



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCIENCE AND POLICY LEADERS CONVENE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE OCEAN

Washington, D.C., May 28, 2008 – Leading marine scientists, policy experts and a broad spectrum of ocean stakeholders will convene in Washington for the seventh annual Capitol Hill Ocean Week. This year's symposium will focus on the effects of climate change on the ocean. Topics include the state of the science (acidification, habitats), impacts (to natural resources, to humans), and solutions (sequestration, ocean observations, alternative/cleaner energy), as well as legislative updates. Other topics include marine aquaculture, and marine debris.

In conjunction with Capitol Hill Ocean Week, NMSF will host its annual *Leadership Awards Dinner* on June 3, 2008, presenting its Leadership Award to *Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi* and *Senator Barbara Mikulski* and its Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Jean-Michel Cousteau. Lastly, NMFS' *Volunteer of the Year Award* will be presented to one of the nominees submitted from the nation's marine sanctuaries. For more information on CHOW and its agenda, go to www.nmsfocean.org.

WHO: Speakers and attendees include members of Congress as well as representatives from federal and state governments, industry, academia and nonprofit organizations. This year's speaker highlights include Jim Connaughton, Chair of the President's Council on Environmental Quality; Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior; Senator John Kerry; and ocean explorer and scientist, Dr. Sylvia Earle.

WHAT: Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2008 is an annual event coordinated by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. One of the most anticipated ocean policy events, the symposium provides a neutral forum for thoughtful discussion and an exchange of information on issues critical to ocean conservation and sustainability.

WHERE: Reserve Officers Association, 5th Floor, One Constitution Ave., NE Washington, D.C.

WHEN: June 3-5, 2008. Beginning Tuesday, June 3 at 2pm-5pm, the conference continues on Wednesday, June 4, 9:00am-5:30pm, and Thursday, June 5, 8:45am-4:30pm.

For more details about Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2008, scheduled sessions, speakers and their biographies, visit www.nmsfocean.org. For interviews with speakers and honorees, or if any member of the media wishes to attend any part of the three-day conference, please contact Laurel Bryant.

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