



Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2018

	Tuesday, June 5th		
	Auditorium	Hemisphere A	Hemisphere B
9:00-9:30	Opening Remarks		
9:30-10:30	Igniting Ocean Conservation through Media and Art		
10:30-11:00	Break Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
11:00-12:15	Recovering Coral Reefs	Adaptive Management for Shifting Populations	Open Innovation to Drive a Sea Change
12:15-1:15	Lunch Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
1:15-2:15	NOAA's Vision for the Blue Economy		
2:15-2:45	Break Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
2:45-4:00	Offshore Aquaculture: Rewards and Risks of Ocean Farming	Reducing Risk in Coastal Communities	Cultural Connections and the Environment

	Wednesday, June 6th		
	Auditorium	Hemisphere A	Hemisphere B
9:30-10:30	Margaret Davidson Emerging Leaders Roundtable		
10:30-11:00	Break Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
11:00-12:15	Gulf Coast Restoration	Predicting, Detecting, and Preparing for Increasing Acidification	The Value of Protected Places
12:15-1:15	Lunch Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
1:15-2:30	Restoring American Fisheries: The Magnuson-Stevens Act	Market Based Solutions and Public-Private Partnerships	A Blueprint for Blue Carbon: From the Shoreline to the Market
2:30-3:00	Break Networking and Exhibits: Lobby		
3:00-4:00	Congressional Leadership Roundtable		

Visions for Our Ocean and Great Lakes
Restoration of Marine and Great Lakes Ecosystems
Our Changing Ocean
Working Together for Sustainable Waters

Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2018 Hill Day

Thursday, June 7th	
8:30-9:30	Coastal Coffee: Ocean Policy on Capitol Hill
9:30-12:00	Meetings with Members and Staff
12:00-1:30	For Hill Staff: Lunch Briefing <i>Hosted in conjunction with the Senate Oceans Caucus, House Oceans Caucus, and the Ocean Caucus Foundation</i>
1:00-5:30	Meetings with Members and Staff
5:30-7:30	Evening Reception

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Tuesday, June 5th

Igniting Ocean Conservation through Media and Art

Time: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Location: Auditorium

Visual media can ignite the mind in a way that talk and text don't, providing opportunity for education, emotional connection, and broader public engagement in marine science and conservation. In this session, learn how creative minds are using video, photography, and art to put ocean issues in front of new audiences and inspire conservation and sustainable use.

Recovering Coral Reefs

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Auditorium

Covering less than 1 percent of the ocean, coral reefs support 25 percent of marine life globally to provide an estimated \$1 trillion in value to the world economy, including \$300 to \$400 million annual in value for food and livelihoods from tourism, fisheries, and medicine. Reefs are integral to the livelihoods and well-being of billions of people. But, we risk losing these valuable ecosystems. Nearly 75 percent of the world's coral reefs are threatened by overfishing, habitat destruction, water pollution, climate change, and ocean acidification. Efforts to conserve and restore coral reefs are lagging far behind their rate of destruction. To preserve this amazing biodiversity, we must protect these valuable ecosystems and develop new conservation solutions and restoration techniques to protect these invaluable ecosystems.

Adaptive Management for Shifting Populations

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Hemisphere A

As the ocean and Great Lakes warms, the geographic ranges of species are shifting. In the fishing industry, some fishermen are having difficulty filling their quota as fish shift out of the area, while others are finding an abundance of fish for which they don't have permits. For whales, seals, dolphins and other marine mammals, changes in ocean conditions and food web dynamics have cascading consequences which in turn present challenges for managers, businesses, and rescue efforts. In this session, we explore the tools available and the gaps that exist to ensure management is adaptive to ecological shifts yet remains sufficiently protective.

Open Innovation to Drive a Sea Change

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Hemisphere B

Open Innovation? Disruptive Thinking? Hackathons? Artificial Intelligence? You've heard the terms but what do they mean for marine and Great Lakes conservation? Scientists, technologists, resource managers, and businesses are looking for new tools and transformative ideas to accelerate conservation outcomes. In this session, we explore how open innovation tools like mass collaboration, prizes and hackathons are drawing in leaders from across industries to help solve some of the ocean's toughest challenges, leading to new public-private partnerships for ocean and Great Lakes conservation and management.

