



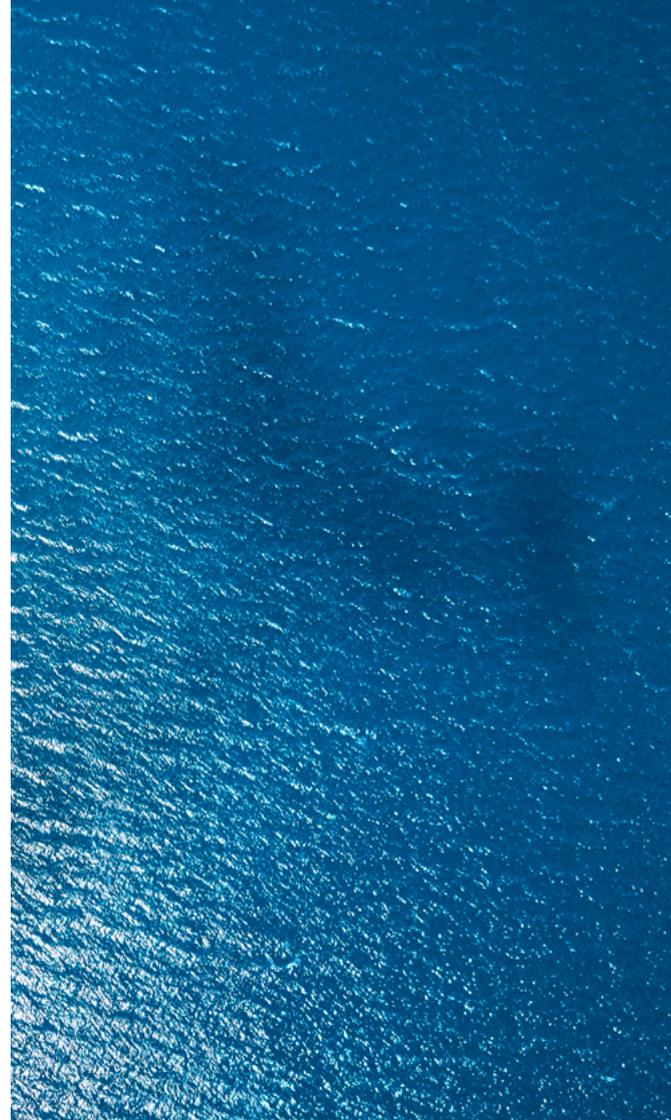
OCEANS CAUCUS FOUNDATION 2019-2020

THE ICCF GROUP

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CAUCUS MISSION

TO INCREASE AWARENESS,
PROMOTE DIALOGUE, AND
FIND COMMON GROUND
IN RESPONDING TO ISSUES
FACING THE OCEANS AND
COASTS

OUR MISSION

TO ADVANCE U.S. AND
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN
THE RESPONSIBLE UTILIZATION
AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE
RESOURCES
THROUGH PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



ABOUT THE OCEANS CAUCUS FOUNDATION

BUILDING POLITICAL WILL

OCF directly supports the leadership of the bipartisan U.S. Oceans Caucus in the Senate & House, and The ICCF Group's conservation caucuses globally, who share an understanding of the global dependence on healthy marine ecosystems.

UNITING SECTORS

OCF unites leaders in government, corporations, NGOs, & the scientific community to provide policymakers with the tools they need to create policies that promote economic growth, resource security, and a healthy marine environment.

ENGAGING GLOBALLY

OCF works at the highest levels of governments, and in national parks & protected areas in developed & developing countries around the globe. We bring together leaders from communities that depend on ocean resources.



ABOUT

The U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus was established in 2011. The leadership of this caucus has been instrumental in the achievement of several legislative successes such as the Save Our Seas Act and ratification of four multinational oceans treaties.

