Did you know that fluorescent molecules from sea creatures are shedding new light on human biology?

If not, then join us on the evening of March 26 for a captivating and illuminating SmartTalk co-hosted by Coastal Marine Biolabs and the Ventura Port District. Admission is free and open to science enthusiasts, lifelong learners, high school and college students, educators, and other interested members of the general public.

The Magic of Fluorescence in the Sea – A Story of Discovery, Beauty, and Cool Science

Another dimension of light exists in nature - a rarely observed masterpiece of Earthly origin that lies hidden by the ordinary glare of sunlight. This is the fascinating world of fluorescence, where light magically transforms from one color to another. Equipped with the right kinds of tools, anyone can venture into this enchanting world and reveal an unexpected symphony of color that plays out under the cloak of darkness.

In the ocean, organisms that glow with startling and exquisite colors perform this symphony for visitors who bravely enter their underwater realm. But beyond its almost mesmerizing aesthetic appeal for human explorers, fluorescence may offer profound insights into the biology of these intriguing creatures. This visually engaging SmartTalk by Dr. Charles Mazel will explore the nature of fluorescence, how to observe and capture images of its vibrant beauty, what it may mean for corals and other organisms, and how the fluorescent molecules that evolved in the sea are shedding new light on human physiology and disease.

About the Speaker

Dr. Charles Mazel is the founder of NIGHTSEA (Bedford, MA) and a Principal Research Scientist at Physical Sciences, Inc. (Andover, MA). He became intrigued by the idea of fluorescence while night diving in the early 1970s and developed his own line of equipment for revealing and photographing fluorescence, both underwater and in the lab. Charlie has explored the phenomenon in numerous locations around the globe and made the first deep-sea dives from a manned submersible to explore marine fluorescence.

Venue

Auditorium at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center of the Channel Islands National Park Headquarters, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001

Parking

Visitor parking is provided free-of-charge in the lot adjacent to the Visitor's Center, near the Harbor Cove Cafe. Please follow the signs for the night exit when departing.

Event Schedule

6:00 - 6:50 p.m........Welcome Reception (appetizers kindly provided by The Greek at the Harbor)
7:00 - 7:10 p.m........Opening Remarks and General Introductions
Dr. Linda Santschi, Scientific Co-Director, Coastal Marine Biolabs
7:10 - 8:00 p.m........SmartTalk
Dr. Charles Mazel, Physical Sciences, Inc. and NIGHTSEA
8:00 - 8:15 p.m........Question and Answer Session
8:15 - 8:30 p.m........Concluding Remarks
Dr. Ralph Imondi, Scientific Co-Director, Coastal Marine Biolabs

SmartTalk is co-hosted by Coastal Marine Biolabs and the Ventura Port District in cooperation with the Channel Islands National Park.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Ralph Imondi, Coastal Marine Biolabs, Phone: 805.289.9275 Email: info@coastalmarinebiolabs.org