

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK 2017

Presented by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, June 13

8:30am

REGISTRATION OPENS

9:00am-10:00am

**PREMIER BREAKFAST: THE
U.N. OCEAN CONFERENCE**

10:00am-10:30am

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

10:30am-12:00pm

BLUE HORIZONS

12:00pm-1:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

12:00pm-1:00pm

NETWORKING EVENT

Sponsored by Women's Aquatic
Network

1:30pm-3:00pm

**TECHNOLOGY AS A GAME
CHANGER**

3:00pm-3:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

3:30pm-4:30pm

**THE NEXT WAVE: EMERGING
LEADERS ROUNDTABLE**



**CAPITOL HILL
OCEAN WEEK**

PRESENTED BY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

Wednesday, June 14

8:30am-9:30am

**PREMIER BREAKFAST:
EXPLORE AMERICA'S
SANCTUARIES**

9:30am-10:30am

**CACOPHONY: THE DECLINE
OF SILENT SEAS**

10:30am-11:00am

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

11:00am-12:00pm

**THE VALUE OF AMERICA'S
PUBLIC WATERS**

12:00pm-1:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

1:30pm-3:00pm

**COMMUNICATING IN A
CROWDED SPACE**

3:00pm-3:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

3:30pm-4:30pm

**CONGRESSIONAL
ROUNDTABLE**

4:30pm-6:00pm

PREMIER HAPPY HOUR

Sponsored by Vulcan Inc.

Thursday, June 15

8:30am-9:30am

**PREMIER BREAKFAST:
ELECTIONS AND WHAT THEY
MEAN FOR OCEANS**

9:30am-10:30am

OPTIMISM FOR THE OCEAN

10:30am-11:00am

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

11:00am-12:00pm

WAVES OF PLASTICS

12:00pm-1:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

1:30pm-3:00pm

**RIDGE TO REEF: THE
INTERCONNECTION OF LAND
AND SEA**

3:00pm-3:30pm

NETWORKING/EXHIBIT BREAK

3:30pm-4:30pm

**DRAWN TO THE SEA: WHY
WE EXPLORE**

**Titles, descriptions and speakers are
subject to change.*

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH

8:30 am Capitol Hill Ocean Week Symposium Registration Opens

9:00 am – 10:00 am PREMIER BREAKFAST: THE U.N. OCEAN CONFERENCE

On June 5th-9th, 2017, the United Nations convenes The Ocean Conference to support UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14): Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The Conference will focus on building and strengthening partnerships and adopting a declaration calling nations to action in support of SDG14. Breakfast speakers will discuss the outcomes of The Ocean Conference and how to carry progress forward through Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

10:00 am – 10:30 am Networking Break

On OceansLIVE - Welcome to CHOW

A welcome from Kris Sarri, CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Bob Trainor, Chair of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Board of Trustees. Join us as we discuss their vision for the Foundation and this year's exciting lineup at Capitol Hill Ocean Week! *Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.*

10:30 am – 12:00 pm BLUE HORIZONS

Our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes sustain communities and economies; they are sources of food, minerals, and natural resources that support commerce; they regulate our climate and weather; they are homes to millions of species from iconic whales we love to watch to tarpon that we love to fish; they provide public recreational access to millions of people; and they conserve historical and cultural resources for future generations. Simply put, we rely on healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes for our well-being and as bellwethers for change with increasing use. This year, Capitol Hill Ocean Week explores three pressing topics: (1) how the health of our ocean and Great Lakes impacts communities; (2) how local stewards are playing a vital role in national conservation efforts that safeguard our ocean, coasts and Great Lakes; and, (3) how advances in science, innovative technology, and exploration can increase our knowledge and improve management. At this opening plenary, engage in a dialogue with former NOAA Administrators -- Dr. Jim Baker, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, and Dr. Jane Lubchenco -- about what they see as the future for our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, and explore with them the themes of this year's conference as we kick off three-days of conversations to drive policy and impact change.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

Networking Event - A Watershed Moment: Making Connections Between the Marine, Coastal, and Freshwater Science and Policy Communities (12:00pm-1:00pm)

Sponsored by Women's Aquatic Network. Co-Sponsored by Restore America's Estuaries, Coastal States Organization, and Sea Grant Association
This event is open to all attendees.

