



# CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK — 2013 —

## Summary Report

June 4-6, 2013

Washington, DC

[www.CapitolHillOceanWeek.org](http://www.CapitolHillOceanWeek.org)





Photo Credit: Office of Sen. Whitehouse

*“The ocean can do a lot of things,  
but it can’t speak for itself.”*

– Senator Sheldon Whitehouse,  
2013 Leadership Award Honoree

*Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, Capitol Hill Ocean Week® is the premier ocean conference held annually in Washington, D.C. Over three days, more than 550 attendees heard from Members of Congress, researchers, industry, and state and local leaders about the most vital ocean issues that must be addressed by our society. Pulling from a broad range of ocean and coastal topics, sessions this year examined how cooperation in a variety of sectors helps build ecological, economic, and social resilience in and beyond America’s coastal communities.*

*Utilizing the resources at our new venue, the Newseum’s Knight Conference Center, CHOW® 2013 featured an expanded online presence. During the week, nearly 1,000 tweets using #CHOW2013 reached more than 450,000 Twitter accounts, and more than 2,200 online users watched CHOW live on the Internet with OceansLIVE. Photos, video, and presentations are available at [www.CapitolHillOceanWeek.org](http://www.CapitolHillOceanWeek.org).*

## Agenda

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013**

### Opening Keynote

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

### How Vulnerable Are We?

#### A Timeline for the Changing Coast

Austin Becker, Ph.D. Candidate, Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment & Resources, Stanford University

Kelly Burks-Copes, Research Ecologist and Project Manager, Environmental Laboratory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Lindene Patton, Chief Climate Product Officer, Zurich Insurance

### The New Normal:

#### Adapting to Coastal Risks

The Honorable Joe Garcia, Member of Congress, FL-26

Alessandra Score, Lead Scientist, EcoAdapt

Michael Cohen, Vice President for Government Affairs, Renaissance Re

Jessica Grannis, Staff Attorney, Georgetown Climate Center, Georgetown University Law Center

Michael Marrella, Director, Waterfront and Open Space Planning Division, Department of City Planning, New York City

John D. Schelling, Earthquake/Tsunami/Volcano Program Manager, Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division

David Waggonner, President, Waggonner & Ball Architects

### A Focus on Coastal Communities:

#### New Paradigms for Federal Service

Piper Crowell, Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Jared Huffman, CA-02

Braxton Davis, Director, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

Derrin Babb-Brott, Director, National Ocean Council, Executive Office of the President

Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

Sandy Eslinger, Coastal Resiliency Policy Advisor, NOAA Coastal Services Center

Wendi Weber, Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





## Wednesday, June 5, 2013

### **The Next Generation of Fishing**

Michael Conathan, *Director, Ocean Policy, Center for American Progress*

Aaron Adams, *Director of Operations, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust*

Bubba Cochran, *President, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance*

Meghan Jeans, *Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Programs, The New England Aquarium*

Brad Pettinger, *Executive Director, Oregon Trawl Commission*

Matt Tinning, *Executive Director, Marine Fish Conservation Network*

### **Reducing Risks to People and Nature:**

#### **Updates from the Gulf of Mexico and Arctic**

The Honorable Mark Begich, *U.S. Senator, Alaska*

Larry McKinney, *Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University*

Jeffrey Short, *Principal, JWS Consulting, LLC*

### **Boosting Economic Growth:**

#### **Job Creation, Coastal Tourism, and Ocean Recreation**

The Honorable Sam Farr, *Member of Congress, CA-20*

Isabel Hill, *Director, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, U.S. Department of Commerce*

Jeff Gray, *Superintendent, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary*

Pat Maher, *American Hotel & Lodging Association*

Mike McCartney, *President & CEO, Hawai'i Tourism Authority*

Rick Nolan, *Principal, Boston Harbor Cruises*

Tom Schmid, *President & CEO, Texas State Aquarium*

### **A Focus on Coastal Communities:**

#### **Local Responses to Global Challenges**

Cylvia Hayes, *Clean Economy Expert and First Lady of Oregon*

Brooke Smith, *Executive Director, COMPASS*

Rebecca Goldburg, *Ph.D., Director, Ocean Science Division, The Pew Charitable Trusts*