CO-CHAIRS RECENTLY INTRODUCED THE SAVE OUR SEAS ACT 2.0 TO IMPROVE MARINE DEBRIS RESEARCH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT RECYCLING TO IMPROVE NOAA CAPACITY TO ADDRESS MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUP

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OCEANS CAUCUS

IN THE 116TH U.S. CONGRESS

TERM: 2019-2021

ESTABLISHED: 2011 | ACRONYM: OC

CO-CHAIRLED BY

SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI)

SEN. DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK)

SEN. TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI)

SEN. LISA MURKOWSKI (R-AK)

REP. SUZANNE BONAMICI (D-OR)

REP. DON YOUNG (R-AK)



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Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

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Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
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Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)
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Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

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Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)



THE ICCF GROUP
2019-2020

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Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-ME)
Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)
Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American S)
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
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Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
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Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA)

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LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

LED BY OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS



BLUE GLOBE ACT - INTRODUCED IN 2019

Advances data collection of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts to accelerate technology innovation, grow the marine workforce, and develop a better understanding of the blue economy

SOS 2.0 - INTRODUCED IN 2019

Aims to improve international collaboration on marine debris research and alternative materials, and invest in the U.S. waste management recycling infrastructure; creates

a foundation and trust fund to provide additional capacity for NOAA's marine debris program

SAVE OUR SEAS ACT

Reauthorizes the NOAA Marine Debris Program through 2022, which works to address marine debris through research, prevention and reduction

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, & UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT

Implements the Agreement on Port State Measures by advancing U.S. efforts to prevent illegally harvested fish from entering U.S. ports and markets and addresses key priorities in the previous Administration's action plan for combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud

RATIFICATION OF 4 MULTINATIONAL OCEANS TREATIES

Protects American fishermen from being disadvantaged by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing

MARITIME SAFE ACT

Addresses the threat to national security from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and associated illegal activity through a whole-of-government approach



RIGHT: CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI (D-OR), HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIR, SPEAKING ON THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT AND REBUILDING OF THE WEST COAST GROUND FISH FISHERIES





SECURING OUR SEAS

STOPPING IUU FISHING

IMPROVING MARINE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

The ocean is a vast and harsh environment, making it difficult to monitor. Developing coastal countries lack the capacity to effectively enforce their maritime territories, and developed countries may fail to adequately prioritize this issue. The lack of prioritization and funding for management and enforcement has allowed for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing to become a multi-billion-dollar global industry that fuels transnational criminal organizations, corruption and other illegal activity, and geopolitical tensions. Strengthening marine management and enforcement through prioritization and partnerships will not only benefit the environment, but will generate revenue for the seafood industry and governments, and promote global security by undermining the criminal networks and activity involved with illegal fishing.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

THE GLOBAL LEGAL SEAFOOD MARKET IS ESTIMATED TO LOSE UP TO \$23.5 BILLION ANNUALLY TO IUU FISHING

In developing countries, illegal fishing denies local economies a major source of taxable revenue and jobs. Illegal fishing depletes stocks that are vital to local economies, forcing fishermen out of jobs. In developed markets, illegal, imported fish product can sell at a lower price than product adhering to regulations. [Efforts to prevent IUU fishing can stimulate local economies by bringing regulated jobs and revenues into the market and facilitating long-term economic growth for the world's most vulnerable communities](#) – while stabilizing the fish stocks they depend on.

LEFT: ECONOMIC SECURITY. ADMIRAL CHARLES RAY, VICE COMMANDANT, U.S. COAST GUARD, SPEAKING AT AN OCF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF LUNCHEON ON THE COAST GUARD'S ROLE IN ENFORCING U.S. MARITIME LAW AND HOW IUU FISHING THREATENS U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY.





NATIONAL SECURITY

LEFT: NATIONAL SECURITY. SENATOR CHRIS COONS (D-DE) SPEAKING AT AN OCF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTING THE SECURITY IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING. SENATOR COONS SPONSORED THE BIPARTISAN MARITIME SAFE ACT, ALONG WITH SENATOR ROGER WICKER (R-MS), WHICH WAS REINTRODUCED MAY 1, 2019. THE MARITIME SAFE ACT PROMOTES A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO COMBAT IUU FISHING.

