

For our second annual Coastal Heroes Awards, *Sunset* honors five people who have done amazing work in protecting and preserving the West's greatest treasures—the Pacific Ocean and its thousands of miles of shoreline

# Superheroes of the deep



**DUANE SILVERSTEIN**  
BERKELEY  
SEACOLOGY

The world's 100,000-plus islands are ground zero for climate change, rising ocean levels, and species loss. That's where Seacology—which Duane

Silverstein has headed since 1999—comes in. The global nonprofit's mission is protecting islands' natural and cultural environments by linking the two. In return, say, for agreeing to preserve a coral reef, islanders receive a new water system or health clinic.

**Why islands?** "It's like when they asked Willie Sutton why he robbed banks. He answered, 'That's where the money is.' Islands are where the degradation is happening."

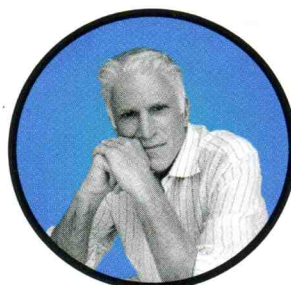
#### **Why Seacology works.**

"We provide funding for things [islanders have] wanted for years. It's not much money in U.S. terms—say \$30,000 for a new school—but it's more than they can afford."

#### **Favorite Pacific island?**

"I'm a diver, so I'll start with Palau. At Blue Corner, you hook onto the reef and watch the undersea world go by."

**INFO** [seacology.org](http://seacology.org)



**TED DANSON**  
LOS ANGELES  
OCEANA

You may know him as the evil Arthur Frobisher in *Damages*. But Ted Danson is also an ocean policy wonk who's helped push Oceana into the front ranks of sea-focused environmental organizations. Current campaigns include fighting reef-destroying

bottom trawlers and overfishing—in July, Ted testified before Congress about the latter. In early 2011, he'll publish a book about his conservation work called, by no coincidence, *Oceana*.

#### **Why write a book?**

"Because what's going on with our oceans is a potential environmental disaster that can be avoided. It's exciting—it's not doom and gloom."

**Favorite beaches?** "I am a sucker for Southern California. I grew up going to La Jolla, Del Mar, San Clemente. I love them."

**INFO** [oceana.org](http://oceana.org)