Briana Goodwin, *Program Coordinator/Tsunami Debris Response Coordinator, SOLVE*

Boze Hancock, *Marine Restoration Scientist, The Nature Conservancy*

Julia Roberson, *Director, Ocean Acidification Program, Ocean Conservancy*

John Weber, *Ocean Planning Director, Northeast Regional Ocean Council*

## Thursday, June 6, 2013

### **Blue News:**

#### **What Gets Covered and Why**

The Honorable Carl Levin, *U.S. Senator, Michigan*

Sunshine Menezes, *Ph.D., Executive Director, Metcalf Institute, URI Graduate School of Oceanography*

Seth Borenstein, *Science Writer, The Associated Press*

Curtis Brainard, *Staff Writer, Columbia Journalism Review*

Kevin McCarey, *Filmmaker-Author, Savannah College of Art and Design*

Mark Schleifstein, *Environmental Reporter, NOLA.com/ The Times-Picayune*

### **Did You Know?**

#### **MPAs Work and Support a Vibrant Economy**

The Honorable Dan Benishek, *M.D., Member of Congress, MI-01*

The Honorable Lois Capps, *Member of Congress, CA-24*

Fred Keeley, *Former Speaker Pro Tempore, California State Assembly*

Jerry Ault, *Professor of Marine Biology and Fisheries, University of Miami*

Michael Cohen, *Owner/Director, Santa Barbara Adventure Company*

### **Boosting Economic Growth:**

#### **Addressing Risks to Ports, Trade and Supply Chains**

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, *Member of Congress, CA-47*

Richard D. Stewart, *Co-Director, Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute*

Roger Bohnert, *Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Intermodal Systems Development, U.S. Maritime Administration*

Kathy Broadwater, *Deputy Executive Director, Maryland Port Administration*

John Farrell, *Executive Director, U.S. Arctic Research Commission*

Jim Haussener, *Executive Director, California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference*

### **Leadership Roundtable:**

#### **Looking Back, Racing Ahead**

Juliet Eilperin, *White House Reporter, The Washington Post*

Randall Luthi, *President, National Ocean Industries Association*

Jim Moriarty, *CEO, Surfrider Foundation*

Mike Nussman, *President & CEO, American Sportfishing Association*

Andrew Rosenberg, *Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*

Vice Admiral Roger Rufe, *USCG (Ret.), Commissioner, Pew Oceans Commission*

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, *U.S. Senator, Rhode Island*





*“Marine reserves and economically viable fishing industries can coexist. The health of our economy and the health of our oceans are not mutually exclusive.”*

– Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, NOAA

Dr. Sullivan discussed the importance of a science-based dialogue with policymakers during the 2013 keynote address.

Photo Credit: NASA

*“We as a nation can be looking at how we are going to build or move in response... to what’s coming in future storms, as well as what our coast is going to look like in the future.”*

– Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

## Resilient America

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan delivered the keynote address at CHOW 2013, examining the vital role a healthy ocean and coasts play in the lives of America’s citizens and communities. Drawing on her unique experiences as an astronaut and oceanographer, Dr. Sullivan emphasized our role as citizens of an ocean planet and highlighted the need for “environmental intelligence,” a concept that combines data with analysis, modeling, and assessment in order to turn raw data into information for action. Expanding NOAA’s role in providing environmental intelligence allows communities to build resilience – the strong ecological, economic, and social connections that allow people to plan for, respond to, and recover from events.

*“Resilience can mean preparedness on a short fuse... but it also is resilience for the future.”*

– Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, NOAA

### In Memoriam

Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Frank Lautenberg, and Admiral James Watkins – three great ocean champions whose leadership helped create a cleaner, safer, and more resilient ocean – were remembered this year by Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan and NMSF’s 2013 award honorees. Each brought a vision and determination to their work that will benefit our ocean nation for decades to come.

*“Nothing is going to be solved in one day. Nothing that we do is going to be perfect. Figure out what is achievable for your community, and implement those things.”*

– Jessica Grannis, Georgetown Climate Center



## A Changing Coast

The recent increase in extreme storm events – from Katrina to Sandy – is redefining the way we examine coastal risks at the community, regional, and national levels. Over the course of three sessions, CHOW 2013 investigated vulnerabilities and how seaside communities and multiple levels of governments may adapt to the changing coastal environment.

While many communities focus on near-term strategies that can offer immediate protection, ignoring long-term time horizons masks the economic and social impacts resulting from lack of planning. Integrating adaptation measures into existing regulations, from building codes to the National Flood Insurance Program, addresses a variety of time and spatial scales vulnerable to increasing change.

