

The Charles and Marie Fish
Lecture in Oceanography

The Search for the Last Virgin Coral Reefs

Dr. Enric Sala
National Geographic Society

Noon, Friday, December 4, 2009

Coastal Institute Auditorium
Narragansett Bay Campus
University of Rhode Island

Office of Marine Programs
Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island



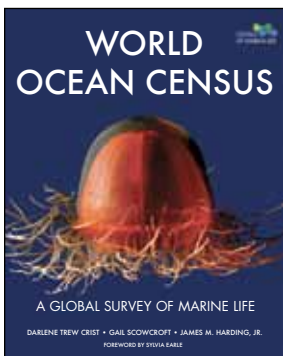
Joseph M. Lenias

Dr. Enric Sala is a marine ecologist who fell in love with the sea growing up on the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Witnessing the harm people do to the oceans led him to dedicate his career to understand and find ways to mitigate human impacts on marine life. After obtaining a Ph.D. in ecology in 1996 from the University of Aix-Marseille, France, Sala moved to the U.S. where he became Professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In 2008 he became a National Geographic Fellow and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Enric is actively engaged in research, exploration, and communication of scientific knowledge related to the conservation of marine ecosystems. Sala is also a member of the Census of Marine Life International Scientific Steering Committee.

His public lecture will focus on his National Geographic's Pristine Seas expeditions. Sala believes what we think are natural coral reefs are not, because most scientific studies have been conducted on degraded reefs. A series of recent expeditions to a few remote, pristine reefs in the central Pacific have revealed a world that was unknown to most people, including reefs where predators are more abundant than their prey. His research has provided clues to what is truly natural in the ocean, offering important implications for their future.

Lecture is FREE and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information or directions, phone the Office of Marine Programs, (401) 874-6211, or visit omp.gso.uri.edu and click on "Fish Lecture."



A book signing for *World Ocean Census*, the story of the ten-year global research initiative called the Census of Marine Life, will precede and follow the lecture.

THE CHARLES AND MARIE FISH LECTURE IN OCEANOGRAPHY

The annual Charles and Marie Fish Lecture is supported by income from the Charlie and Bobbie Fish Endowment for Oceanography. The endowment was established in 1989 by Marilyn Munro and family in memory of her parents, Drs. Charles and Marie Fish. Through their joint efforts, the Fishes established the University's first marine biological program in 1935, and eventually a graduate program in oceanography at the Narragansett Marine Laboratory, which later became URI's Graduate School of Oceanography.



Charles and Marie Fish
aboard *Arcturus*, 1925.