



For Event Website and full agenda, go to
<http://nmsfocean.org/capitol-hill-ocean-week-2009>

Theme: The BLUE Economy: Understanding the Ocean's Role in Our Nation's Financial Future

When: June 9 - 11, 2009

Where: Reserve Officers Association, Fifth Floor,
One Constitution Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.

What: **The goal of this year's Capitol Hill Ocean Week is to highlight the inextricable link between the ocean and the economy, and to suggest tangible ways sound ocean policies might impact improvements in our economy.**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Feeding a Nation: The Role of Fishing and Aquaculture in Today's Economy

Panel Focus: Fishing is a multi-million contributor to the nation's GDP. Panelists will recommend ways to utilize these resources at a sustainable level for both our economic and environmental well-being, and address the ever-growing role of aquaculture in the equation and the need for sustainable guidelines to manage it.

Featured Panelists:

Member of Congress

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
Member, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife
of the House Committee on Natural Resources

Moderator:

Steve Murawski, PhD
Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Panelists:

Donald McIsaac, PhD
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Susan Hanna, PhD
Professor of Marine Economics
Oregon State University

Melanie Siggs
Director
Seafood Choices Alliance

Sebastian Belle
Executive Director
Maine Aquaculture Association

Feeding a Nation in a Blue Economy:

The Role of Sustainable Fishing

Donald O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Executive Director
May 1, 2009



Domestic Fisheries Can Be Managed Sustainably by the Regional Councils



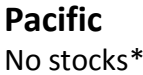
There Have Been Management Miscues



Stocks Currently Subject to Overfishing (a fishing rate that is too high to sustain) in U.S. waters:



North Pacific
No stocks



Pacific
No stocks*



Western Pacific
No stocks*



New England
9 stocks



Mid-Atlantic
1 stocks



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
9 stocks



South Atlantic
10 stocks



Gulf of Mexico
5 stocks



Caribbean
5 stocks

*Yellowfin Tuna (Eastern Pacific stock) and Bigeye Tuna (Pacific stock) subject to International overfishing

The Problems Are Being Addressed

The Magnuson – Stevens Reauthorization Act Mandated Several Significant Changes

Active Scientific & Statistical Committees for all regional councils	2008
Enhanced scientific processes	2009
Ending overfishing in any Council area where it is now occurring	2010
Annual catch limit buffers and accountability measures for all other fish stocks actively caught in a fishery	2011



Catch Shares:
***A “new” management tool with many
potential benefits***





Each catch share program is different

The West Coast groundfish trawl catch share program has many unique characteristics:

- Individual Transferable Quotas
- Accumulation Limits
- 100% observer coverage
- Gear Switching
- Quota Shares to Processors
- Adaptive Management Program
- Ownership Criteria
- Coastal Community Protection

In Closing

- Domestic Fisheries are being managed sustainably
 - Any remaining overfishing to end by 2010
- Regional Fishery Management Councils are embracing catch share programs to achieve conservation, economic and safety-at-sea goals

Wild Caught Seafood Has an Important Role in a Responsible Blue Economy