Coastal regions are already moving toward strengthening the social and economic ties that increase community resilience to hazards and disasters, taking the first steps to create a more resilient nation.


The destruction in Mantoloking, N.J., caused by Superstorm Sandy illustrates the importance of coordinating federal and state action to address local recovery and response – including through the National Ocean Policy’s collaboration mechanisms.

Photo Credit: NOAA NOS

### The New Normal: How to Prepare For Change

- Examine vulnerability to coastal risk on multiple scales.
- Look over the horizon: address current and future issues in planning.
- Cooperate across geographies to achieve success in planning and implementing adaptation measures.
- Adapt to the new normal: plan for uncertainty, and use a flexible approach that can adjust as conditions change.
- Develop strong networks between individuals, communities, and states.





The maintenance of shipping channels at the Port of Baltimore is an important short-term challenge that, if left unaddressed, could have long-term impacts if larger ships move to alternative ports.

Photo Credit: The Maryland Port Administration

## Boosting Economic Growth


Coastal communities are critical economic drivers for this nation – and a healthy ocean equips those communities to create jobs and fuel economic growth and development. CHOW 2013 examined two aspects of the coastal economy in greater detail: the essential role of ports in global supply chains and the allure of coastal tourism and recreation opportunities. Stories from both sectors underscore the importance of planning for the future to create a resilient economy capable of supporting vibrant coastal communities.

Sustainable coastal tourism and recreation creates resilient communities by promoting job creation, economic development, and an increased quality of life. Communities that leverage connections with their environment – like Alpena, Mich., has with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary – promote better stewardship efforts, foster development of communal values, and preserve employment and recreation options for residents and visitors.

As intermodal transportation hubs, ports connect our nation to a dynamic and expanding global marketplace. In order to remain competitive and economically viable, ports and port users must balance current needs against long-term challenges resulting from shifts in supply chains, population distribution, and climate change.

### Healthy Oceans = \$\$\$

Between 2005 and 2009, growth in ocean and coastal tourism and recreation buoyed the U.S. economy and helped our nation survive the recession.  
(facing page)



*“[The ocean] is a very important part of who we are, of our brand, of our people, place, and culture.”*

– Mike McCartney,  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

*“Amazing experiences can only happen with investment in our sanctuaries... all our best ideas are in these protected areas.”*

— Michael Cohen, Santa Barbara Adventure Company

Photo Credit: Santa Barbara Adventure Company



## MPAs Work!

Marine protected areas were repeatedly identified during CHOW 2013 as drivers of impressive economic growth in both the short- and long- term. National marine sanctuaries can help create jobs in coastal communities by protecting visitor opportunities for tourism, fishing, and other activities. CHOW 2013 highlighted success stories from two specific marine protected areas, the Florida Keys and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries.

