

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sevda Eris, Publicist QUEST

415.553.2835, seris@KQED.org

www.kqed.org/press

Screeners available by request

KQED's Science Series *QUEST* Dives into Summer with All New TV Episodes Starting July 7

Sylvia Earle, Hog Wild, Synthetic Biology, Scary Tsunamis and more

San Francisco, Calif., June 30, 2009 - [QUEST](http://www.kqed.org/quest), KQED's multimedia series covering Northern California's science and environmental issues, has an exciting new line up of television episodes starting Tuesdays in July at 7:30pm on KQED 9HD and online at www.kqed.org/quest.

First up, on **July 7**, *QUEST* dives with legendary marine biologist, **Sylvia Earle of Oakland**, who has spent much of the last five decades exploring and protecting the world's oceans. *QUEST* finds out why Earle thinks we may have only a few years left to save what she calls "The Blue Heart of the Planet."

Next on **July 14**, *QUEST* goes hunting. In 1924 a hunter purposely released **wild boar** in **Monterey County**. Now the pigs number in the hundreds of thousands and reside in all but two of California's 58 counties. Big, fast, smart, and hungry, these animals often out-compete native species and damage fragile native ecosystems. *QUEST* discovers how hunters are stepping up to be part of the solution.

On **July 21**, *QUEST* decodes **synthetic biology**. Imagine living cells acting as memory devices, biofuels brewing from yeast, or a light receptor taken from algae that makes photographs on a plate of bacteria. With the new science of synthetic biology, the goal is to make biology easier to engineer so that new functions can be derived from living systems. *QUEST* discovers the tools that Bay Area synthetic biologists such as **Stanford's Drew Endy** are using and the exciting things they are building.

Finally on **July 28**, *QUEST* takes a look back at the massive **tsunami** that struck the Indian Ocean in 2004 with a wave that reached up to 100 feet high. More than 225,000 people were killed. Bay Area researchers raced to the scene to learn everything they could about these deadly forces of nature. The information they gained provides a 'Rosetta stone' for helping to understand the geologic history of tsunamis and when and where they may strike again. *QUEST* examines the latest high-tech tsunami monitoring systems and finds out if California is at risk.

In addition, *QUEST* has several new short stories that: explore the work of sea horse specialist Healy Hamilton of the California Academy of Sciences; experiment with Newton's Laws of Motion; focus on the floral "models" of East Bay photographer Harold Davis; and fly high with golden eagles from the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek.

QUEST also will continue with its weekly radio reports, web extras, Flickr photos, blog posts from Bay Area scientists and educator guides that meet California's science teaching standards. Discover all of the media at [kqed.org/quest](http://www.kqed.org/quest).

About KQED

KQED (www.kqed.org) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento), home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service. KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

####