

## Wyland Completes Yukon Dolphin Artwork

An historic new Wyland artwork, created from the hull of the *HMCS Yukon*, will be unveiled July 14 as part of the *Yukon*'s tenth anniversary celebration, announced California Ships to Reefs this week.

The work honors the tenth anniversary of the sinking of the *Yukon* in San Diego, a ship which is today a rich new ocean environment and popular diving and recreational site. The Wyland piece, which is painted on a steel dolphin taken from the *Yukon* hull, will be auctioned as a joint fundraiser for the Wyland Foundation and California Ships to Reefs (CSTR).

Participants in the *Yukon* anniversary celebration will be among the first to view the unique work from marine life artist Wyland, one of America's most important creative influences and a leading advocate for ocean conservation. The July 14 event will also include a cocktail party, food, valuable raffle prizes, fascinating seminars and a tour of a Soviet era B-39 submarine. The festivities are open to the public and are at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, which is co-sponsoring the event.

"We believe the Wyland painting on the *Yukon* steel dolphin is destined to become an icon of the Ships to Reefs movement," said Joel Geldin, CSTR Chairman and CEO. "California Ships to Reefs is proud to be working with Wyland and the Wyland Foundation." The 11-foot steel dolphin, weighing over 250 pounds, is one of two cut out of the *Yukon* hull by Milt Beard and prepared for Wyland by Scott Brown, both Project *Yukon* volunteers. Wyland painted the dolphin with an original work of his own design. After it has been displayed at the Maritime Museum, it will be sold at an auction to benefit CSTR and the Wyland Foundation.

"This is an unusual opportunity for a collector to own a work from one of America's finest artists which is also a piece of historic significance," said Geldin. "Thousands of volunteers and over a year of work went into sinking the *Yukon*. The *Yukon* project created California's model artificial reef program.

The *Yukon* anniversary celebration will continue July 15 with an underwater live press conference held 85 feet below the ocean surface on the deck of Yukon Reef.

For details of the two-day celebration, and to find out how you can attend, visit the CSTR website at [www.californiashipstoreefs.org](http://www.californiashipstoreefs.org).

California Ships to Reefs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation seeking to reef surplus ships as artificial reefs, bringing diving and fishing tourism to local ports in California and enhancing the ocean environment.

The Wyland Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's ocean waterways, and marine life. The foundation encourages environmental awareness through education programs, public arts projects, and community events. For more information, visit [www.wylandfoundation.org](http://www.wylandfoundation.org).