

Dr. Anthony Maranto Attends 2012 Capitol Hill Ocean Week



Commentary from Dr. Anthony Maranto, Vice President, Akamai University and Director of the Environmental Studies Program

During the first week of June, I was honored to once again participate in “Capitol Hill Ocean Week” (CHOW) hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) and the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. The week-long event was attended by over 40 members of Congress, the Secretary of Commerce, the NOAA Administrator, the Director for the US Geological Survey, and over 500 academics, researchers, and policy makers from across the US. This annual event focuses on ocean policy, conservation, and sustainability and offers unique insights into how our relationship with the world’s oceans can help chart an economically and environmentally sound path for the future. Topics included America’s Ocean Culture; the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative’s US Ocean Policy Report Card; Ocean Technology; Ocean Energy; Protecting Marine Mammals; and Challenges facing America’s Coasts, among many others.



As part of the event, I was also privileged to attend the 10th annual National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Leadership Awards Dinner held in the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center. The dinner featured a leadership award presented to President Bill Clinton, a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Captain Don Walsh, Ph.D. (commander of the first manned trip to the bottom of the Mariana Trench in 1960), and a music video produced by Al Jardine and the Beach Boys to support the mission of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (“Don’t Fight the Sea”).



These events represented a unique moment in history when all of the nation’s most prominent ocean scientists and policy makers were able to focus their attention on the pressing issues of ocean policy and speak with one voice about the importance of preserving our global ocean resources. I’m glad that I could share a bit of this experience with our community. Please feel free [to read more about the NMSF’s goals and mission](#)



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