

Jacques Cousteau



Calypso, the man who looked rather like a diving bird became synonymous with the deep.

As well as co-inventing the aqualung, or **scuba** (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), and one-man jet-propelled submarines known as **Sea Fleas**, he pioneered the underwater filming techniques that helped to make him a household name. His movies and more than 70 television documentaries won him two Oscars and around 40 Emmys, while his books were translated into more than 20 languages.

But Cousteau, who was awarded the **Legion d'Honneur** by the French government for resistance activities during World War Two, was not just the sea kingdom's messenger, he was also its champion. His conservation work brought him prizes at the highest level. On receiving one award shortly before his death, Cousteau said: "The future of civilization depends on water. I beg you all to understand this." Such was his popularity at home that in 1981 he received 80,000 letters begging him to run for President. But Cousteau could not have thrived on land. "When you dive, you begin to feel that you're an angel," he once said.

Illustration by Bob Hoare © GRAPHIC NEWS

JACQUES COUSTEAU was the Captain Cook of the underwater world in the television age. Life beneath the ocean was largely a mystery until the French naval officer, marine adventurer and environmentalist revealed its secrets to millions of viewers and cinema-goers around the world. With his trademark red cap and his famous research boat

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