

WYLAND

ADVENTURES IN NATURE

# OCEAN

## *Realm*

FABIEN COUSTEAU'S MISSION 31 | SYLVIA EARLE'S MISSION BLU | WYLAND NATIONAL MAYOR'S CHALLENGE



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# FABIEN COUSTEAU

# Mission31

The day before Fabien embarked on his soon-to-be-historic mission, breaking his grandfather's record of 30 days living under the sea, I, along with WOR Marine Science editor Jack Grove, had a chance to sit and chat about the upcoming mission.

**Richard Stewart:** "What are the emotions involved during such an event like this on your grandfather's 50th anniversary of his own habitat mission?"

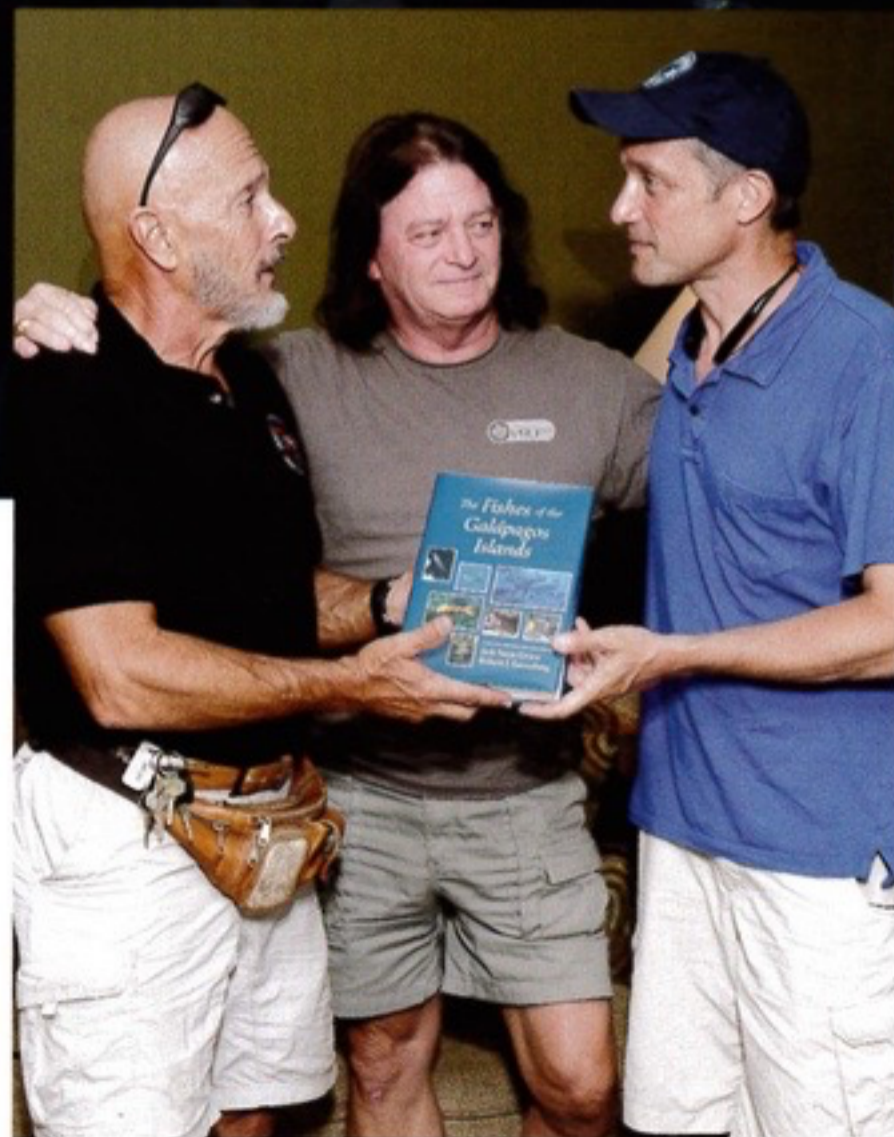
**Fabien Cousteau:** "You know that is just one part of it but, yeah - originally it wasn't planned to be during the 50th but it was more pragmatic timing and just so happened to coincide. But due to the permitting process we kept getting delayed. There are emotions on a number of levels - one day longer than my grandfather's saturation, the fact that his birthday is also during the month of June, and another is that fact that we have had two delays and my grandfather's Conshelf II project also had two delays and both missions ended up commencing during the month of June. It is emotionally charging when you realize all of the symbolism around it. Mission 31 is certainly to honor past aquanauts, including my grandfather's team, but also taking the next step into ocean exploration taking advantage of technologies that just were not available to us."