In the face of ever-increasing environmental challenges, considering our watersheds as holistically as possible is critical. This session will feature panelists from the marine, coastal, and freshwater policy and management communities, to examine opportunities for collaboration on issues that impact our interconnected systems. Following a ~25 minute panel discussion there will be an open networking session where participants will be encouraged to connect with professionals from a variety of marine, coastal, and freshwater backgrounds. Come join us to expand your network as we confront a watershed moment for our communities.

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On OceansLIVE - Operation Blue Sky: Outdoor Therapy for America's Heroes (12:30pm-1:15pm)

The outdoors can be a site of adventure and healing for many individuals. One recent study suggests that for veterans with PTSD, outdoor recreation corresponds to higher well-being. This panel will explore the health benefits of outdoor and ocean recreation for veterans. *Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.*

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm TECHNOLOGY AS A GAME CHANGER

What do recent advances in technology mean for exploration, economy, defense, and science in our underwater world? Technology and data are essential to our everyday lives and in tackling some of the world's largest challenges. Ocean observations and surveillance are crucial to predicting weather, climate, tides, and to prevent and deter illicit activities on the seas, like illegal fishing, which in turn allow us to plan everything from surfing trips to long term business. However, in times of increased reliance and pressure on the ocean and Great Lakes, our needs for information are growing. Better understanding of these systems is essential to sustaining business, conserving and protecting natural resources, and promoting human health. Unfortunately, big data on oceans and the use of marine technology lag considerably behind other sectors, including land-based conservation. Investments in new technologies by the private sector are game changers for the ocean, providing the opportunity to turn this around. Recent developments in technology are improving business and environmental planning, providing early warnings for water quality risks to human health, leading to new discoveries, and detecting illegal activity. This session will explore the need for public data and information in the everyday lives of the American people, the role of the private sector in driving positive change, and ways we use technology in ocean science, conservation and protection of our underwater resources.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - From Local to Global: Growing a Conservation Movement

Ever think your actions won't have an impact? Well, they can! Efforts that start with one person, or one community, can grow to a national level. We will address different efforts that started at a local level and gained national attention.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm THE NEXT WAVE: EMERGING LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

Our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes need visionaries. They require innovative thinkers who approach problems in new ways, engaging new audiences, responding to changing conditions and setting the course for others. Recently, we lost a visionary and leader in the global coastal conservation community. Margaret Davidson, the architect behind the vision for and a founding director of NOAA's Coastal Services Center, advocated for the use of science, technology, and community organizing to inform decisions about estuaries and coastal management to reduce risks to communities and increase resiliency. She also engaged emerging marine and coastal leaders early in their careers urging them to use innovative management and policy approaches to address challenging issues. In honor of her life and vision for our oceans and coasts, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will annually host an emerging leaders panel at Capitol Hill Ocean Week to bring together innovative thinkers to discuss how ocean science and conservation are changing and their vision for the future.

4:30pm Exhibit Hall Closes

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14TH

8:30 am CHOW Exhibit Hall Opens

8:30 am – 9:30 am PREMIER BREAKFAST: EXPLORE AMERICA'S SANCTUARIES (V/R)

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Let the ocean come to you – explore America’s marine sanctuaries from your breakfast table! Dive under the waves in these national treasures including Gray’s Reef, Thunder Bay, American Samoa, and Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuaries. Speakers will introduce attendees to the National Marine Sanctuary System and explore the cutting edge virtual reality technology that is changing the way we engage new audiences with the ocean.

9:30 am – 10:30 am CACOPHONY: THE DECLINE OF SILENT SEAS

Diving under the waves often elicits images of a quiet and serene place, but the sea is no longer silent. As use of technology for everything from shipping to energy exploration and production, to military activity increases, our use of the ocean brings with it noise that travels long distances and has lasting effects throughout the marine environment. Numerous marine animals from invertebrates to mammals rely on sound for survival. We are just beginning to understand the full range of how sound is used by these animals – finding prey, mating, avoiding predators, navigating, and communicating – and how anthropogenic noise impacts these functions. This session will explore the current information that exists on ocean noise and its mitigation, with a focus on the development and implementation of noise reduction technology within industry.

