

BIODIVERSITY

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK 2020 | A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, JUNE 9 | CAPITOLHILLOCEANWEEK.ORG | [#VirtualCHOW](https://twitter.com/VirtualCHOW)

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The breadth of life in our ocean and Great Lakes is astounding. A healthy planet is essential to our health, well-being, and economic livelihood. Nature provides the clean air we breathe, the fresh water we drink, the food we eat, the medicines we take, and the raw materials we use. It is estimated that, globally, nature provides services worth \$125 trillion a year. Nature also contributes up to one-third to global climate change mitigation efforts. Scientific studies document the threats facing our planet from climate change, overfishing and habitat losses, and they also inform the solutions for policymakers. 2020s provide the opportunity for a turning point to begin reversing the trend of biodiversity loss and restoring nature for the good of the planet and all of us who depend on it.

Protecting biodiversity and building a sustainable global economy that protects nature is critical to people's health and well-being. With its accessible virtual format, Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2020 is the opportunity for people from across the U.S. and the globe to engage in dialogue on actions we can take to conserve the variety of life on Earth for the long term health of our communities and the planet.

PLENARY SESSIONS

DEFINING PRIORITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PROTECTION

Across the globe, nations are expanding marine and freshwater protected areas to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, mitigate the effects of climate change, and safeguard areas critical to communities and sustainable food production. While the percentage of protected waters grows, however, we are still losing species and habitats at an ever-accelerating rate. How can we effectively halt this trend? What does effective protection mean?

GLOBAL ACTION FOR OCEAN, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

Many called 2020 the "super year for the ocean" with events and actions planned at the World Ocean Summit in Japan, the high seas negotiations in New York, the U.N. Ocean Conference in Lisbon, the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, Our Ocean Conference in Palau, U.N. Committee on Fisheries in Rome, the Convention on Biodiversity's COP15 in China, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's COP26 in Glasgow. Leaders from across the UN system share their insights into the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus, how work is progressing to ensure the health of our global ocean, what the coronavirus pandemic has meant to these efforts in 2020, and what happens next."

HIGH SEAS: SHARED STEWARDSHIP FOR OUR GLOBAL OCEAN

The high seas lie beyond any nation's exclusive economic zone, the 200 nautical miles from a country's shore. Covering two-thirds of our ocean, the high seas belong to everyone and no one. Their health and sustainable management is vital to our global ocean and to people's livelihoods. Climate change, overfishing, shipping, plastic pollution and mining pose growing threats. Learn why protecting the high seas is important and how first-ever global efforts are defining how nations can join together in governance of these waters.

A NEW AGE OF EXPLORATION

The ocean depths are our planet's last frontier. People feel an innate curiosity about what lies below the waves and in the darkest depths. New partnerships and technologies, such as submersibles, artificial intelligence and eDNA, are making it possible to explore deeper and further from shore, helping us take the pulse of our planet and the life it sustains. Join us for a discussion on how exploration and improved scientific knowledge can strengthen management and governance of the marine environment for the health of our ocean and the people, communities, and businesses that rely on it.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



Capitol Hill
Ocean Week
— 2020 —

BIODIVERSITY

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK 2020 | A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, JUNE 9 | CAPITOLHILLOCEANWEEK.ORG | [#VirtualCHOW](https://twitter.com/VirtualCHOW)

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS *cont.*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

COOPERATING FOR OUR GLOBAL OCEAN

From seabed mapping to biodiversity monitoring, nations are coming together to enhance understanding of the ocean and all species living in it. Hear more about these global initiatives and partnerships to document diversity and track changes.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR RESTORATION AND MONITORING

Drones, robots, and other modern tools are expanding our reach, reducing costs, and enhancing impact in biodiversity restoration and monitoring. In this panel, hear about exciting achievements and new approaches.

INSPIRING ACTION WITH MEDIA AND ART

Stories and 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 biodiversity conservation. In this session, see how creative minds are using stories, photography, and sculpture to put biodiversity issues in front of new audiences and inspire action.

MARGARET DAVIDSON EMERGING LEADERS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CONSERVING NATURE

What does biodiversity loss mean for us and what actions can we take to turn the trajectory around? During this session, we will hear from emerging voices in science, technology, and conservation on why we need to conserve a variety of life on earth, our role in stewardship of nature, and the integration of biodiversity protection into our economy.

RESTORING OUR WATERS

From coral reefs to wetlands, restoration can improve habitat and recover species in order to increase biodiversity and ecosystem functions that have been degraded or lost. In this panel, hear from practitioners about their work to restore marine and Great Lakes species and habitats.

CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING STRATEGIES

Climate change profoundly affects marine and Great Lakes biodiversity. How do we address climate impacts in our conservation planning? How can local and regional actions have an impact in the face of global change?

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Crossovers! New collaborations! Across geographies and disciplines, novel thinking and partnerships are helping us better understand and protect biodiversity. This panel will dive in and highlight just a few of these surprising combinations.

THE POWER OF PROTECTION

How do we define a protected area in our ocean or Great Lakes? Why does protection matter? Learn about the value of area-based management and new ideas that are helping to maximize impact.

FOR SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION please contact
Carol King at carol@marinesanctuary.org or 301.608.3040 x316.

capitolhilloceanweek.org