Public Policy Forum on Ocean Science Infrastructure

Thursday, February 28, 2008
Reserve Officers Association Building
One Constitution Avenue, NE – Washington, DC

- 08:30 – 09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 – 09:30 Keynote address – Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
- 09:30 – 10:45 Panel on Ocean Observatories
  o Moderator – Bob Weller – WHOI
  o Molly McCammon – Alaska Ocean Observing System
  o Julie Morris – NSF
  o Zdenka Willis – NOAA
  o Kris Lynch – Senate Commerce Committee
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:15 Panel on Access to the Sea
  o Moderator – Shirley Pomponi – HBOI
  o Marcia McNutt – MBARI
  o Frank Herr – US Navy
  o Dolly Dieter – NSF
- 12:15 – 13:15 Lunch with speaker – VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, NOAA
- 13:15 – 14:30 Panel on Earth Observations from Space
  o Moderator – Mark Abbott – OSU
  o Berrien Moore – Climate Central
  o Eric Lindstrom – NASA
  o Eric Webster – NOAA
- 14:30 – 15:00 Oceans and Human Health – Rita Colwell
- 15:00 Closing Remarks – Bob Gagosian
- 16:00 – 20:00 Reception – 325 Russell Senate Office Building
- 17:00 – Remarks by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)
- 17:30 – Remarks by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Welcome to the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s Public Policy Forum

Welcome to the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s Public Policy Forum on Ocean Infrastructure. We are honored that so many prominent members of the ocean community and government are here today to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our community. We are also pleased that you are here to engage with each of the speakers and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in these vital discussions.

With the release of the President’s budget earlier this month and the appropriations season in full swing, this is a critical time for the oceanographic community to sound its voice in the nation’s capitol. We hope that today’s Public Policy Forum will provide some animated discussions and insight into what the ocean community has to look forward to in the coming months and years.

Ocean Leadership will post much of the valuable information discussed today on our website at www.oceanleadership.org. Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding today’s event.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Gagosian
President & CEO
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA)

Mary Landrieu is Louisiana’s senior Senator, and a fiscal leader for the nation as a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Landrieu’s service in the Senate has been defined by powerful committee appointments and by her work championing legislation that opened the door of opportunity for Louisianans and all Americans. She currently serves on the Senate Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Small Business Committees. Landrieu is a moderate Democrat who believes our nation can and should do a better job of balancing our budget, protecting and conserving our environment, and educating our children for the global challenges ahead. In 1999, Senator Landrieu became the first Democratic woman to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Landrieu is a member of the Senate Guard and Reserve Caucus, recognizing the increasingly valuable role that our citizen soldiers play in our nation’s defense. A leader in issues dealing with both energy and the environment, Senator Landrieu aggressively fights for Louisiana jobs and continues to guide her colleagues toward development of a national energy policy that will increase domestic production and lessen the country’s dependence on foreign oil. As a member of the Senate Energy Committee, Landrieu has been an effective and tireless advocate for saving Louisiana’s vanishing coastline and wetlands, demanding Louisiana’s fair share of offshore oil and gas proceeds to stop the erosion and investing in Louisiana’s future. Landrieu ran for a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1979, becoming the youngest woman ever elected to the state Legislature. Eight years later, she spent two terms as Louisiana State Treasurer. When she was sworn in on January 7, 1997, Mary Landrieu became the first woman from Louisiana elected to the Senate.
Dr. Weller received his Bachelors in Engineering and Applied Physics from Harvard University and his Doctorate from Scripps. He has held several research positions at Harvard University and Scripps and is currently the Department Chair of the Physical Oceanography Department at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His scientific interests include the upper ocean response to atmospheric forcings, such as wind stress and buoyancy flux, the role of surface waves and related processes in the upper ocean dynamics, the coupling between the upper ocean and the interior, innovative and sustained observations in the ocean and at the ocean surface, prediction of upper ocean variability on scales of meters to 10’s of kilometers and the ocean’s role in climate. Dr. Weller has won many awards for his scientific contributions and has been on more than thirty research cruises to date.
MOLLY McCAMMON

Molly McCammon is the Executive Director of the Alaska Ocean Observing System, a coalition of government, academic, and private partners working together to integrate ocean observations and provide better information for users of the ocean and ocean resources. She serves as the chair of the National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing and is also a member of the Ocean Research Advisory panel which advises federal ocean research agencies. Prior to that, she served for nearly a decade as Executive Director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, administering the billion-dollar restoration fund established as a result of a court settlement between the United States government and the state of Alaska and Exxon Corporation following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Molly moved to Alaska 34 years ago after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in journalism. Since then, she has worked as a natural resource policy specialist for Alaska’s governor, state legislature and department of fish and game, reported for radio and television news programs, and homesteaded in the Brooks Range.
JULIE MORRIS