**RS:** "Don't you think it ironic that with all of the technology we have that there is only one undersea lab in the world?"

**FC:** "Oh it is shocking, you know there were a



*Jack Grove, Richard Stewart and Fabien Cousteau.*





*Wyland does his magic under the ocean. Below the Cousteau crew and the habitat.*



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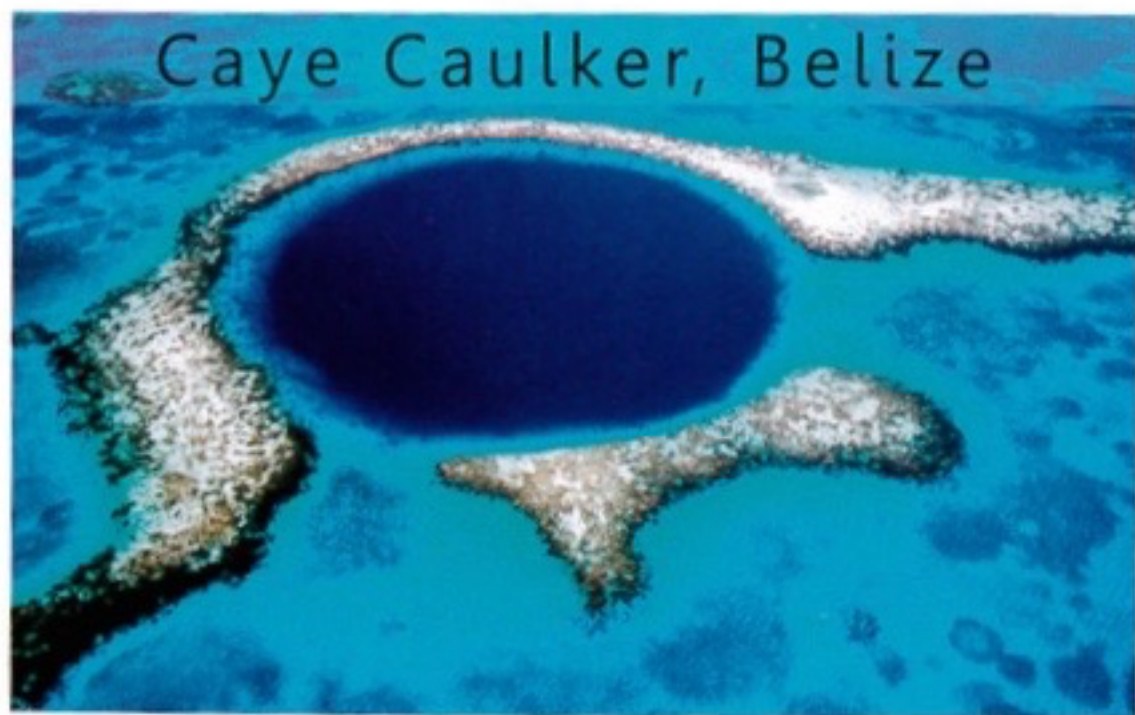
IMAGE BY COURTLANDS RICHARDS

dozen or so at one time and the fact that most where built for one mission or a set of missions, this one - the Aquarius Habitat - is pretty neat because it has been down there for 20 years and that is pretty cool because you have a long data set for science. But it is shocking to think that no one has been able to build a new underwater habitat with modern technology. This habitat has been upgraded but it has its limitations."

Fabien went on to tell me about his grandfather's mission with Conshelt II in the Red Sea and how it established that man could live and work under the sea without any ill effects.

Mission 31 broadened the original Cousteau experiment by one full day, 30 more feet of saturation and broadcasting the activities throughout the day. This was the first time a mission of this length took place in the Aquarius lab, the only underwater marine habitat and lab in the world, located 9 miles off the coast of Key Largo, Fla., and operated by Florida International University.

Read more about Mission 31 at [www.Mission-31.com](http://www.Mission-31.com).



## Caye Caulker, Belize

### BELIZE DIVING SERVICES

Located 10 minutes by air or 40 minutes by boat from Belize City, Belize Diving Services is the only internationally qualified dive shop on the quaint island of Caye Caulker. The dive shop has a celebrated history. Founded by diving pioneer Paul Heinerth and fellow cave divers in 1978, BDS has hosted the most accomplished

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