



## Behind the Lens

JAY IRELAND



30-year veteran diver and photographer Jay Ireland has never lost his youthful zest for tracking, finding and photographing animals. He began freediving at age 8 off the rugged, cold Fort Bragg, California, coast.

Now, with more than 10,000 dives under his weight belt, he still splashes into the water with the wide-eyed exhilaration of a kid. Known for his almost unparalleled familiarity of Cocos Island, Jay has logged more than 3,000 dives in the waters around the island. Using his images to stand witness, he has successfully partnered with the United Nations in making Cocos Island a United Nations World Heritage Site.

A career-defining moment occurred in 1984, when he joined a group of buddies and sailed on the Aggressor Fleet's maiden voyage from Grand Cayman Island. His quest for the perfect stingray image prompted him to co-found Cayman Islands' Stingray City. A staunch DAN supporter and member, he has contributed many images to Alert Diver magazine, and he has been featured in National Geographic and myriad other publications.

The Imaging Foundation (IF) is a nonprofit organization committed to conserving the planet by documenting the beauty and challenges facing our natural world. Ireland has been asked to host the first IF expedition, which will bring him back to Cocos Island. Jay will work side by side with other volunteer expedition members diving and documenting the island as he fulfills the IF mission. Plan on joining this call to action: Travel with a Purpose!

**For more details, log on to [Imagingfoundation.org](http://Imagingfoundation.org)**

