The Planet Ocean Seminar Series offers four lectures each academic year, featuring prominent speakers from our own faculty and other leading research institutions, from well-known environmental organizations and from government agencies.

The Planet Ocean Seminar Series is free and open to the public. This particular seminar is held in the Lumina Theater on the UNCW campus. The seminar will begin at 7:00 p.m. A dessert reception will follow.

Due to limited seating, reservations are required. Advance registration for Bluefish Society members will end Feb. 26. The general public may begin registration on Feb. 27. To make reservations or for further information, please call the UNCW Center for Marine Science at 910-962-2301.

Global Change, Tipping Points, and the Urgent Need to Act
Solving Our Global Environmental Crisis

with Peter F. Sale, Ph.D.
United Nations University

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Global Change, Tipping Points, and the Urgent Need to Act:  
Solving Our Global Environmental Crisis  
with Peter F. Sale, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director, Institute for Water, Environment and Health, United Nations University

The global environmental crisis is much bigger than climate change, and as a coral reef ecologist, Peter Sale has a very particular perspective on it - his coral reefs are likely to disappear entirely from our planet by 2050. Reefs will be just one of many casualties as we change our planet into something we have never known before. This talk explores what is happening to coral reefs and to our planet and why. It focuses on the fact that we have the power to decide what kind of future we want. At present, we seem to be stumbling down dangerous paths, and the environment is responding in dangerous ways. Making the needed changes to transition to a good future will take understanding and real commitment, but it can be done and the alternative futures are dire. Will we make the right decisions, and will we do so in time to perhaps save coral reefs?

Peter F. Sale has enjoyed a career doing research into ecology of coral reefs in Hawaii, Australia, the Caribbean, and places in between. He now lives with his wife Donna in the Muskoka region north of Toronto, while leading projects on coastal marine management in tropical regions around the world. His recent book, Our Dying Planet, tells the story of our impacts on the environment from the perspective of one who has contributed to the science over many years, and one who has seen the decline of coral reefs with his own eyes. It provides a compelling explanation of why we have to make some serious changes if we want a quality life for our children.

Please join us for the second seminar in the 2013 Planet Ocean series:  
Global Change, Tipping Points, and the Urgent Need to Act:  
Solving Our Global Environmental Crisis  
with Peter F. Sale, Ph.D.  

March 13, 2013  
UNCW Lumina Theatre  
Seminar 7:00 p.m. / Dessert Reception to follow