Julie Morris is the Director of the National Science Foundation’s Ocean Sciences Division. She is a former postdoctoral fellow and research staff scientist at Washington University, St. Louis. In her position, Morris splits her time between administration of the division and serving on the management team for the Geosciences Directorate, both of which involve overseeing a staff of 40 and a budget of more than $300 million. She also returns to Washington University periodically to oversee various research projects. From October 2003 until mid-April 2006, Morris chaired MARGINS, an NSF-funded science program that serves as a link between the foundation and the national research community and focuses on processes that control the formation and evolution of the continental margins.
Zdenka Willis is the Director of NOAA’s Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program. She administers NOAA’s IOOS activities and contributions to the U.S. IOOS. Ms. Willis joined NOAA in December, 2005. Prior to her assignment as Director of NOAA’s IOOS Program, Ms. Willis served as Director of NOAA’s National Oceanographic Data Center and administered the NOAA Central Library, the National Coastal Data Development Center, and the World Data Center of Oceanography.

Ms. Willis is a retired Navy Captain with career service as a Meteorology and Oceanography officer in the United States Navy. Her meteorological background includes weather forecasting for Naval aircraft as the Officer in Charge of the Naval Oceanography Command Detachment and for Navy vessels at the Naval Eastern Oceanography Center. Ms. Willis has a background in the collection of oceanographic data and in electronic navigational charting as Deputy Navigator of the Navy. She co-authored two handbooks related to mapping and charting. Ms. Willis received her Bachelor’s Degree in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina and a Master’s degree in Meteorology and Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Master’s Degree in National Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.
Dr. Lynch has worked for the Senate Commerce Committee since 2001, initially as a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow in Marine Policy, serving both the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard as well as the full committee. As Professional Staff, she has served as a policy analyst and advisor to Senators Snowe, Stevens, and McCain on NOAA's ocean and coastal programs, policies, and authorizing legislation. Before joining the Commerce Committee, she earned her PhD in Fisheries Policy from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, while also working on several fisheries projects for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Her undergraduate education was at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, where she also worked as a research assistant for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.
SHIRLEY POMPONI

Dr. Shirley Pomponi leads the Marine Invertebrate Cell Culture Program at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. A major emphasis of her research is on the development of methods for sustainable use of marine resources for drug discovery and development. Her research focuses on establishing cell lines of marine sponges that can be used as models to study production of sponge-derived bioactive metabolites and the factors which control expression of production. Dr. Pomponi currently serves as Chair of the National Ocean Studies Board and as Vice-Chair of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership Board of Trustee. Dr. Pomponi graduated from the University of Miami where she studied Biological Oceanography.
Dr. McNutt is the President and CEO of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Research Institute and was recently awarded the 2007 Maurice Ewing Medal. She received a BA degree in Physics from Colorado College in Colorado Springs. As a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, she studied geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, where she earned a PhD in Earth Sciences. After a brief appointment at the University of Minnesota, she spent the next three years at the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California, working on the problem of earthquake prediction. In 1982, she joined the faculty at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At MIT, she was appointed the Griswold Professor of Geophysics and served as Director of the Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering, a cooperative graduate educational program between MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. McNutt’s research ranges from studies of ocean island volcanism in French Polynesia to continental break-up in the Western U.S. to uplift of the Tibet Plateau. She has participated in 15 major oceanographic expeditions, and served as chief scientist on more than half of those voyages. She has published 90 peer-reviewed scientific articles and has numerous honors and awards. She is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International Association of Geodesy. McNutt served as President of the American Geophysical Union from 2000-2002. She also chaired the President’s Panel on Ocean Exploration, convened by President Clinton to examine the possibility of initiating a major U.S. program in exploring the oceans. She currently is the Chair of UNOLS. She also serves on numerous evaluation and advisory boards for institutions such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Stanford University, Harvard University, Science Magazine, and Schlumberger.
Dr. Herr is the Head of the Office of Naval Research Ocean Battlespace Sensing Department – one of six science and technology departments at ONR. He was acting in this post beginning in 2001, and was selected in 2005. From 1996 to 2001, Dr. Herr was Director, Sensing and Systems Division within the OAS Department. Dr. Herr currently is the U.S. National Representative for the Maritime Systems Group of The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP) coordinating technology among US, UK, CAN, AUS, and NZ. Dr. Herr was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in August, 1998. Dr. Herr joined the federal service in 1977 as a research chemist at the Naval Research Laboratory in the Ocean Sciences Division. He conducted basic and applied research at NRL until 1982 when he joined the ONR. Dr. Herr became the Program Manager for Remote Sensing in 1988. From 1992 to 1994 Dr. Herr served on the personal staff of ADM Frank B. Kelso, Chief of Naval Operations, as Assistant for Science and Technology to the CNO Executive Panel, N00K. In 1994, he returned to ONR to assume duties for a new effort to develop expeditionary warfare exploitation techniques for national sensors. Herr is a graduate of Hamilton College and also holds a PhD from the University of Maryland. He was a National Research Council post-doctoral research associate and is the author of 22 scientific and technical publications. Dr. Herr received a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives in 2005, the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Achievement Award in 1994, and the NRL Research Publication Award in 1981. He has received four special achievement commendations from NRL and ONR, and has fifteen times been cited for outstanding performance of his duties, including an SES Performance Awards from 2001-2008.
DOLLY DIETER

