

NOAA Knows Climate

3rd Annual NOAA Day on Capitol Hill Climate Briefing Series

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday May 20, 2009
122 Cannon House Office Building

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Climate Change and our Living Oceans

Sponsored by Representative Lois Capps (D CA-23) and Representative Brian Baird (D WA-3)

Climate change is impacting the physical and chemical environment in the oceans causing important changes to marine biological systems. It is altering the pH, temperature, and salinity of the ocean. It is changing currents that affect upwelling and the abundance and distribution of marine animals. Sea level is rising and sea ice is melting, thinning, and changing in its distribution. The briefing will cover how these physical and chemical changes are impacting the ocean's biological components such as sea turtle and monk seal habitat, fish distribution, coral reef bleaching, and ocean acidification. It will explore multiple impacts to coastal ecosystems such as changes in near-shore and coastal habitats, invasive and disease species, hypoxia and harmful algal blooms. The importance of state-of-the-art forecasting of ecosystem changes to understanding and mitigating the impacts of climate change will also be highlighted.

Speakers:

Representative Brian Baird (D WA-3)

Dr. Ned Cyr (NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology)

Dr. C. Mark Eakin (NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, Coral Reef Watch Program)

Dr. Robert Magnien (NOAA's National Ocean Service, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research)

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Climate Change and the Arctic

This panel-style briefing of three presentations will highlight a cross-section of NOAA and our partner's most recent work and emerging issues in the Arctic. The foundational element of the briefing is a general overview of NOAA's observed and predicted Arctic biological and physical conditions (e.g., biology, ocean, land, atmosphere, sea ice), based off the Arctic Report Card 2008 and any subsequent developments. Other components of the briefing will include: 1) living marine resource management considerations (e.g., fisheries, marine mammals, etc.), and 2) human use issues and impacts (e.g., governance issues, oil and gas exploration, marine transportation, etc.).

Panel Moderator:

Dr. Sandy MacDonald (NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Earth Systems Research Laboratory)

Speakers:

Dr. Jim Overland (NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Pacific Marine Environmental Lab)

Dr. Jackie Grebmeier (University of Maryland)

Dr. Robert Haddad (NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Climate Literacy

Sponsored by Representative Michael Honda (D CA-15)

This briefing will focus on a recent report titled *Climate Literacy: The Essential Principles of Climate Science*. This report was approved by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program as the premier source for what individuals and communities need to know to properly understand Earth's climate, impacts of climate change, and approaches for adapting and mitigating change. Development of the report began at a workshop sponsored by NOAA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Multiple science agencies, non-governmental organizations, and numerous individuals also contributed through extensive review and comment periods. The briefing will provide an overview of NOAA climate education and then highlight two important NOAA-funded, nationally focused, and regionally implemented climate education projects that are based on the principles of this report.

Speakers:

Representative Michael Honda (D CA-15)

Marlene Kaplan (NOAA's Office of Education)

Frank Niepold (NOAA's Climate Program Office)

Al Byers (National Science Teachers Association)

Ted Willard (AAAS)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Delivering Climate Services for National, Regional and Local Constituents

NOAA and its partners provide many climate services to the American public - services which ensure policy makers and business leaders are equipped with the most accurate and reliable information to inform their decisions. This session will present how NOAA, working with our government, academic and private sector partners provide climate-related predictions and on-site services that improve communities' resilience to such events, but not limited to heat waves, drought, debris flows and other related weather and climate calamities for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

Speakers:

Chet Koblinsky (NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Climate Program Office)

Ahsha Tribble (NOAA's National Weather Service)

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Climate Change and the Coasts – Impacts on Coastal Communities

Sponsored by Representative Lois Capps (D CA-23)

NOAA delivers integrated regionally-focused climate information to ocean and coastal decision-makers, and provides tools to effectively use this information to assess risks and implement effective management strategies. Existing NOAA programs provide a critical backbone for effective adaptation, mitigation and resiliency. This briefing will include an overview of some of NOAA's key programs and what they are doing in the areas of coastal management, coastal resiliency, ecological forecasting and impacts on the coastal human built environment.

Speakers:

Margaret Davidson (NOAA's National Ocean Service, Coastal Services Center)

David Kennedy (NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management)