

# CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

## PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

### SENATE

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWARD C. MONAHAN

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Mr. Blumenthal. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Edward C. Monahan, a professor at the University of Connecticut and longtime director of Connecticut Sea Grant.

Throughout his two decade tenure as director, Dr. Monahan positively transformed Connecticut Sea Grant, which is an integral part of a national network of programs that strive to protect and enhance our coastal and marine ecosystems through outreach, education, research, and technology. His remarkable work and visionary leadership secured vital funding for initiatives that improved the water quality in the Long Island Sound and helped establish a full-fledged Sea Grant College Program in our State.

Dr. Monahan demonstrated his excellent qualities as a leader through his decisive problem solving and readiness to find and implement solutions to critically important issues. A notable example came in 1999, when the Long Island Sound faced lobster die-off, an unprecedented disaster for the sound's resources. He responded immediately by awarding development funds for pathobiologists to investigate the cause. The issue turned out far more complicated than initially expected, but Dr. Monahan smartly worked to allocate \$3 million in Federal disaster relief funds to investigate the source. Over 3 years, 65 researchers at 30 institutions too part in 21 lobster research projects. This research helped uncover essential information for lobster biologists and led to changes in state and local pesticide usage for mosquito control.

One of the other landmarks of Dr. Monahan's directorship was his expansion of Sea Grant's international collaboration. Recognizing the advantages of overseas partnerships, Dr. Monahan worked with universities and government agencies to forge new connections that would support the exchange of innovative marine education, research, and technology. Impressively, he launched the Irish-American Aquaculture Initiative. This initiative launched a formal collaboration between Northeast United States Sea Grant programs and universities in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Dr. Monahan also helped to establish relationships with Sea Grant activities in Mexico, Chile, China, and Germany, which set a new standard for international cooperation.

Among his many accomplishments as director of Connecticut Sea Grant, Dr. Monahan also served on the Sea Grant Association, a nonprofit that organizes events at the national level and advocates for better understanding, use, and conservation of natural resources. Thanks to his outstanding efforts, Sea Grant has developed into an even more successful program. In recognition of his immense and ongoing contributions, the Sea Grant Association awarded Dr. Monahan its prestigious President's Award in 2000 and 2001, along with its Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

I applaud his lifetime of dogged commitment to Connecticut's coastal and marine health and hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Monahan for his extraordinary contributions to the marine sciences.