Dolly Dieter arrived at NSF in June 1989 for a temporary stint as Program Manager for Ship Operations. She is still there and now heads up the Ship Facilities and Support program, including ship acquisition. For the past 15 months she has also been serving as the Acting-Section Head for the Integrative Program Section. Dolly started her academic life with a double major in biology and chemistry at DePaul University; spent a couple of years as a research associate at MIT and then migrated to Alaska. At the University of Alaska, she began as a research associate in marine biology; was promoted to Marine Superintendent after several years of going to sea on the UAF operated research vessels; and finished her career at UAF as the Assistant Director for Marine and Shore facilities. Prior to coming to the National Science Foundation she received an MA in Marine Policy from the University of Rhode Island. At that point, she was lured to NSF and is currently contemplating retirement.

She has been involved with the operation of research vessels and submersibles for over 30 years and is especially interested in vessel technology, safety and marine policy. She has also served on several oversight committees for the construction of new research vessels. She has served as Chairman of the Research Vessel Operators Committee/UNOLS, Federal Oceanographic Fleet Coordination Council, the Governors Task Force, State of Alaska Marine Highway System, Secretary/Treasurer for the Marine Technology Society Executive Board, and a member of the President's Committee for the Global Positioning System and is currently a member of several marine societies.
Retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D. is serving as the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. He was appointed Dec. 19, 2001. VADM Lautenbacher is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1964), and holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in applied mathematics. He retired after 40 years of service in the Navy. His military career was marked by skilled fiscal management and significant improvements in operations through performance-based evaluations of processes. As the NOAA administrator, he oversees the day-to-day functions of NOAA, as well as laying out its strategic and operational future. In 2003, VADM Lautenbacher spearheaded the first-ever Earth Observation Summit, which hosted ministerial-level representation from several dozen of the world's nations. Through subsequent international summits and working groups, he worked to encourage world scientific and policy leaders to work toward a common goal of building a sustained Global Earth Observation System of Systems that would collect and disseminate data, information, and models to stakeholders and decision makers. He also has headed numerous delegations at international governmental summits and conferences around the world. Before joining NOAA, VADM Lautenbacher formed his own management consultant business, and worked principally for Technology, Strategies & Alliances Inc. He was president and CEO of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). He has won accolades for his performance in a broad range of operational, command and staff positions both ashore and afloat.
Dr. Mark Abbott is a Biological Oceanography Professor and Dean of the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University. He received his B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley in Natural Resources and his PhD from the University of California, Davis in Ecology. His research interests include coupling of biological and physical processes in the upper ocean, remote sensing of ocean color and sea surface temperature, phytoplankton fluorescence, and the length and time scales of phytoplankton variability. Currently, he is studying the relationship of time/space variability of phytoplankton to wind forcing in the California Current, Lagrangian observations of upper ocean optical properties, filaments in the California Current, mesoscale variability in the Southern Ocean, and phytoplankton fluorescence.
Dr. Berrien Moore III joined the University of New Hampshire faculty in 1969, soon after receiving his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Virginia. Professor Moore's research focuses on the carbon cycle, global biogeochemical cycles, and global change as well as policy issues in the area of the global environment. In 2007 he was awarded the Dryden Lectureship in Research by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was among the network of scientists who contributed their expertise to the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), resulting in that organization's designation as the 2007 co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Moore was the coordinating lead author for the final chapter, "Advancing our Understanding" of the IPCC's Third Assessment Report. The Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS) from 1987 to 2008, he has simultaneously served on and chaired numerous government affiliated scientific committees (NASA/NOAA, The National Academies), including the NRC Committee on Global Change Research from 1995-1998. In 1987 he was appointed chairman of NASA's senior science advisory panel and in 1992, upon completion of his chairmanship, was presented with NASA's highest civilian award, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal for outstanding service to the agency. Most recently he co-chaired, with UCAR President Rick Anthes, the National Research Council's decadal survey, "Earth Observations from Space: A Community Assessment and Strategy for the Future." In February 2008 Professor Moore stepped down as Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space to lead Climate Central, an emerging, nonprofit, nonpartisan think-tank dedicated to producing and providing the public, business and civic leaders, and policy makers with objective and cutting edge information about climate change and potential solutions. The group is based in Princeton, NJ and Palo Alto, CA.
Dr. Eric Lindstrom is a Program Scientist in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C. He has degrees in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1977) and Physical Oceanography from University of Washington (1983). His scientific interests include the circulation of the ocean and air-sea exchange processes. Dr. Lindstrom spent the early part of his career leading research expeditions in the waters around Australia as a member of Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). A native of California, Dr. Lindstrom returned permanently to the United States in 1991 to work on planning for several large experiments of the World Climate Research Program. Over the years he has been a passionate advocate for the development of a global ocean observing system. Before joining NASA he served as Director of the Global Ocean Observing System Project Office in NOAA. NASA Headquarters recruited Dr. Lindstrom in 1997 to lead its Physical Oceanography Program. In 2001 Dr. Lindstrom was awarded NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal for his success in developing a unified oceanography program at NASA that is well-integrated with those of other Federal agencies. Under Dr. Lindstrom’s leadership the NASA Oceanography program has become a substantial contributor to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program and a more active participant with other agencies in developing the integrated global ocean observing systems of the future. He is co-chair of the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships and Program Scientist for the Quikscat, Jason, OSTM, and Aquarius satellite missions.
ERIC WEBSTER

