

The Honorable Dr. Jane Lubchenco

University Distinguished Professor in Marine Biology, Oregon State University

Dr. Lubchenco is a world renowned marine biologist and environmental scientist who has deep experience in the worlds of science, academia, public engagement and government. She is a champion of science and of the stronger engagement of scientists with society. She has discovered new knowledge and insights about the natural world – how it works and is changing, and ways in which people can use nature without using it up. Because of her scientific expertise in the ocean, climate change, and interactions between the environment and human well-being, her leadership skills, and her talent in using science to inform policy and management, she was invited to serve as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from 2009-2013. She was nominated for the position by President Obama in December 2008 as part of his “Science Dream Team,” and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2009. To introduce her to his Senate colleagues for her confirmation hearing, Oregon Senator Ron Wyden called Lubchenco ‘the bionic woman of good science.’

Under her leadership, NOAA focused on strengthening science and ensuring scientific integrity at NOAA, restoring fisheries to sustainability and profitability, restoring oceans and coasts to a healthy state, ensuring continuity of the Nation’s weather and other environmental satellites, developing a Weather-Ready Nation, promoting climate science and delivering climate information and services to inform understanding and preparedness.

Following her resignation from NOAA, she was the 2013 Haas Distinguished Visitor in Public Service at Stanford University. She then accepted the offer to return to Oregon State University as the University Distinguished Professor and Marine Studies Advisor to the President.

In 2014, President Obama and Secretary John Kerry tapped her to serve as the first U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean, a *pro bono* position with the U.S. State Department. In that capacity, she worked closely with leaders in government, civil society, business and science in two countries in Asia (China and Indonesia) and three in Africa (South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles) to advance awareness and action about climate change and the ocean. Although her tenure in that role has ended, she remains actively involved in a number of the projects she initiated as the Science Envoy for the Ocean.

She received her B.A. in biology from Colorado College, her M.S. in zoology from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in ecology from Harvard University. Her academic career as a professor began at Harvard University (1975-1977) and continued at Oregon State University (1977-2009) until her appointment as NOAA Administrator.

Lubchenco has been elected by her peers to numerous leadership roles including president of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS), the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the Ecological Society of America. She served for ten years on the National Science Board, the Board of Directors for the National Science Foundation, a presidentially appointed, congressionally confirmed position.

Lubchenco has also served or serves on numerous National Academy of Sciences committees and several commissions, including the Pew Oceans Commission, the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, the Aspen Institute Arctic Commission, the Council of Advisors for Google Ocean, the Blue Ribbon Panel for the World Bank’s Global Partnership for Oceans and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network that advises the UN Secretary General, and the Council on Foreign Relations Arctic Task Force.

She has been recognized as an innovative and gifted teacher by undergraduate and graduate students alike, e.g., receiving the ‘Outstanding Teacher Award’ at OSU. Her courses emphasize a combination of the mystery,

majesty, relevance and excitement of science, and the importance of scientists engaging with society. The 30 Ph.D. students, 10 M.S., and 15 Postdoctoral students who completed their studies under her direction have gone on to successful careers as stellar scientists, gifted administrators, inspiring teachers, helpful mentors, sought-after consultants, and effective governmental and non-governmental scientists.

Lubchenco is one of the “most highly cited” ecologists in the world; eight of her publications are recognized as “Science Citation Classics.” She is best known for both her fundamental and use-inspired research – explaining causes of patterns of biodiversity, the factors underlying patterns of distribution and abundance of rocky seashore species, impacts and design of marine protected areas and marine reserves, impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and marine spatial planning. For her stellar scientific contributions, she has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Philosophical Society; the Royal Society; The World Academy of Science; and the Chilean Academy of Science.

Lubchenco has received numerous awards recognizing her innovative scientific contributions, effective leadership roles, policy and management accomplishments and public outreach efforts: a MacArthur “genius” Fellowship, 20 honorary doctorates, the Heinz Award for the Environment, AAAS’s Public Understanding of Science and Technology Award, the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, the Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Policy, the Blue Planet Prize, the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Ecology and Conservation Biology, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Climate Change Award, The World Academy of Sciences Medal, the Miguel Alemán Medal, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, the Linus Pauling Legacy Award, and the most prestigious award given by the National Academy of Sciences, the Public Welfare Medal. She was named “2010 Newsmaker of the Year” by the scientific journal *Nature*; she received the highest honor the Coast Guard gives to a civilian, the U. S. Coast Guard Public Service Award; and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, the Seattle Aquarium Medal, the Eminent Ecologist Award from the Ecological Society of America, and the Schneider Award for Climate Communication.

Dr. Lubchenco is passionate about promoting the discovery, communication and use of scientific knowledge in policy, management and public understanding. She is a strong champion of recovering oceans and coastal areas to a healthy state through a combination of fishery reform, creating fully protected marine parks, using ecosystem-based management and marine spatial planning, reducing the rate of climate change and ocean acidification and adaptation to changes underway.

She is widely recognized for promoting the concept of ‘a social contract for scientists’ in which scientists have a moral obligation to engage with society to pursue and share knowledge that is relevant to society’s most pressing problems, and do so with transparency, honesty and humility.

She has created and led numerous efforts to advance scientific knowledge of a range of topics including climate change, biodiversity, conservation, sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, ocean acidification and a healthy ocean. Many of these scientific advances have resulted in dramatic changes in policies and practices. For example, she initiated and led the Science of Marine Reserves project that has synthesized and widely shared knowledge about fully protected marine reserves. The broad dissemination of this information and the sustained engagement of numerous scientists with ocean users, lovers and managers has contributed significantly to an order of magnitude increase over the last decade in the amount of fully protected marine areas globally. She also co-founded a multimillion dollar, place-based research consortium, PISCO, that studies the near-shore ocean along the coasts of Oregon and California and resulted in significant advancement in knowledge as well as improved public awareness and management. PISCO research informs fishery management, citizen-science, conservation organization activities, and state and federal policies.

Lubchenco has been in the forefront of sustained efforts to inspire, incentivize and enable scientists to serve society by being more engaged with citizens and leaders. She co-founded three non-profit, non-advocacy organizations that enhance communication of scientific knowledge to the public, policy makers, media and industry. The Leopold Leadership Program trains mid-career academic environmental scientists to be effective leaders and communicators. COMPASS enables scientist to engage, and engage effectively, in the public discourse about the environment through communication trainings, coaching and networking. Climate Central researches and reports the science and impacts of climate change. Each of these three start-ups is now a thriving organization that is enabling science and scientists to better serve society.

Lubchenco actively engages with leaders in business, civil society, faith-based organizations, and governments on a wide range of issues and projects. Lubchenco is widely sought after as a scientist who can bring scientific knowledge and thinking to philanthropic, conservation, business and environmental organizations. She currently serves as Director or Trustee of the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, Harvard University's Board of Overseers, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and the newly created Oceano Azul Foundation.

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