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NOAA's Vision for the Blue Economy

Time: 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Location: Auditorium

A healthy U.S. economy depends on our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The science and management to conserve and sustainably use these resources is at the heart of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission. Come hear from RDML Timothy Gallaudet about the Administration's priorities to support our blue economy.

Offshore Aquaculture: Rewards and Risks of Ocean Farming

Time: 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Auditorium

The world needs both wild-capture fisheries and aquaculture as part of a sustainable food supply as the population continues to grow. While the U.S. is a leader in sustainable wild-capture fisheries, U.S. aquaculture development lags behind. Increased offshore aquaculture has the promise of increasing food security in the U.S., growing the American economy, reducing the U.S. seafood trade deficit, and offering fishermen an opportunity to diversify their production for greater financial security. In this session we explore current challenges and potential solutions to sustainable offshore aquaculture, including complexities of business operations, financial investments and risk, technological advancements, and the need for environmental monitoring, sustainability standards, and sound management and policy.

Reducing Risk in Coastal Communities

Time: 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Hemisphere A

Coastal communities face ever-increasing risks from sea level rise, floods, and more frequent and severe hurricanes. As these threats interact, they amplify natural disasters, increasing property damage and loss of life. Continuing to bail ourselves out after disaster strikes is not an economically sound strategy and cannot make up for American lives lost. Communities must take action to adapt and reduce risk to create a more resilient nation. This session explores the tools available to help citizens and communities assess and reduce their risk and build a more resilient nation.

Cultural Connections and the Environment

Time: 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Hemisphere B

Ecological restoration provides people with the opportunity to both repair damage to the environment and re-establish relationships between nature and culture; it benefits both people and nature. In this panel, learn how ecological restoration projects are engaging communities in practice and developing more inclusive processes.

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Wednesday, June 6th

The Margaret Davidson Emerging Leaders Roundtable

Time: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Location: Auditorium

Margaret Davidson was an ocean visionary dedicated to fostering early-career leaders and tackling challenging ocean and coastal issues with unwavering determination and innovation. In her honor, CHOW 2018 hosts the next generation of leaders who are becoming catalysts of change in conservation and business sustainability to share what sparks their creativity, how they engage others to make ideas reality, and where they hope to direct the path of private sector engagement in the future.

Gulf Coast Restoration

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Auditorium

The Gulf of Mexico ecosystem is a dynamic, diverse, and ever changing environment. From inland watersheds and rivers to winding coasts to the deep ocean, the health and productivity of the Gulf and its communities depends upon its restoration and its re-engineering. We must understand the connectivity and complexity of the Gulf's different environments while balancing a diversity of human uses. Additionally, impacts from storms, flooding, and increasingly frequent extreme events play a critical role in the ties between land and sea. It is crucial to address challenges from science, policy, community action, and management perspectives. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a time of historic investment for Gulf restoration that, if done strategically and proactively, can rebuild natural coastal barriers, conserve a diversity of habitats throughout the Gulf ecosystem, and underscore the importance of restoration and resiliency for the health and prosperity of the entire Gulf of Mexico.

Predicting, Detecting, and Preparing for Increasing Acidification

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Hemisphere A

The effects of ocean acidification are far-ranging, impacting numerous ecosystems and economies that depend on them. As these impacts radiate through different ecosystems, declines in shellfish and fish threaten fisheries and aquaculture, deteriorated reefs weaken coastal protection, declining reefs and mammal populations impact tourism. In this session, we explore how science and technology are improving predictive capacities and efforts in the water to mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification.

The Value of Protected Places

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Hemisphere B

Protected areas are places of special significance and great value to society, ecologically, culturally, and economically. These sites provide a place for people to connect with nature in an ever-developing world, they are homes to rare species and nurseries for commercially and recreationally important fish, they preserve historic and cultural resources, and they support a growing outdoor industry. This session explores the value of these places and the benefits of their protection to American communities and future generations.

