

# theLASTOCEAN

**For Immediate Release**

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***The Last Ocean* wins award at the Boulder International Film Festival**

New Zealand feature documentary *The Last Ocean* has won an award for the Best 'call to action' film at this year's Boulder International Film Festival. *The Last Ocean* director and cinematographer Peter Young was presented the award at the festival's closing ceremony on Sunday night.

Completed in 2012, the documentary chronicles the race to protect the Ross Sea Antarctica, regarded as the most pristine marine ecosystem on Earth, before its natural balance is destroyed by commercial fishing. Since 1996 an international fishery, initiated and lead by New Zealand, has been targeting Antarctic Toothfish in the Ross Sea. Sold as Chilean Seabass in restaurants around the world, much of the catch ends up in North America.

"The Call to Action category honours films that invite audiences to act upon important issues," said Boulder International Film Festival Director Robin Beeck. "*The Last Ocean* is a beautiful, urgent and captivating film, and the screening resonated strongly with the Boulder audience".

The Colorado premier was Young's first international outing with the film and he hopes that this and future screenings in North America will raise awareness that eating Antarctic toothfish contributes to the demise of the most intact and untouched marine ecosystem on Earth. "Fishing in the Ross Sea is not just a New Zealand issue it's a global issue and as people around the world become aware of how short-sighted fishing in the Ross Sea is, international eyes will be turning to New Zealand," said Young.

The Ross Sea laps the shores of Antarctica, a continent that fifty years ago was set aside for peace and science under the Antarctic Treaty. "To have a marginal fishery operating in one of the most dangerous and fragile marine ecosystems on Earth is foolhardy" says Young, "in the Ross Sea we have a chance to do something special – we can fish it – or we can protect it and gift this unique corner of the world to future generations."

The Boulder screening comes at a critical time in the campaign to protect the Ross Sea. The body that governs the waters around Antarctica, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), will be meeting in Germany in July of this year, to try to reach agreement on marine protection in the Ross Sea. New Zealand and the United States have submitted a joint proposal for the establishment of a large marine protected area in the Ross Sea, but that proposal also allows for fishing.

"The joint proposal is a first step of this journey," said Young "but fishing in Earth's last untouched ocean is difficult to justify. There is far greater value in keeping the Ross Sea pristine than exploiting its fish for the financial gain of a few. We need to protect these last

untouched areas for the health of humanity and future of our planet.”

Also attending the screening was Boulder nature photographer and writer John Weller, who, along with Young and US Antarctic Ecologist Dr David Ainley, co-founded the Last Ocean Trust, based in Christchurch, New Zealand. Weller’s stunning photographs feature in the documentary and he will release a photographic book about the Ross Sea later this year. Ainley, who has been studying in the Ross Sea for more than 40 years describes it as a 'living laboratory.' “The Ross Sea is a place that can teach us about the workings of all marine ecosystems,” said Ainley.

The Last Ocean Charitable Trust advocates for full protection of the Ross Sea and is part of the Antarctic Ocean Alliance, which is made up of influential environmental organizations including WWF, Pew Environmental Group, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition and Greenpeace.

International sales of *The Last Ocean* are being represented by sales agent LevelK.

#### **About BIFF**

CELEBRATING THE BOLD SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENT FILM

Named one of the “25 Coolest Film Festivals” in the world, The Boulder International Film Festival will bring films and filmmakers from around the world to a four-day celebration of the art of cinema in downtown Boulder, Colorado.

View the website: <http://www.biff1.com/>

#### **About the Last Ocean**

View the promo here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaqEWbHNNQGo&feature=plcp>

Visit the website: [www.lastocean.org](http://www.lastocean.org)

The Last Ocean on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/thelastocean>

#### **About LevelK**

The Copenhagen/NY based sales house **LevelK ApS** is a sales company that represents international production companies and manages the distribution rights for quality films and television productions worldwide.

The Last Ocean is the latest addition to the LevelK’s growing documentary label and joins ranks with other acclaimed titles: ½ Revolution, Moon Rider, Planet RE:think and Prostitution Behind the Veil.

To learn more, visit [www.levelk.dk](http://www.levelk.dk)

**For more information, imagery or to speak to Peter Young,**

**Please Call: +64 3 389 8818**

**Email: [peter@lastocean.org](mailto:peter@lastocean.org)**

**For sales information please contact:**

Natja Noviani Rosner, Sales Director, LevelK

Email: [natja@levelk.dk](mailto:natja@levelk.dk)