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NEWS ARTICLES

Head of NOAA to Hold Meeting in Ukiah

Washington, Nov 30 - WASHINGTON- At the request of Congressman Mike Thompson (D-North Coast), Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, December 9 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Mendocino Board of Supervisors Chambers in Ukiah.

Dr. Lubchenco will be taking comments from constituencies regarding such issues as the new National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning initiative, fishing catch shares, salmon fishery issues, and other topics of local interest. Speakers from various entities are invited to make a short presentation and there will be time to respond to written questions.

"This is a time of great urgency and strong hope for the oceans," said Dr. Lubchenco to a group during Capitol Hill Ocean Week, adding, "I have had the pleasure of visiting communities on coastlines all around our country. During listening sessions with citizens representing a broad array of interests, I paid special attention to trying to understand what Americans want from their oceans and coasts."

"I'm pleased that Dr. Lubchenco has agreed to come and listen to the concerns of the residents of our district regarding these important issues," said Congressman Thompson. "The ocean and rivers of our district are essential to the well-being and prosperity of the families and the economy of the North Coast."

A marine ecologist and environmental scientist, Dr. Lubchenco became the first woman administrator of NOAA in March, 2009. Her scientific expertise includes oceans, climate change and interactions between the environment and people. Raised in Denver, she received a B.A. degree in biology from Colorado College, a M.S. in zoology from the University of Washington and a Ph.D. in ecology from Harvard University.

She subsequently taught at Harvard and then Oregon State University while actively studying marine ecosystems around the world and championing the importance of science and its relevance to policy making and human well-being.

Dr. Lubchenco has provided scientific input to multiple U.S. Administrations and Congress on climate, fisheries, marine ecosystems and biodiversity. As one of the 'most highly cited' ecologists in the world, Dr. Lubchenco has served on the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and academies of science in Britain, Europe and Chile. She has received numerous awards including a MacArthur ('genius') Fellowship.

For more information on the upcoming meeting contact Congressman Thompson's office at 707-962-0933.

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