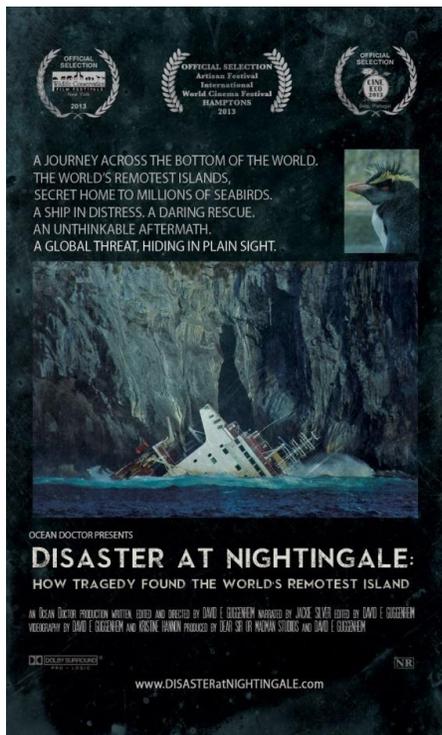




## PRESS KIT



While on an expedition in the South Atlantic from the tip of South America to the tip of South Africa, marine scientist Dr. David E. Guggenheim, president of Ocean Doctor, witnessed – and filmed – the worst environmental disaster of his life. En route to a little-known cluster of islands, his ship received a distress call, requesting assistance in rescuing the crew from a Maltese freighter that had somehow managed to run aground at Nightingale Island, part of what is considered the most remote inhabited island group in the world, Tristan da Cunha.

The wreck unleashed a catastrophic oil spill at the doorstep of the second largest concentration of seabirds in the world, home to 65 percent of the world's population of the endangered

*Disaster at Nightingale is a film about an ecological catastrophe that few know occurred, in a place that few know exists, resulting from a global threat that few are aware of.*

Northern Rockhopper penguin. Beloved and iconic, it is a surprise to many that most penguin species are in trouble and have declined by as much as 90 percent since the 1950s. Equally surprising is a growing global threat, hiding in plain sight: The common cargo vessel, whose dismal safety record is proving over and over again that it doesn't take a supertanker or oil well blowout to create an oil spill disaster.

*Disaster at Nightingale* is a film about an ecological catastrophe that few know occurred, in a place that few know exists, resulting from a global threat that few are aware of. The film reveals why the disaster occurred, its unthinkable aftermath, and how such “statistically impossible” disasters aren't nearly as impossible as we once thought.

[www.DISASTERatNIGHTINGALE.com](http://www.DISASTERatNIGHTINGALE.com)

Ocean Doctor, Inc. • P.O. Box 53090 • Washington, DC 20009 • Phone +1 (202) 695-2550 • [www.OceanDoctor.org](http://www.OceanDoctor.org)

## Background

The Tristan de Cunha island group represents the second largest concentration of sea birds in the world. 65 percent of the world's endangered Northern Rockhopper penguin population is found here. Nightingale Island holds more than 100,000 pairs of Northern Rockhopper penguins, 20,000 pairs of albatrosses including the yellow nose albatross, and 2,000,000 pairs of Broadbill prions. The island is also home to the highly-endangered Tristan Bunting. Only 50 pairs remain in the world, all of which are found on Nightingale Island.



Northern Rockhopper Penguin. (Photo: Brian Gatwicke)

On March 16, 2011 at 430am, the 75,300 ton Maltese freighter *Oliva*, en route from Santos, Brazil to China with a cargo of soybeans ran aground onto the rocks at Nightingale Island's northwestern corner. By early the following morning, when the Silversea expedition vessel, *Prince Albert II* arrived on scene, the *Oliva's* captain reported water in the engine room and the ship had a significant fuel leak from its tanks carrying 300,000 gallon load of heavy marine oil. Ten crew members were rescued by the fishing vessel *Edinburgh*, but high winds and heavy swell prevented the rescue of the remaining 10 crew. Thankfully, the *Prince Albert II's* expedition team — specially trained in the operation of Zodiacs in heavy weather — rescued the remaining 12 crew. The expedition team reported heavy oil conditions in the water. Less than 12 hours later, *Oliva* broke apart on the rocks and the stern section which housed the crew, rolled onto its side and into the waves.

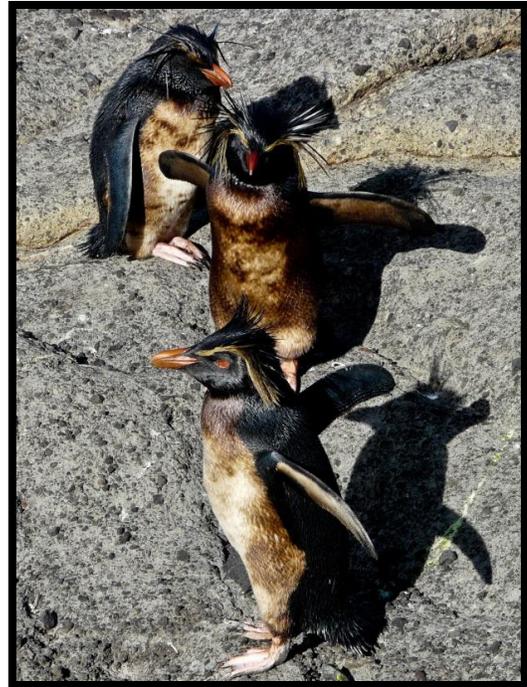


Wreck of the MS *Oliva* at Nightingale Island (Photo: David E. Guggenheim)

Once ashore at Tristan de Cunha on March 19th, Ocean Doctor president, Dr. David E. Guggenheim — who was aboard *Prince Albert II* as a guest lecturer — met with local officials and learned the breadth and severity of this disaster and began to alert groups around the world and mobilize assistance. A desperate rescue and rehabilitation effort followed, led by SANCCOB (the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds).