10:30 am – 11:00 am Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - Making a Splash: Communicating Conservation through Zoos and Aquariums

How do you get the conservation message out? The session will discuss how zoos and aquariums can raise public awareness about conservation to the public.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm THE VALUE OF AMERICA’S PUBLIC WATERS

National marine sanctuaries conserve natural, cultural and historical resources for all Americans; they provide public access for recreation; and they support coastal communities. With the National Marine Sanctuary System’s 50th anniversary approaching in 2022, this panel will explore how communities are using the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to conserve unique environments and will engage the audience in what we need to do over the next 50 years and where sanctuaries need to go.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - Dive into Sanctuaries without Getting Wet!

What lives in deep, unexplored areas of the ocean? Thanks to new technology, scientists are finding out — and the world can watch along in real time! We’ll discuss how telepresence expands our ocean horizons.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm COMMUNICATING IN A CROWDED SPACE

“Language is the cornerstone of civilization” states this year’s blockbuster movie, *Arrival*. In an age where people are bombarded with a constant and swift stream of information, true and false, how does the public know what information to trust? How do conservationists and scientists get their message out about issues impacting our environment? Examining traditional and social media, this session will explore the role of journalists and scientists in communicating science, how local stories work their way onto the national stage, and the importance of language in engaging diverse audiences in ocean and Great Lakes conservation.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - Tackling Ocean Crime

How do you track illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing? Many innovative and technological ways are currently being developed to use against IUU fishing. We will discuss both the public and private sector perspectives on combatting crimes in our ocean. *Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.*

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

America's ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes and the communities that depend upon them must remain a high priority for our Congressional leadership. Ocean and Great Lakes policies have a long standing history of strong bipartisan, bicameral support that transcends state and party lines. CHOW 2017 will bring together Members of Congress shaping the marine policy agenda to examine the most pressing priorities moving forward and discuss how Congress can ensure our nation's marine policies continue to empower coastal communities and strengthen the national blue economy.

4:30pm Exhibit Hall Closes**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm PREMIER HAPPY HOUR**

Sponsored by Vulcan Inc.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH

8:30 am CHOW Exhibit Hall Opens**8:30 am – 9:30 am PREMIER BREAKFAST: ELECTIONS AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR OCEANS**

TBD

9:30 am – 10:30 pm OPTIMISM FOR THE OCEAN

Coral bleaching, ocean acidification, plastic pollution - it seems everywhere you turn, there's bad news about the ocean. Is this the full picture or a result of how we talk about the ocean? Many researchers and conservationists believe there are still reasons to be optimistic about the ocean and successes to celebrate. The U.S. is a model on balancing stewardship and economic development. Landmark legislation such as the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Magnuson Stevens Act, and National Marine Sanctuaries Act have helped improve the environment in the U.S.. In this session, we explore the history and accomplishments of these acts. We celebrate what the U.S. has achieved, highlighting local success stories and the people and businesses on the ground that have made them possible.

10:30 am – 11:00 am Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - Creating Connections: Communicating Conservation in the Digital Age

With the many ways to connect with people around the world, how can we best engage audiences about ocean conservation? Tune in to learn how organizations are engaging audiences in new and innovative ways.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm WAVES OF PLASTICS

Global plastic pollution is reaching a crisis level, with the weight of ocean plastic expected to equal one third the weight of fish in the ocean by 2025. Plastic pollution impacts human and community health, deters tourism, damages vessels and fishing gear, harms marine life, and has unknown impacts on human health. Focusing solely on removing trash from the ocean is not a viable solution when eight million tons of plastics enter the ocean every year. We must also reduce the amount of plastic consumed and intercept plastics along their path to the ocean. In CHOW 2016's *Closing the*

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Loop on Trash: Innovation and Industry Leadership, participants emphasized the need for a variety of solutions. This session builds on 2016's momentum, focusing on the need to provide locally appropriate options for waste management and recycling, which are essential to keep plastics from entering the ocean. These must be built with consumers in mind, to be understandable and accessible. Developing solutions will take a joint effort from government, NGOs, and industry. This session will explore the current initiatives and partnerships to develop effective waste management strategies and new recycling technologies.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - How to Farm a Better Fish

What is aquaculture? These techniques enable researchers and aquaculture producers to “farm” freshwater and marine fish, shellfish, and plants. We’ll discuss the current science behind aquaculture and how this industry continues to change and adapt.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm RIDGE TO REEF: THE INTERCONNECTION OF LAND AND SEA

