Media Contact:

Beth Chee

<u>bchee@ucsd.edu</u>a

(o)858.534.8555/(c)858.775.4574

Eggstravaganza at Birch Aquarium

Hop! Hop! Splash! Scuba Bunny dives in to celebrate spring at Birch Aquarium

La Jolla, Calif. (April 1, 2019)—Scuba Bunny is returning to Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego to welcome spring and the changes it brings at Eggstravaganza. Families are invited to participate in unique spring activities including unusual animal egg displays, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and special appearances by Scuba Bunny at themed dive shows.

Guests can join the celebration on Saturdays and Sundays, April 13 and 14, and 20 and 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scuba Bunny will hop in for twice-daily weekend shows, where he will interact with guests, talk about spring changes in our local waters, and be available for photos. Visitors are encouraged to check the schedule for dive show times and to arrive at least 20 minutes early for these popular events.

"Connecting guests to the smallest of changes in the ocean can have a big impact," said Danny Beckwith, Manager of Public Engagement at Birch Aquarium. "By exploring the diversity of ocean eggs—the shapes, colors, and strategies for survival—we hope to engage and inspire our guests to protect our ocean planet, right down to the humblest of beginnings."

Visitors of all ages will enjoy seasonal decor as they search the aquarium for eggs hidden among the fishes on a scavenger hunt with a colorful prize. Swell Sharks are the stars for the shark-egg craft. Many locals will recognize these unique "mermaid's purse" eggs from exploring the shoreline. Guests will also get hands-on with eggs from different marine creatures and learn what it takes for them to survive until hatching in the oceans.

Eggstravaganza <u>activities</u> are included with Birch Aquarium admission, which is \$19.50 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3 to 17. <u>Annual memberships</u> are also available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <u>aquarium.ucsd.edu</u> or call 858-534-FISH.

About Birch Aquarium at Scripps

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for the world-renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the aquarium features more than 60 habitats of fishes and invertebrates from the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest to the tropical waters of Mexico and the western Pacific. An interactive museum showcases research discoveries by Scripps scientists on climate, earth and ocean science, and features interactive elements. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Birch Aquarium has an annual attendance of more than 460,000, including 50,000 school children.