

OCEAN & CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE

Climate Science Day on Capitol Hill

Woods Hole Scientists Discuss Climate Change with Congressional Staffers

On February 26-27 Sarah Das (Geology & Geophysics) and Fiamma Straneo (Physical Oceanography) took part in the third annual Climate Science Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Coordinated by the Climate Science Working group, a consortium of 15 science agencies, the event offered a non-partisan opportunity for scientists of



Congressman William Keating met with Woods Hole Oceanographic's Sarah Das and Fiamma Straneo in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Kerry O'Brien)

many disciplines to build relationships and provide members of Congress access to the best possible climate science information. Das and Straneo participated by invitation of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), with travel support provided through OCCI, and joined 48 other climate scientists from 21 additional states.

On Day One, a workshop held at the American Association for the Advancement of Science included presentations on communicating climate science, a briefing with Congressional staff, and mock visits. On the second day scientists made Congressional visits on Capitol Hill.

Das and Straneo met with the staffs of five members of the Massachusetts delegation: Senators Elizabeth Warren and William Cowan, and Representatives William Keating, Ed Markey and Niki Tsongas. They also met with the staff of the House Natural Resources Committee (of which Rep. Markey is the ranking minority member) and had a personal meeting with Congressman Keating, whose district includes Cape Cod. Das and Straneo primarily used this opportunity to discuss the impacts of climate change taking place in or near Massachusetts, to briefly highlight their own areas of research, and to encourage the offices to take advantage of the scientific resources and expertise in their own state/districts. Topics of particular interest included coastal hazards due to sea level rise and storms, and how changes in ocean temperature, chemistry and/or circulation may be impacting Northeast fisheries.