association (Maine), www.gommea.org and Massachusetts Marine Educators (Massachusetts), www.massmarineeducators.org in partnership with:

- Friends of Casco Bay (South Portland, ME)
- Gundalow Company (Portsmouth, NH)
- Marine Environmental Research Institute (Blue Hill, ME)
- Mr. and Mrs. Fish Marine Education Program (South Portland, ME)
- New Hampshire Sea Grant (Durham, NH)
- Shoals Marine Lab (ME/NH)
- Seacoast Science Center (Rye, NH), and
- Southeastern New England Marine Educators (CT, RI)
- Waynflete School’s Sustainable Ocean Studies (Portland, ME)

For more information, go to: www.fromthebowseat.org

