



CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK 2012: One Nation, Shaped by the Sea

Join us at CHOW 2012 for a unique, unprecedented opportunity to examine the role of the ocean in the shaping of our nation. *One Nation, Shaped by the Sea* will provide policymakers, business leaders, academics, and concerned citizens with insights into America's interaction with the sea and offer valuable guidance as to how our relationship with the ocean can help chart an economically and environmentally sustainable course for our nation's future.

American prosperity is rooted in our enduring cultural connections to the sea.

All Americans – from the earliest native peoples to settlers and immigrants arriving centuries later – either descend from those who crossed the sea or made the journey themselves. As individuals of all backgrounds traversed oceans, their voyages transformed the face of America and gave us the unique combination of traditions reflected in our modern cultural identity as citizens of an ocean nation. From coast to coast, we share a history of maritime commerce and conquest that fueled the growth of our nation along with a tradition of adapting to ocean changes brought on by a combination of human activities and natural forces. By examining this shared ocean experience through thought-provoking seminars, interactive discussions, and lively commentary on books and films, CHOW 2012 will offer insights into the many ways in which the sea is a living link that unites all Americans and connects us to our past and future.

All Americans are affected by the ocean.

Today, we are more aware than ever of how daily life and economic growth in the United States are influenced by the sea – and also how the everyday actions of our citizens play a role in transforming the ocean around us. Whenever we take a breath, purchase consumer products, use the internet, drive a car, or check the weather forecast, we are all touched by the sea. American prosperity is dependent on energy and food from the sea, maritime commerce, naval security, coastal recreation, and many other ocean products and services. As we look toward a future of increasing populations and seek opportunities for economic growth, CHOW 2012 will offer an innovative opportunity to perceive the ocean's central role in the American experience and explore how understanding our shared past and present may help us shape a more prosperous future for our citizens and their seas.

How will Americans connect to the sea in the future?

As we ponder an uncertain future, it is critical that we draw on our knowledge of the ocean's fundamental, constantly changing role in American life. Throughout our history, innovative ocean technologies and policy tools have enabled the adaptations necessary to sustain a strong American economy, and our ability to adjust in the face of economic, social, or environmental change will continue to shape future American prosperity on both land and sea. Americans' cultural connections to the ocean are vital yet often ignored threads in the fabric of our national identity and economic prosperity, and we must expand our view in seeking to improve decisions affecting ocean policy, planning, and investment. By exploring America's ocean experience from a multitude of perspectives, CHOW 2012 will shed light on what the future may hold and inform how we might rethink our nation's relationship with the sea.



Please visit our website at www.NMSFocean.org for more information as it becomes available.