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Restoring American Fisheries: The Magnuson-Stevens Act

Time: 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Auditorium

With the passage of the Magnuson Stevens Act in 1976, the U.S. took control of fishing in our exclusive economic zone, pushing out foreign vessels and establishing measures to prevent overfishing. In 1996 and 2006, amendments to the Act added requirements for rebuilding and science-based catch limits, establishing the U.S. as a world leader in sustainable fisheries. In this session, industry experts discuss the impact of the Magnuson Stevens Act in restoring American fisheries and supporting a sustainable blue economy.

Market Based Solutions and Public-Private Partnerships

Time: 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Hemisphere A

Public-private partnerships and market-based solutions are time-tested tools for supporting environmental protection and land conservation. What roles can they play in enhancing ocean science, technology, and engagement? In this session, we discuss innovative models for private sector participation in marine and Great Lakes conservation to identify factors that lead to success, challenges to be addressed, and potential for replication and increased conservation outcomes.

The Blueprint for Blue Carbon: From the Shoreline to the Market

Time: 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Hemisphere B

Mangrove forests, tidal salt marshes, and seagrass beds represent a globally relevant carbon stock. The carbon contained in these ecosystems, known as coastal blue carbon, remains stable for as long as the ecosystem remains intact, but once the system is degraded or destroyed communities lose many ecosystem services and the carbon that took millennia to sequester can be lost to the atmosphere in less than a decade. Understanding how to calculate, report and verify greenhouse gas reductions from coastal ecosystems is critical to developing markets for credits that can provide long-term funding for protection and restoration efforts. This panel will explore the policy, science and financing frameworks needed to support coastal blue carbon offsets and credits that aid conservation and restoration.

Congressional Leadership Roundtable

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Auditorium

Worldwide, healthy oceans, coasts and freshwater ecosystems are crucial for economic growth, resilient communities, and food production. This underscores the need for both coastal and inland communities to sustainably use and protect these natural resources. Strong governance and national is necessary to support economic growth while at the same time protecting biodiversity and ensuring the environmental sustainability of ocean, coasts and Great Lakes. In the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes policies have a long-standing history of strong bipartisan support. Building off CHOW 2017's informative Congressional Roundtable, CHOW 2018 will bring together current and former Members of Congress for an update on the bipartisan efforts in Congress to meet these dual goals.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2018

Legend and Descriptions

Visions for our Ocean and Great Lakes

Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2018 features a series of plenaries with leaders and luminaries in their fields to share their vision for the future of our ocean and Great Lakes. These plenary sessions will highlight NOAA's vision for the future; the meaning of Congressional leadership on ocean and Great Lakes policy; and the innovation and changing vision of emerging ocean leaders.

Restoration of Marine and Great Lakes Ecosystems

Habitat conservation and environmental restoration has many benefits, from supporting a robust economy, clean water and coastal resilience to providing opportunities for community engagement and environmental success stories. Restoration requires strategic implementation, appropriate monitoring and evaluation, and adaptive management. This track explores when human intervention is appropriate, how we define success, the use of technology, and different approaches to restoration in geographies.

Our Changing Ocean

Climate change is affecting our ocean and Great Lakes. In our ocean, waters are warming and becoming more acidic, affecting ecosystems, ocean chemistry and marine life. Increased severe weather events threaten coastal communities. In the Great Lakes, climate change is decreasing ice cover, lowering water levels and increasing precipitation. Understanding the effects of a changing climate on our ocean and Great Lakes is imperative to assessing risk to communities and ecosystems and adapting to the changing environment. This track dives into the ways marine and Great Lakes environments are changing.

Working Together for Sustainable Waters

The private sector relies on a health ocean and Great Lakes to support commerce, recreation, food production, and much, much more. Corporations, foundations, and nonprofits are taking active leadership roles in promoting partners and changing market incentives to sustainably use natural resources while protecting biodiversity and conserving habitat. What lessons are there for our ocean and Great Lakes? This track explores how public-private partnerships and market incentives can support conservation and sustainable use for the livelihoods of the communities, industries, and species that depend on a healthy planet.