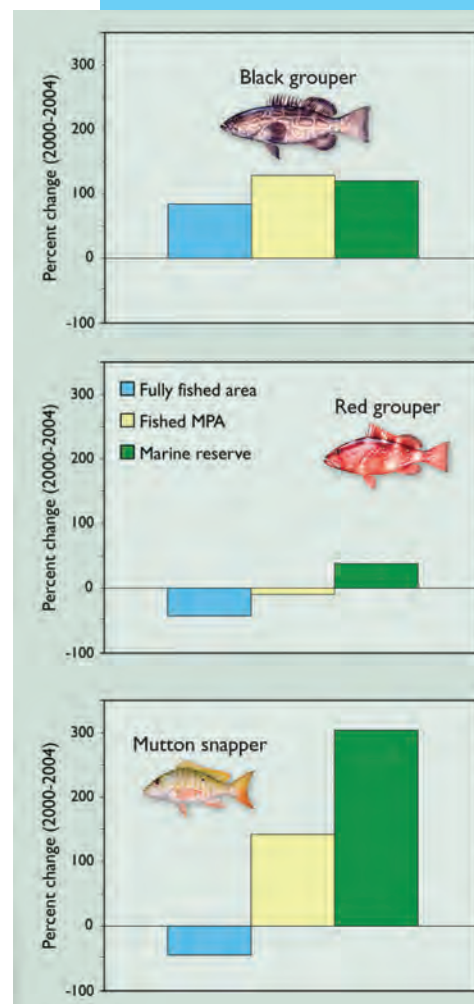
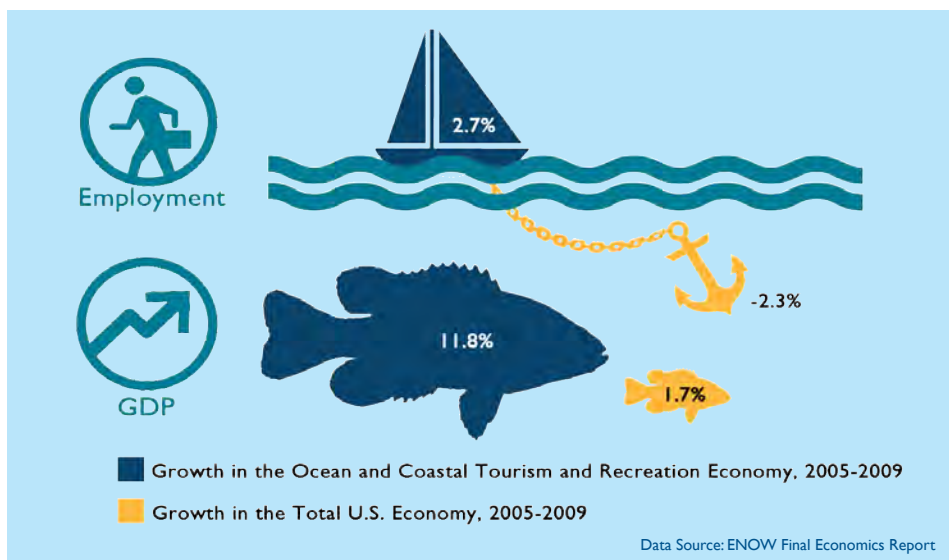
On both coasts, recent research has concluded that multi-use protected areas and the use of no-take reserves can have dramatically positive impacts on surrounding communities, both in the water and on the shore.

*“The reserve is working in a big way... and can have a much stronger impact on the regional ecology and economics.”*

— Jerry Ault, University of Miami

The Tortugas Ecological Reserve is successfully increasing grouper and snapper abundance.

Image Credit: PISCO, 2007, based on Ault, et al., 2006. *Bulletin of Marine Science*.







Honorees Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and Dr. Jane Lubchenco.

Photo Credit: Shmulik Almany



Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. Lois Capps, and Ken Inouye.

Photo Credit: Shmulik Almany



Sen. Daniel Inouye

Photo Credit: AP Photo/Marco Garcia

## Honoring Ocean Leaders

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual NMSF Leadership Awards Dinner honored Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Dr. Jane Lubchenco and Paul Petrich, Jr. for their dedication to advancing ocean policy, science education, and marine conservation.

Sen. Whitehouse received the 2013 Leadership Award for his work as an ocean advocate in Congress, where he established the bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus, played a critical role in passing the RESTORE Act, and continues fighting for a National Endowment for the Oceans.

Dr. Lubchenco received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award for her career-long efforts to advance our scientific understanding of the ocean and ensure that science informs the decisions made by policymakers and the public.

Paul Petrich, Jr. received the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award for his seven years of exceptional service to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and surrounding communities. He has donated thousands of hours to support the sanctuary's education, outreach, and maritime heritage programs.

Ken Inouye offered a touching tribute to his father, the late Senator Daniel Inouye, who was a tireless champion for our oceans. For six decades, Sen. Inouye was a strong advocate for ocean and coastal issues ranging from marine debris and coral reefs to coastal mapping and marine research. He led the effort to establish the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in 1992 and received NMSF's 2005 Leadership Award.



NMSF President Jason Patlis (L) and Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Dan Basta (R) present the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award to Paul Petrich, Jr.

Photo Credit: Shmulik Almany

*“Applaud all the volunteers that are out there... they’re priceless to the mission of the sanctuaries.”*

– Paul Petrich, Jr.

### Did You Know?

Sanctuary volunteers contribute more than 100,000 hours of their time each year, and sanctuary programs in California and Hawai‘i have won the federal government’s top prize for volunteer programs for the past two years in a row.



Andy Rosenberg (second from right) discusses the importance of new action to address the consequences of extreme weather events.