IUU fishing and transnational organized crime are the results of a lack of enforcement capacity in developing countries' maritime territories and the high seas and overfishing in coastal communities, which has forced fishermen to look to alternative livelihoods. Because IUU fishing often crosses international borders, it can also lead to escalating geopolitical tensions, as in the highly-contested South China Sea, where heated international affairs sometimes play out through fishing disputes. [Unresolved maritime security challenges endanger U.S. national security objectives](#) directly and indirectly through the maturation of networks involved in terrorism, piracy, and trafficking of all types.

From a security perspective, [IUU Fishing is not a standalone issue, but rather one piece of an elaborate network of illicit activity that includes piracy & terrorism, corruption, human rights & labor abuses, and the trafficking of narcotics, weapons, wildlife, & people.](#) These challenges also undermine partner nations' rule of law and degrade regional food and environmental security. OCF recognizes the dangerous linkages between these issues and the fact that combating IUU fishing will serve the multifaceted purpose of undermining transnational criminal networks, promoting international cooperation, and protecting national security across the globe.

FOOD SECURITY

In order to meet the rising nutritional demands of a growing population by implementing and enforcing sustainable fisheries management schemes, investments in fisheries management and enforcement need to be prioritized. [Well managed fisheries will provide communities the benefit of a reliable food source through healthy fish stocks over the long term.](#) These efforts can be complemented by advances in aquaculture, which can support the management and availability of marine resources.

OVER HALF OF PROTEIN CONSUMED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COMES FROM FISH

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

THE GLOBAL LEGAL SEAFOOD MARKET IS ESTIMATED TO LOSE UP TO \$23.5 BILLION ANNUALLY TO IUU FISHING

Mismanaged fisheries and IUU fishing deplete vital fish populations and utilize destructive practices like bottom trawling, cyanide fishing, and dynamite fishing that directly harm ecosystems by tearing up habitat and producing bycatch. [Unsustainable fishing has been identified as the greatest threat to coral reefs:](#) IUU operations disrupt reef ecology by depleting the fisheries that corals depend on for survival; directly destroy coral; and reduce reef productivity, which affects coastal communities that depend on healthy reefs for tourism, food, and storm protection.



STOPPING MARINE DEBRIS AT THE SOURCE

IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Marine debris takes many forms, comes from many sources, and is often the result of litter or poorly managed municipal solid waste. In developing and newly developed countries, waste management infrastructure has not kept pace with the consumption rates of growing populations, leading to inadequate trash/recycling pick-up services and facilities. The Asia Foundation reported in 2017 that the world's top six plastic polluting nations are located in Asia. U.S. government and consumers also play a role, ranking 20th in terms of leakage of plastic in the ocean; the U.S. alone produces about 14.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, and only about 2.15 million tons are recycled with the rest going to landfills. To address the challenge of marine debris, generating political will and creating an environment in which practical solutions can be implemented is the first step. OCF's marine debris initiative [creates an increased understanding about materials management challenges and opportunities at the policy and consumer levels to create a strong plastics recycling industry and a healthy marine environment.](#)

RIGHT: SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI), SENATE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIR, SPEAKING AT AN OCF CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER DINNER.



PLASTICS AND OTHER WASTE MATERIALS DO NOT BELONG IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

RIGHT: SENATOR WHITEHOUSE SPEAKING WITH SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK), A SENATE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIR, AT AN OCF CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER DINNER. SENATOR WHITEHOUSE AND SENATOR SULLIVAN WERE ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS OF THE SAVE OUR SEAS ACT OF 2018 (S.O.S.) TO ADDRESS THE MARINE DEBRIS EPIDEMIC AFFECTING AMERICA'S OCEANS, SHORELINES, AND INLAND WATERWAYS, AS WELL AS OTHER COASTS ACROSS THE GLOBE. THESE SENATORS ARE TEAMING UP AGAIN IN THE 116TH CONGRESS ON S.O.S. 2.0, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR IMPROVED WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD.

