



For Immediate Release
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Can Ocean Resources Help Relieve Record-Breaking Gas Prices?

Emerging Demands for Liquefied Natural Gas and Offshore Windfarms

Highlight Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2006

**June 13-14, House Science Committee Room
2325 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC
Media Note: All Sessions Open to the Media. Call Contact for
Full Agenda**

Washington, DC - With gas prices soaring to all-time highs, the management of emerging alternative fuel resources such as liquefied natural gas facilities, offshore windfarms and other ocean resources has quickly become a critical issue for our economy and our nation. This and other key ocean and coastal issues will be the focus of the 2006 Capitol Hill Oceans Week, June 13-14.

The two-day symposium, coordinated annually by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF), will feature Members of Congress, ocean policy experts from government, private industry, nonprofits, and academia. Issues to be discussed are the latest progress on ocean policy reform at both federal and state levels and innovative efforts in ecosystem-based management. The event is designed to raise awareness of important ocean and coastal issues among our nation's leaders and build bridges among various ocean constituencies.

Other topics of importance to be addressed at the conference include: current legislative efforts on marine debris and invasive species; developments in the Global Earth Observing System and the Integrated Ocean Observing System, and a status update on the Census of Marine Life, a 10-year effort to account for all ocean life.

The NMSF is also holding its fourth annual National Leadership Awards Dinner, which will honor former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and fellow Joint Ocean Commission Initiative co-chair Admiral James D. Watkins (Ret.) with the NMSF Lifetime Achievement Award. Also being recognized for their commitment to

our nation's oceans and coasts are U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), both of whom are receiving 2006 NMSF Leadership Awards.

- more (agenda highlights below) -

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

June 13, 2006

- 2:00 -- 4:30pm: **Opening Plenary**
State and Federal Role in Management of Ocean Resources: Addressing Emerging Demands for Liquefied Natural Gas and Offshore Windfarms.
- 6:30 --10:00pm: **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Leadership Awards Dinner**
Atrium Ballroom, Ronald Reagan Building and Int'l Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Tickets: \$250 per person
Sponsorship Opportunities Available

June 14, 2006

- 9:00 -- 10:30am: **A Legislative Agenda for the Ocean: Perspectives from Capitol Hill and Beyond**
Panelists, including Capitol Hill staff and Joint Ocean Commission members will discuss key ocean issues and the steps required to act on them.
- 10:45 -- 12pm: **Keeping Our Oceans Clean: From Marine Debris to Invasive Species**
Panelists will discuss current legislative efforts dealing with marine debris and invasive species.
- 1:00 -- 2:15pm: **New Views of Ocean Life: Advances in Visualization from the Census of Marine Life**
The Census of Marine Life is a 10-year national and international effort to account for a variety of ocean resources. Panelists will provide updates on specific projects representative of the entire CoML project.
- 2:15 -- 3:30pm: **From Vision to Venture: The Business Case for Ocean Observation**
Panelists will discuss developments in the Global Earth Observing System program, particularly efforts related to the Integrated Ocean Observing System.
- 3:45 -- 5:00pm: **Innovations from the Gulf of Maine: Bringing New Ideas to an Old Ecosystem**
Panelists will discuss ecosystem management innovations in the Gulf of Maine.

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.