Photo Credit: Brendan Kownacki



## Looking Back, Racing Ahead

CHOW 2013's capstone Leadership Roundtable brought together ocean leaders from a variety of fields to discuss our nation's ocean policy progress over the past decade. The panel identified many successes that followed from the work of the Pew and U.S. Ocean Commissions, including advances in fisheries management, and the expansion of management tools including ecosystem-based approaches and coastal and marine spatial planning.

Despite the advances of the past ten years, strong leadership remains necessary to address future challenges to maintaining a healthy ocean and vibrant coastal communities. The panel focused on the importance of engaging people to be drivers of change, using events – even disasters – as a way to connect people to an issue.

### In Their Own Words

*"In terms of the Pew Oceans Commission... we've really in the last couple of years come quite a ways. I think there's some positive good news to talk about."*

– Roger Rufe, Pew Oceans Commission

*"We absolutely have to solve the carbon problem. We should. We must. And I believe we can."*

– Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senator

*"Biologically, we've proven that we can rebuild [fish] stocks... what we've not done, from my perspective, is figured out how to best use those fish resources... How do we have the science, how do we have the information to properly fish?"*

– Mike Nussman, American Sportfishing Association

*"We are interconnected when it comes to the ocean... [which] gives you a sense of how things we are doing here have worldwide implications."*

– Juliet Eilperin, *The Washington Post*

*"The Arctic is an area that is of great interest to everybody. If it is going to be developed, it needs to be developed wisely."*

– Randall Luthi, National Ocean Industries Association

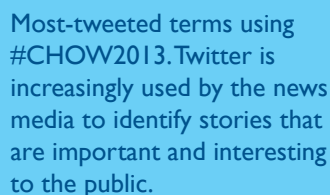
*"People have information sources available. They can exercise their voice and their rights to ask for action... there is a real role. It's called citizenship."*

– Andy Rosenberg, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

*"People need 'on-ramps' or better places to plug people into ocean issues. Find your 'on-ramp.'"*

– Jim Moriarty, Surfrider Foundation





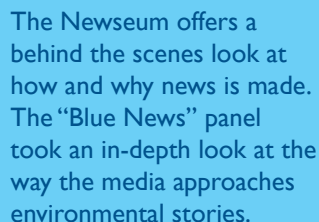
# Blue News

Celebrating the symposium's new home in the Newseum, CHOW 2013 devoted a special session to exploring how the news media reports on ocean and coastal issues. Panelists discussed which topics get covered – and why – as they examined the agenda-setting role of journalists in modern society. The discussion revealed that the roles occupied by journalists and filmmakers range from impartial observer serving as a mirror on reality to active participant driving an agenda.

The general decline of traditional news media has hit environmental reporting particularly hard. Important issues, including ocean acidification and overfishing, are being underreported. As budgets are cut, journalists have been forced to adapt, whether to a new online market, changing perceptions of what “sells,” or the pervasiveness of social media. Online platforms, such as Twitter and Tumblr, allow journalists to quickly spread awareness on environmental issues, especially issues not often covered. Specialized environmental media outlets are also emerging to fill the gap left by the traditional news media.

*“The news will get out there. The forms will change. Where you find it will change... it’s still the same process of finding out what’s true and what’s happening.”*

– Seth Borenstein,  
*The Associated Press*



The panel called for an increased emphasis on reporting positive, success stories in environmental journalism.





Unregulated fishing in the Arctic could result in food web disruptions for polar bears, which are already facing pressure from the decline in seasonal sea ice.

Photo Credit: Joe Stancampiano

## Gulf Update

Larry McKinney provided an update on ongoing environmental and policy changes in the Gulf of Mexico region following 2010's Deepwater Horizon oil spill. That event created a new paradigm for the Gulf – the “upside down” spill, where oil is distributed throughout the water column as opposed to solely on the ocean surface. The deficiency of previous response models underscored the lack of knowledge about ecological responses to new types of oil spills in the Gulf. The RESTORE Act and money coming out of the Deepwater Horizon settlements provide opportunities to address the long-term drivers of health and productivity in the Gulf of Mexico – and an integrated observing system is necessary to address gaps in knowledge.

## Arctic Update

Jeffrey Short began his overview by asserting that the Arctic would be seasonally ice free within five years. The reduction in seasonal ice would increase many economic opportunities in fishing, shipping, and oil and gas exploration. As new fishing opportunities arise, it is important to maintain a precautionary approach, as established by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council in 2009, relying on scientific data to ensure sustainable fishing. The potential increase in shipping and oil and gas exploration also comes with uncertainty, not just in the ecological consequences, but also due to the lack of infrastructure in the region. Few facilities are available to manage the escalating risks associated with increased economic activity and opportunity.