However, the extreme remoteness of Tristan de Cunha — the nearest civilization is 1,500 miles away in Capetown, South Africa, a 5-7 day steam by ship (Tristan has no landing strip) — proved to be an insurmountable challenge.

An investigation report by the Maltese government released in late 2012 revealed the series of errors and procedure violations that led to the disaster. Global shipping has tripled since the 1970s and thousands of cargo ships like the *Oliva* traverse waters in close proximity to critically important habitat for many species. Cargo ships — bulk carriers, container ships and tankers — have a poor safety record and disasters like the *Oliva*, *Rena* (New Zealand 2011), *Treasure* (South Africa 2000) and *Selendang Ayu* (Alaska, USA 2004), among many others have demonstrated that it doesn't take a supertanker to cause an environmental disaster — the fuel an ordinary soybean-carrying cargo ship carries to propel it to its next destination is sufficient to cause irreparable harm to sensitive ecosystems, especially if unleashed in remote parts of the world.



Oiled Northern Rockhopper Penguins on Nightingale Island (Photo: Trevor Glass)

## Screenings

- April 25, 2013: [World Penguin Day Event](#) (Washington, DC) — *Sneak Preview*
- May 13, 2013: [4th Blue Vision Summit](#) (Washington, DC) — *Sneak Preview*
- November 1-3, 2013: [5th Artisan Festival International – World Peace Initiative](#) (Hamptons, NY)
- October 19-26, 2013: [Cine'Eco – International Environmental Film Festival of Serra da Estrela](#) (Seia, Portugal)
- October 15-20, 2013: [4th Annual New York Wildlife Conservation Film Festival](#) (New York, NY)
- June 6-11, 2014: [EcoCinema 2014 Film Festival](#) (Israel)

## About David E. Guggenheim

Dr. David E. Guggenheim is a marine scientist, conservation policy specialist, submarine pilot, ocean explorer and educator. He is president of the Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization, **Ocean Doctor**.

Guggenheim directs **Cuba Conservancy** – an Ocean Doctor Program, and is in his 14th year leading research and conservation efforts in Cuba focused on coral reefs and sea turtles, a joint effort with the **University of Havana**. His work was recently featured on 60 MINUTES. Guggenheim led the formation of the **Trinational Initiative for Marine Science & Conservation in the Gulf of Mexico & Western Caribbean**, a major project to elevate collaboration in marine science and conservation among Cuba, Mexico and the U.S. to a new level.



As an ocean explorer, Guggenheim piloted the first manned submersible dive into the world's largest underwater canyons in the Bering Sea as a scientific advisor to Greenpeace. He was inducted into the **Explorers Club** as a National Fellow in 2008.

Following the wreck of the Maltese freighter, *Oliva* and resulting catastrophic oil spill at **Nightingale Island**, part of the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, Dr. Guggenheim has been leading efforts in the U.S. to assist in the protection of the remaining population of endangered **Northern Rockhopper penguins**. Sixty five percent of the world's population resides in those islands. His 2013 documentary, [\*Disaster at Nightingale\*](#), details the *Oliva* spill in the South Atlantic that killed thousands of penguins.

Guggenheim is working to advance cutting-edge technologies for **sustainable aquaculture** practices to the Americas to reduce pressure on overfished wild fish stocks. Following the tragic **BP Deepwater Horizon** Gulf of Mexico oil spill, Dr. Guggenheim has led efforts on a key recovery project in New Orleans East, the **Viet Village Urban Farm Sustainable Aquaculture Park**, a next-generation fish farming facility designed to grow fish sustainably while taking pressure off of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem during its long recovery. The project will bring green jobs and economic benefits to the largely Vietnamese community of New Orleans East, a community that has been heavily dependent on fishing but has been seriously impacted by both Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

Guggenheim hosts **The Ocean Doctor Radio Show** and ExpeditionCasts podcast series and plays a key role in public outreach and education about the oceans. He makes frequent speaking and television and radio appearances, having recently appeared on 60 MINUTES, ABC's Good Morning America, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR.

Guggenheim maintains a strong commitment to environmental education and is currently engaged in Ocean Doctor's **50 Years – 50 States – 50 Speeches Expedition** to all fifty U.S. states, visiting schools and bringing special programs about ocean exploration and conservation to young students. So far he has traveled more than 37,000 miles, visited 18 states, 1 U.S. territory, made more than 56 speeches and reached more than 15,000 students in schools ranging from the northernmost community in North America, Barrow, Alaska, to Macksville, Kansas, close to the geographic center of the lower 48 states, to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Guggenheim played a lead role in forming the **Gulf of Mexico Alliance**, a partnership among the U.S. Gulf states and 13 federal agencies and Mexico.

Guggenheim previously served as Vice President at **The Ocean Conservancy**, President & CEO of **The Conservancy of Southwest Florida**, co-chair of the **Everglades Coalition** and president of the **Friends of Channel Islands National Park**.

Guggenheim holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from **George Mason University** in Virginia, a Master's in Aquatic and Population Biology from **University of California, Santa Barbara**, and a Master's in Regional Science and Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from the **University of Pennsylvania**.

## Resources

Official Web Site, Trailer: [www.DISASTERatNIGHTINGALE.com](http://www.DISASTERatNIGHTINGALE.com)

High-Resolution Photos, Media Kit: [OceanDoctor.org/media-kit/](http://OceanDoctor.org/media-kit/)

## Film Details

- Run Time: 25 Minutes
- Format: HD, Stereo
- Written & Directed by David E. Guggenheim
- Narration by Jackie Silver
- An Ocean Doctor Production