



For Immediate Release
June 3, 2005

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**Hurricanes, Tsunamis, & Other Natural Disasters,
How Can America Better Prepare?
Expert Panel Highlights 2005 Capitol Oceans Week**

**Members of Congress, Industry, Non-profit, Government, Academia
To Discuss the Ocean & it's Impact on Human Health, Aquaculture, Other Key Topics**

**June 7-9, Reserve Officers Association Building
One Constitution Ave, NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC
Media Note: All Sessions Open to the Media. Contact for Full Agenda**

Washington, DC - As another active hurricane season looms and populations along our coasts escalate, America's preparedness and prediction capabilities for natural disasters, such as tsunamis and hurricanes, will be critical to the human safety and economic health of our nation. This and other key ocean and coastal issues will be the focus of the 2005 Capitol Hill Oceans Week, June 7-9.

The three-day symposium, coordinated annually by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, features ocean policy experts from government, private industry, nonprofits and academia. Participants will help to raise awareness of important ocean and coastal issues among our nation's leaders and build bridges among various ocean constituencies. The forum hopes to continue the momentum to reform national ocean policy through President Bush's U.S. Ocean Action plan and pending ocean and coastal legislation in Congress.

Other topics of importance to be discussed include the links between the oceans and human health; aquaculture as a new way to feed our population; ensuring safe and secure marine transportation and ports, and the future of research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

A complete agenda is available by calling the contact. Highlights include:

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

2:00 - 2:45pm

Keynote address

Jim Connaughton, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality will discuss recent developments related to the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan for reforming national ocean policy.

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Panel: Predicting and Preparing for Natural Disaster

Discussion will focus technological investments and other tools necessary to help communities predict and prepare for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tsunamis.

Key Panelists: Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere,
U.S. Department of Commerce (Moderator)
Dr. Ellen Prager-Author of "*Furious Earth: The Science and Nature of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Tsunamis*"
Dr. M Sanjayan, Co-lead of initial scientific assessment team for the Indian Ocean tsunami

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

9:30 - 11:30 am

Panel: Restoring Our Nation's Wetlands

Discussion will focus on a variety of innovative efforts to restore critical wetlands habitat, a vital link to ocean health.

Member of Congress: Representative Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
Key Panelists: Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, US EPA, Office of Water
Renee Orr, Leasing Division, Minerals Management Service (beach renourishment in the Gulf of Mexico)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Panel: Feeding the Nation: The Aquaculture Alternative

Discussion will focus on various aspects of the aquaculture movement, from open cage farming to recirculating technologies for both fish and corals.

Key Panelists: Randy Cates, Owner, Cates International, Inc. (deep ocean cage farming)
Mike Sutton, Vice President, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Thursday, June 9, 2005

9:30 - 11:30 am

Panel: Oceans and Human Health: A Prescription for the Future

Discussion will focus on the many connections between human health and healthy oceans, from seafood to marine microbes.

Member of Congress: Representative Tom Allen (D-ME), Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus
Key Panelists: Sarah Chassis, Natural Resources Defense Council (beach closures due to pollution)
Kathleen Frith, Harvard Medical School (Healthy Oceans, Healthy Humans campaign featuring spokesperson Meryl Streep)

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Panel: Moving America: Ensuring Safe Marine Transportation

Discussion will focus on measures to increase safe maritime transportation from mapping to navigating to increasing security in ports and harbors.

Member of Congress: Representative Jay Inslee (D-WA)
Key Panelists: Tyler Duval, Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, US DOT
Cdr, Brian Poskaitis, US Coast Guard (port security and safety issues)

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation supports the outreach and education efforts of the National Marine Sanctuary System, part of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through public and private sector partnerships, The Foundation creates conservation-based programs designed to preserve, protect and promote these underwater treasures.