

## Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020 Media Roundtables



Ocean Sciences Meeting media roundtables provide reporters with background information about an upcoming project or ongoing area of research rather than present breaking news. Roundtables are designed to feel like a comfortable chat around the table, encouraging reporters to ask questions at any time.

All media roundtables are 45 minutes long and take place in the press room, room 16B on the mezzanine level of the San Diego Convention Center. All times listed are Pacific Standard Time.

### Who were the first Americans – and how did they get here?

**Monday, 17 February, 10 a.m.**

For decades, many archaeologists thought humans first migrated to North America around 13,500 years ago, traveling across a land bridge between Alaska and Russia. Researchers suspected these early migrants hunted big game in the continent's interior and only adapted to coastal life once the major megafauna went extinct. But recent research suggests humans came to America as early as 20,000 years ago, possibly traveling the Pacific Rim by boat. If the first Americans did inhabit the coast, a vast archaeological record would have been drowned when sea levels rose at the end of the last ice age. In this roundtable, experts will discuss current theories on how the first Americans arrived and describe the latest research to map and sample submerged areas of the Pacific Coast. Researchers hope to better understand the drowned landscapes of the continental shelf and potentially identify prehistoric archeological sites hidden beneath the waves.

#### Participants:

**Todd Braje**, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, United States;  
**Shannon Klotsko**, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina, United States;  
**Jillian Maloney**, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, United States;  
**Donna Schroeder**, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Camarillo, California, United States.

#### Related sessions:

[SI14A: Reconstruction of Drowned Paleolandscapes and Potential Uses for Underwater Archaeology Posters](#)

### Oceanography in space

**Tuesday, 18 February, 9:00 a.m.**

The discovery of oceans beneath the ice cover of moons orbiting Jupiter and Saturn has raised the possibility that life found near Earth's hydrothermal vents could be an analog for places in the solar system where life may have arisen in addition to, and perhaps independent of, life on Earth. This roundtable will explore new research originating from within the ocean science community that will help inform future space expeditions to ocean worlds in the outer solar system, beginning with NASA's Europa Clipper mission scheduled for launch early in this new decade.

#### Participants:

**Kevin Arrigo**, Stanford University, Stanford, California, United States;  
**Donna Blackman**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, United States;  
**Chris German**, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States;  
**Krista Soderlund**, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States.

#### Related sessions:

[MG24A: Oceanography Beyond Earth: A Frontier in Ocean Sciences II Posters](#)

## Understanding, predicting, and mitigating harmful algal blooms

Thursday, 20 February, 10:00 a.m.

Harmful algal blooms occur when freshwater or marine algae produce toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals and birds. They cause significant economic and environmental damage to coastal communities around the world and can produce toxins that can threaten human health when they accumulate in seafood. This roundtable will discuss the state of scientific understanding of harmful algal blooms and the trans-disciplinary approaches being taken to improve understanding of these events. Panelists will discuss the ability of harmful algal blooms to cross freshwater-marine boundaries, the latest successes and setbacks at prediction and mitigation, and how climate change – including rising temperatures and increasing frequency and magnitudes of extreme weather events – can promote harmful algal blooms.

### Participants:

**Andrew Allen**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and J. Craig Venter Institute, La Jolla, California, United States;

**Clarissa Anderson**, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, United States;

**Raphael Kudela**, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, United States.

### Related sessions:

[CP24G: Transdisciplinary Research and Education in Coastal Systems Posters](#)

[CP34B: Human Populations and Influences in the Coastal Zone: Effects on Ocean and Human Health \(OHH\) V Posters](#)

[OM14A: Advances in Coupled Physical-Biogeochemical Modeling: Continental Shelves, Estuaries, and the Coastal Ocean III Posters](#)

## Seafood sustainability: Take action with what you eat

Thursday, 20 February, 4:30 p.m.

Many fisheries are under intense pressures created by environmental change and consumers' appetites for favored commercial species. A San Diego collective of scientists and seafood purveyors argue we can eat our way out of the problem by developing markets for under-loved species and under-valued cuts of fish, reducing waste across the seafood supply chain. In this roundtable, a biologist, ecologist, economist, fisherman and chef will discuss thinking beyond the fillet to diversify the cuts of fish as well as the catch. Samples will be served at a town hall session following the roundtable discussion.

### Participants:

**Heidi Dewar**, fisheries biologist, NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, San Diego, California, United States;

**Kelly Fukushima**, fisherman, F/V Three Boys; San Diego, California, United States;

**Sarah Mesnick**, ecologist, NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, San Diego, California, United States;

**Christina Ng**, chef and owner, Chinita's Pies, San Diego, California, United States;

**Stephen Stohs**, economist, NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, San Diego, California, United States.

### Related sessions

[TH45F: Culinary conservation: Saving the ocean - and increasing the value of local fisheries - by promoting full utilization across the seafood supply chain](#)