

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Scientists and decision-makers discuss the fate of the oceans**Media contact:** *Kim Fulton-Bennett, 831-775-1835, kfb@mbari.org*

MOSS LANDING, CA—The fate of the oceans is in our hands. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is increasing rapidly due to human activities, and is already higher than it has been for hundreds of thousands of years. The oceans are absorbing much of this carbon dioxide, and are also showing some of the most dramatic impacts, in the form of ocean warming, sea-level rise, and increasing acidity. Marine life and marine ecosystems are already suffering from some of these changes. Sooner or later, one way or another, these changes will affect all of humanity.

Many marine scientists are well aware of these changes, and are concerned that critical scientific information is not reaching decision-makers, who will need to respond rapidly to avert or mitigate looming environmental crises. To address this communication gap, The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the California Council on Science and Technology, will be hosting **Ocean Science Summit 2008**, a high-level conference on climate change and ocean health.

From May 27 through May 29, 2008, leading ocean scientists from across the country will sit down with legislators and staff from federal and state agencies, as well as other leaders in the marine community, to discuss what has been done, and what can be done to plan for and mitigate the changes that are occurring in our oceans. Scientists will summarize the latest findings on the state of the oceans. Decision-makers will describe ongoing legislation that addresses ocean issues and climate change. Working together, they will make sure that timely and policy-relevant scientific research results reach the desks of those who need this information to make important decisions.

Ocean Science Summit 2008 will focus on three main topics:

- Managing and mitigating risks from ocean changes related to climate change: ocean acidification, increasing sea temperature, and sea-level rise.
- Addressing coastal impacts from runoff, harmful algal blooms, and other processes that threaten ocean and human health and may be exacerbated by climate change or CO₂ increases.
- Considering new technologies that may help us understand and address these pressing ocean issues, and will maintain our country's role as a leader in marine research and technology.

Attendance at Ocean Science Summit 2008 is by invitation only. However, **members of the press are invited to attend the morning session on Wednesday, May 28**. This session will include keynote speakers and panel discussions on recent achievements and innovations in ocean management, as well as in marine science and technology. Among the noted speakers at this morning session will be Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Congressman Sam Farr (CA), Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, and John Hanke, Director of Google Earth & Maps.

When: Ocean Science Summit 2008 runs from Tuesday evening, May 27 to Thursday May 29, 2008.

Members of the press are invited to attend on May 28, from 8:00am to 12:15pm (R.S.V.P.)

Where: Portola Hotel and Spa, Monterey (on Portola Plaza, just inland of the Monterey Wharf)

Who: Leading marine scientists and decision makers from across the country.

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