

SEA SHEPHERD DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGNS: Captain Peter Hammarstedt



Swedish-American Peter Hammarstedt, 35, is the Director of Campaigns for Sea Shepherd Global, sits on the Board of Sea Shepherd Global and is Chairman of Sea Shepherd Australia. He is captain of the ocean-going vessel Bob Barker, having spent more than 17 years at-sea including 10 years in Antarctica.

In 2014/15, the Bob Barker, with Peter as captain, set the world record for the longest pursuit of a poaching vessel at sea after chasing the Interpol-wanted fishing vessel Thunder for 110 days—covering three oceans and 11,000 nautical miles—before its captain intentionally sank his own vessel in a bid to destroy evidence.

Since then, Peter, has provided civilian offshore patrol vessels (COPVs), under so-called 'ship rider' agreements, to many African coastal states in order to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. On-going partnerships between Sea Shepherd and the law enforcement agents of African coastal and island States have resulted in the arrest of 52 vessels for illegal fishing and other fisheries crimes over the past four years.

The COPVs have served as critical platforms for capacity-building of law enforcement agencies in increasing monitoring, control and surveillance capabilities in the maritime domain. Thus, in 2018 Peter was nominated for the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award, given to a person under the age of 40 with an innovative solution to addressing an environmental concern.

Peter is also the 2016 recipient of the prestigious Winsome Constance Kindness Gold Medal for Humanitarian Service, previously awarded to Dr. T. Colin Campbell, Dame Jane Goodall, Mrs Maneka Gandhi MP, Captain Paul Watson, Dr Jill Robinson, Dr Christine Townend, Dr Ian Gawler and Sri Pradeep Nath.

Peter is a member of The Explorers Club.