*“If you do not understand the science and policy link, you cannot effectively manage the Gulf of Mexico.”*

– Larry McKinney, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

## How Do We Ensure the Gulf Stays Healthy?

The National Marine Sanctuary System offers a model of effective, marine resource management that allows for multiple sustainable uses. In the Gulf, the Flower Garden Banks and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries serve as sentinel sites, locations that allow scientists and policymakers to monitor changes to ecosystems over time and in the face of acute hazards. Evaluating these impacts provides important feedback on management policies that can be applied to other ocean and coastal habitats.



Hawksbill sea turtle.

Photo Credit: E. Hickerson/FGBNMS



*"If you are a skeptic on climate change, just talk to a fisherman."*

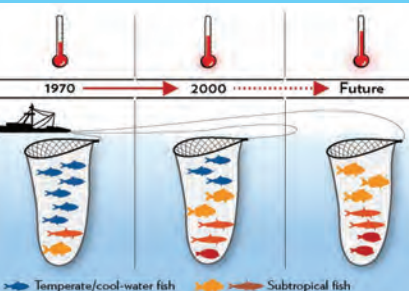
— Matt Tinning, Marine Fish Conservation Network

Photo Credit: NOAA



The economic contributions of recreational fishing are increasing in value, in some places equalling or even surpassing commercial fishing.

Photo Credit: Sanctuary Classic



As the ocean warms, tropical species are replacing cold-water species in fishermen's nets.

Source: Pew Charitable Trusts, based on Cheung, et al., 2013. *Nature*.

## Future of Fisheries

Is there a new generation of fishing and what does it look like? CHOW 2013 reviewed the current state of fisheries and explored how changes are influencing the future of fish and fishermen. The discussion addressed recent successes in fisheries management and highlighted the most critical steps that still need to be taken, including adequate funding for data collection and research. Also mentioned was the need for increased accountability in commercial and recreational fishing, potentially through the application of advanced technologies and new management practices such as catch share programs.

Our commercial and recreational fisheries face a multitude of pressures – both ecological and economic. The adverse effects of climate change on fish populations is apparent to fishermen, who are seeing fish species moving poleward as ocean temperatures increase. The economic challenges facing fishing appear even more daunting: low funding for research has led to a lack of data on ecological factors, such as habitat loss, and decreased the impact of management measures like traceability.



Matt Tinning (R) discusses the importance of increasing the traceability of seafood when establishing fisheries management policies.

Photo Credit: Brendan Kownacki

*"To know that I am protecting the fishery at the same time that I am protecting the future of my family, well, it just doesn't get any better than that."*

— Bubba Cochrane, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance





*“Climate change is happening, it’s real, and it’s being felt in our local communities.”*

– Brooke Smith, COMPASS  
Photo Credit: NOAA Aquaculture

## From Local to Global Action

Global drivers are having a lasting impact on our coastal communities. CHOW 2013 examined how local actors tackle the global challenges, and how their actions might be scaled up and accumulate to better effect change on a global level. Focusing on ocean acidification, marine debris, fisheries management, habitat restoration, and ocean planning, the discussion illustrated how community responses at a range of scales will help us adapt to global challenges and maintain a healthy ocean for the future.

The ocean connects us all, and using that connection can help in scaling up local efforts to have a global impact. Solutions that work in one community won’t necessarily work in a community down the coast or across the world, but the excitement and enthusiasm of individuals and communities is what creates momentum to cause change at larger and larger scales. Individual action is required for change to occur.

*“The excitement and enthusiasm is [in] working at the local level, and that’s going to make the global difference.”*

– Boze Hancock,  
The Nature Conservancy



The 2011 Japanese tsunami provided physical evidence of the local impacts of global problems, as marine debris washed ashore in Hawai‘i and on the west coast from Alaska to California.

Photo Credit: NOAA Marine Debris Program



The panel discussed two strategies for addressing impacts: place-based solutions and issue-based solutions.

Photo Credit: Brendan Kownacki



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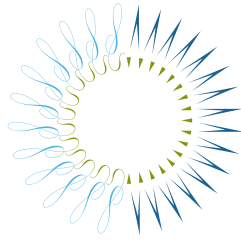
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