

**Opening Statement
Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC)
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment
House Committee on Science and Technology**

National Sea Grant College Program Act (Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5618)

May 21, 2008

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

Since its inception in 1966, The National Sea Grant program has been a successful collaborative effort of the federal government, state governments, and universities. Under the program, these groups work together to understand, develop, and conserve our coastal and ocean resources.

Currently, more than half of the U.S. population lives on the coasts, and coastal and ocean resources generate more than \$1 trillion of the annual GNP. This reauthorization should equip the Sea Grant program to continue to provide sound science and management products to such a large part of our economy and population.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing from the panelists on their perspectives of this legislation and any suggestions they may have to improve it.