



For Immediate Release  
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**Senator Barbara Mikulski Honored by National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for  
Commitment to Ocean and Atmospheric Research**

**Washington, D.C.** — In recognition of her long-standing support of environmental and marine sciences and research, Maryland's senior senator, Barbara Mikulski, will be honored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation at its annual Leadership Awards Dinner June 3 in Washington, D.C.

"Every year, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation recognizes members of Congress who have demonstrated long-term leadership in the policies and investments benefiting our nation's coastal and ocean environments," said Bob Talbot, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees and celebrated marine photographer and filmmaker. "Senator Mikulski's influence over the budgets of our nation's key scientific institutions has been largely responsible for modernizing our nation's scientific infrastructure and giving us the ability to monitor human impacts on our earth and ocean."

Elected in 1986, Mikulski has been a consistent advocate for investing in the nation's science and research capabilities as a necessary means of ensuring America's competitive and innovative spirit. Well-known for her dedicated support for the science and management of the Chesapeake Bay as a senior member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski has consistently fought to advance the nation's environmental sciences, laying the groundwork for much of the global environmental observing platforms and establishing the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a living laboratory for restoration and ecosystem modeling.

"It is an honor to accept this award from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, which has been a partner with me in the fight for non-politicized science and research. Oceans contribute \$120 billion to our economy and support over 2 million jobs. Investments to protect and understand our oceans provide enormous value to our taxpayers," said Senator Mikulski.

“As the chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds 85 percent of the nation’s climate change research, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, I am proud to fight for the investments in the federal checkbook to make a down payment on critical research initiatives. I will continue the fight to support the research, restoration and preservation of our nation’s waterways.”

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation’s Leadership Awards Dinner is held in conjunction with the 2008 Capitol Hill Ocean Week, a three-day symposium that features ocean policy experts from government, private industry, nonprofits and academia. Participants seek to raise awareness of the important ocean and coastal issues among our nation’s leaders and to build bridges among various ocean constituencies.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is the private, non-profit partner to the federally managed Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. It was created to inspire all people to preserve, protect and promote our nationwide network of marine sanctuaries. The 14 sites within the National Marine Sanctuary System protect our ocean and Great Lakes, from the Florida Keys to the Hawaiian Islands and from Lake Huron to the Gulf of Mexico. Learn more at [www.NMSFOcean.org](http://www.NMSFOcean.org).

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**Note to editors:** Photos available upon request or by visiting [www.nmsfocean.org](http://www.nmsfocean.org).