For many living in non-coastal states, the ocean is out of sight and out of mind, but life on land and in the water are intrinsically linked. Decisions made on land carry impacts downstream, changing ocean and Great Lakes chemistry. Poor water quality can lead to invasive species, harmful algal blooms, die-offs of marine species, and coral bleaching. These changes affect maritime industry, compromising seafood supplies, deterring tourism and recreation, and impacting human health. While there are obvious effects on the coastal communities, there is a growing movement of communities in non-coastal states who recognize their inter-connection with the ocean. This panel will bring together land and water managers, maritime industry, and inland ocean advocates to discuss the connection between land and sea.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Networking Break / OceansLIVE! Online Exclusive

On OceansLIVE - From Ocean to Plate: Using Technology to Track Our Fish

Where does sustainable seafood come from? Technological improvements are helping establish real-time data for fisheries managers and recreational anglers. In this panel, we’ll discuss how fishing can be made more economically sustainable through better technology.

Capitol Hill Ocean Talk is viewable on www.OceansLIVE.org or on the screens located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm DRAWN TO THE SEA: WHY WE EXPLORE

Beneath the waves, worlds remain undiscovered. Deep sea exploration is difficult, expensive, and often perceived as dangerous. As a result, the vast majority of the sea, and thus our planet, is unexplored. There are lifeforms never seen by human eyes, foreign pieces of history long since lost, medical and scientific resources, and answers to questions we don't yet know to ask. There is so much left to explore in the ocean that expeditions often result in discovery. Ocean bioprospecting has resulted in medical breakthroughs – new ways to study and treat medical conditions, from blindness to HIV. In addition to economic and health benefits, exploration increases our knowledge of history and the world around us as we explore shipwrecks of our ancestors and discover remarkable new species. Beyond the scientific, diving deep appeals to our innate curiosity, our wanderlust. Stepping back in time on the Titanic or seeing alien life forms, like the googly eyed squid, expands our minds and engages our imaginations. Ocean exploration is important to society, both psychologically and scientifically. This session will explore our desire to explore, the ways exploration is changing, and the benefits it brings.

4:30pm Exhibit Hall Closes

Legend and Descriptions:

PREMIER EXCLUSIVE

Exclusive content for premier registrants

VISIONS FOR OUR OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES

CHOW will feature a series of high level keynote and roundtable discussions that bring together leaders and luminaries in their fields to share their vision for the future of our ocean and Great Lakes. This track includes an opening plenary with former NOAA Administrators who have guided the nation's lead agency for ocean and Great Lakes; a Congressional Roundtable featuring our policy leaders on the Hill; and a panel featuring emerging leaders and innovative thinkers to discuss how ocean science and conservation are changing.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND EXPLORATION

The ocean and Great Lakes are frontiers for exploration. There are unknown species and untapped natural wealth in our ocean. Climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, overfishing, rising sea levels, and plastic pollution all have economic, social, and environmental impacts. Conserving our ocean is an environmental, economic, and national and global security imperative. Advances in technology allow us to make better observations, leading us to better predict and adapt to change and to understand and reduce human environmental impacts. The purpose of this track is to explore how technology and the private sector can be leveraged to increase knowledge of marine and Great Lakes environments, combat challenges, and share these environments with the public.

CONSERVATION FROM THE LOCAL TO THE NATIONAL

Actions at the local, state, and regional levels often lead national efforts to conserve our ocean, coasts and Great Lakes. This track will demonstrate how best management practices, citizen science, state laws, corporate leadership, and other innovative efforts are advancing marine and Great Lakes conservation. The purpose of this track is to share successful efforts and lessons learned to spur actions in other communities and states, explore how we engage more diverse communities in marine and Great Lakes conservation, and to inform how Federal programs and policies can support conservation from the local to national level.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The ocean and Great Lakes play a vital role in the lives of all American citizens, regulating climate and providing food, recreation, and livelihoods. Ocean and coastal communities are in a period of change, including experiencing increasing pollution and more frequent severe weather events, which may threaten human health, livelihoods, food supplies, and infrastructure. Any plan to protect the health and well-being of Americans must identify ways to adapt to and mitigate risks from a changing ocean. This track will focus on those risks and current responses, challenges, and opportunities in addressing them.
