

Please join us for a congressional briefing on...

The Ocean Plastic Pollution Problem:

Solvable with Science, Innovation, and Education



Tuesday, June 12, 2018

12:00 – 1:00 pm at 2045 Rayburn HOB (*Lunch will be provided*)

Sponsored by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership

in collaboration with the House Oceans Caucus

Co-chaired by:

Representative Suzanne Bonamici (*Oregon*)

Representative Don Young (*Alaska*)

We've all seen the pictures – a sea turtle with a straw sticking out its nose, a fish with plastic bottle rings around its neck, a sea bird's stomach filled with lighters, a beach where you see more trash than sand. The numbers themselves are even more daunting—more than eight million tons of plastic are dumped in the ocean every year (visualize five filled grocery bags for each foot of coastline), half of all manufactured plastic becomes trash in less than a year, and plastic waste may outweigh fish in the ocean by 2050. Alarmingly, it's not just wildlife that suffer from this pollution – when commercial seafood species eat plastics contaminated with toxins, we're potentially ingesting those dangerous chemicals when that fish lands on our dinner plate.

What can we do to keep from buckling under the weight of the 155 million tons of plastic expected to be in the ocean by 2025? Join experts to discuss how science, innovation, and education are addressing this growing global marine plastic crisis and how we can all help keep our ocean healthy and productive. This, in turn, will help keep our human population healthy while ensuring our economic prosperity, food safety, and national security. Visit the Ocean Plastics Lab on the National Mall (from June 4-17) to learn more about the role of science in understanding the issue.

Speakers:

Dr. Jay Brandes, *Professor, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, University of Georgia*

Mr. Scott DeFife, *Vice President of Government Affairs, Plastics Industry Association*

Mr. John Racanelli, *President and CEO, National Aquarium*

To RSVP, please contact policy@oceanleadership.org
(reservations not required to attend)

