

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Central Coast has received two major ocean research grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These grants are targeted at enhancing national ocean research and studying the economic effects our oceans have on the nation.

"The Central Coast is lucky to have so many organizations dedicated to better understanding our oceans," said Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "We must treat our oceans with the care they deserve, and the first step is to realize everything they offer us."

The **Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute** was awarded a \$397,000 grant for its National Ocean Economics Project. The funds will support the ongoing project, which creates and distributes ocean and coastal data sets to the public that support a wide range of economic, scientific and resource management activities. Since 2000, the NOEP Web site has made public a comprehensive collection of data revealing the economic value of the ocean and coasts of the United States. The project has also tracked and analyzed changes and trends in ocean related activities and values of coastal and ocean resources.

The **California Marine Sanctuary Foundation** in Monterey was awarded \$194,065 to continue work on the Integrated Ocean Observing System Observation Registry. The registry is a database that tracks ocean observatories among nonfederal participants in the integrated ocean observing system. The registry supports strategic planning of observing resources and facilitates the use of observation data.

"As I continue to push legislation on responsible ocean management, I know that all our local researchers are standing behind me," Rep. Farr said. "I will keep fighting to ensure they have funds necessary to carry on this most important work."

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