

Dr. Roger Payne: A Tribute (1935-2023)

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Ocean Alliance
www.whale.org

Over the course of more than six decades, Dr. Roger Payne inspired students, scientists, and citizens around the world with his work on the vocalizations of whales, showing us the depth and sophistication of their emotional lives. In doing so, Roger helped jump-start not just the Save-the-Whale movement but also the modern environmental movement. By making people care about whales, he made them care about the planet.

Roger was a generous, charismatic figure, willing to share his wonder and enthusiasm for the natural world. He had a presence and a way of connecting with people that led them to dedicate their lives to the cause of protecting whales and our planet's oceans.

We could go on to list all of Roger's great scientific accomplishments, but the greatest one was teaching us to listen to the wild world, and to listen with our hearts. How very fortunate we were to have him as our founder. We will continue to do our best to honor his legacy by continuing this important work.



Dr. Roger Payne with a southern right whale in Peninsula Valdes, Argentina (Courtesy of Ocean Alliance)