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT 80 PER CENT OF MARINE DEBRIS COMES FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES





BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS: CONSERVATION EDUCATION

OCF PROMOTES EFFORTS TO BUILD AWARENESS AROUND OCEAN CONSERVATION BECAUSE IT BELIEVES A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES IS CRITICAL IN MOBILIZING SUPPORT.

LEFT: DR. ENRIC SALA AT AN OCF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF LUNCHEON. DR. SALA IS A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE WHO RUNS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PRISTINE SEAS CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS HELPED TO CREATE 13 OF THE LARGEST MARINE RESERVES ON THE PLANET, COVERING AN AREA OF OVER 4.5 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS.

On one hand, OCF helps facilitate public conservation learning through its partnerships with organizations like SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, which helps people connect with nature, establish

scientific literacy, and engage in stewardship toward conservation. On the other hand, OCF provides conservation education directly to national decision-makers through a U.S. Congressional briefing series. With the help of its brain trust of corporate partners and NGO experts, OCF hosts educational programs for oceans caucus members, where topics are identified in response to recommendations and concerns from our advisory board and network of oceans experts and, most importantly, our caucus leadership.



THE 2018 ICCF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GALA



THE MOST IMPORTANT AND EXCLUSIVE GATHERING OF CONSERVATIONISTS FROM THE CORPORATE, NGO, AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE U.S. LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLDS NATURAL RESOURCES

The 500+ guests at this year's Gala will include members of the U.S. Cabinet, 100+ Members of Congress, policymakers and opinion leaders from around the globe, world business leaders, celebrities, and leaders from the international NGO community. This powerful cross-sectoral audience offers an unparalleled opportunity for guests to engage with the most important bipartisan caucus on Capitol Hill, high-level foreign delegations, and influential business and conservation leaders about the need for U.S. and international conservation leadership, cooperation, and action.

RIGHT: UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY (RIGHT) IN A CONVERSATION WITH ICCF FOUNDER DAVID BARRON (LEFT) AT THE 2012 OCEANS GALA





PAST AWARDEES

ICCF'S TEDDY ROOSEVELT AWARD RECOGNIZES PUBLIC LEADERSHIP FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS IN FURTHERANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

HSH THE PRINCE OF MONACO

HE FELIPE CALDERON, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

THE RT HON TONY BLAIR, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE HON ROB PORTMAN (R-OH), UNITED STATES SENATE

THE HON ED ROYCE (D-CA), UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEFT: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE 2015 GALA

GALA CHAIRS

QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN

WILLIAM J. CLINTON AND GEORGE H.W. BUSH, UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS

HANK PAULSON, U.S. SECRETARY OF TREASURY

BELOW: USAID AMBASSADOR MARK GREEN AT THE 2017 GALA



OUR PARTNERS

A POWERFUL COLLABORATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS TO EDUCATE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL POLICYMAKERS



OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS POSSESS VERY DIVERSE EXPERIENCE

Some offering the latest science, others sharing practical know-how to build community-based conservation projects through public-private partnerships. But, all offer unique perspectives and share a common desire to implement conservation projects safeguarding wildlife and biodiversity, protecting and restoring habitats, and generating economic opportunities and social benefits for surrounding communities who are necessarily the long-term stewards of local natural resources.



IT'S THE EXPERIENCE THAT COMES FROM THOSE NGOS AND VOLUNTEERS THAT ARE ASSISTING IN THIS WIDER EFFORT TO COME UP WITH LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS THAT WILL PROTECT SPECIES FAR INTO THE FUTURE

**THE HON.
ED ROYCE
CHAIRMAN OF THE
UNITED STATES
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



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