Eric Webster has served as Director, Office of Legislative Affairs for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since his appointment by President Bush in September, 2005. In his position, Mr. Webster serves as the agency’s chief legislative officer. Additionally, Mr. Webster specializes in weather satellite issues. Prior to joining NOAA, Mr. Webster served as staff director of the House Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards. Mr. Webster began his career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant in the office of Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) from 1993 to 1997, specializing in defense, transportation and agriculture issues. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Webster was the legislative director for Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), overseeing the Congressman’s entire legislative agenda. Mr. Webster graduated with a B.A. in European History from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY in 1991, and received his M.A. in European Studies from Washington University in St. Louis in 1993. He also graduated from the Senior Managers in Government Executive Program at The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2001.
RITA COLWELL

Dr. Rita Colwell is Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. and Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland at College Park and at The John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her interests are focused on global infectious diseases, water, and health, and she is currently developing an international network to address emerging infectious diseases and water issues, including safe drinking water for both the developed and developing world. Dr. Colwell served as the 11th Director of the National Science Foundation, 1998-2004. In her capacity as NSF Director, she served as Co-chair of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council. One of her major interests include K-12 science and mathematics education, graduate science and engineering education, and the increased participation of women and minorities in science and engineering. Dr. Colwell has held many advisory positions in the U.S. Government, nonprofit science policy organizations, and private foundations, as well as in the international scientific research community. She is a nationally respected scientist and educator, and has authored or co-authored 16 books and more than 700 scientific publications. She produced the award-winning film, Invisible Seas, and has served on the editorial boards of numerous scientific journals.
In 1996, Jack Reed was elected as Rhode Island's 46th United States Senator. A leader on defense, education, and health care issues, Reed is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee and a former Army Ranger. Prior to serving in the Senate, Reed was a three-term Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District. As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, Reed continues to work tirelessly to secure federal funding for the Ocean State, such as mass transit funding and community development projects. He has also played a pivotal role in safeguarding our nation. As a senior member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Reed's key economic priorities include promoting responsible budgets, bringing business to Rhode Island, and strengthening the national economy. After graduating from West Point and receiving an active duty commission in the United States Army, Reed attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he received a Masters of Public Policy. Reed, an Army Ranger and a paratrooper, served in the 82nd Airborne Division as an Infantry Platoon leader, a Company Commander, and a Battalion Staff Officer. He returned to West Point in 1978 as an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences. Reed resigned from the Army as a Captain in 1979 and enrolled in Harvard Law School. Reed was elected to the Rhode Island State Senate in 1984 and served for three terms. Senator Reed is married to Julia Hart Reed. They have a daughter, Emily, and make their home in Jamestown, Rhode Island.
Thad Cochran is the senior United States Senator from the State of Mississippi. He was elected to the Senate in 1978 and has been re-elected with landslide margins four times. He is the Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. He also serves as a member of the Agriculture and Rules Committees of the Senate. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and he has received the lifetime achievement award of The Nature Conservancy. Before his election to Congress in 1972, Senator Cochran practiced law in Jackson, Mississippi, and he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. He studied international law for a year under a Rotary Foundation Fellowship at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, and he has been awarded honorary degrees from five other colleges and universities. He and his wife, Rose, have two children and three grandchildren.
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“The ocean remains a vast, unexplored realm with the capacity to provide new pharmaceuticals, industrial products and energy sources. At the same time, its resources are subject to many pressures, such as overfishing, habitat destruction and competition with invasive species. To unlock the full resource potential of the open ocean, coasts, coastal watersheds and Great Lakes, society must improve understanding of these resources and balance their health and use.”