



Congressional Briefing on Marine Mammal Health and Stranding

August 1, 2013, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room North
Washington, DC

Marine mammal strandings often occur in populated coastal areas, raising public concerns about their causes and likely human health and economic impacts. Those impacts can be direct (i.e., contact with sick and dying mammals on the beach) or indirect (i.e., water quality or seafood safety). The scientific information gleaned from stranded animals is essential to assessing direct and indirect impacts, as it provides valuable insights into marine mammal health and disease and the integrity of the marine environment. In this briefing, representatives from the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Stranding Network will provide an overview of the major trends and issues in strandings, and how federal and private stakeholders are working collaboratively to address these challenges.

Moderators:

Dr. Daryl Boness, *Chairman, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission*

Ms. Donna Wieting, *Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service*

Panelists:

Dr. Frances Gulland, *Commissioner, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission*

Ms. Nicole LeBoeuf, *Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service*

Mr. W. Mark Swingle, *Director of Research and Conservation, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center*

Dr. Charles Littnan, *Supervisory Research Ecologist, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service*



U.S. Marine Mammal Commission
and National Marine Fisheries Service

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