



WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

*The International Cross-Sectoral Industry Leadership Alliance
for Ocean Sustainability*

NEWS RELEASE

World Ocean Council Partners on Sustainable Shipping and Offshore Oil Decommissioning Conferences

Important industry conferences address key marine environmental challenges:

- **Environmental Vigilance: Taking the Lead in Environmental Protection (Abu Dhabi, March 1-3)**
- **Environmental Intelligence in Shipping (San Francisco, March 9)**
- **Decommissioning and Abandonment Summit, Gulf of Mexico (Houston, March 29-30)**

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The World Ocean Council (WOC) - the international business alliance on ocean sustainability - is proud to be a partner in important ocean industry conferences tackling the important environmental challenges facing the major economic uses of ocean space and resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL VIGILANCE: TAKING THE LEAD IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Abu Dhabi, March 1-3)

The National Transport Authority of United Arab Emirates (UAE) has teamed up with the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) to organize this environmental maritime event as part of "The United Arab Emirates in the 21st Century: Working Together for a Greener Maritime World". The National Transport Authority hosting of the event underscores the UAE commitment to sustainable shipping. The UAE is a leader in environmental initiatives and will extend this leadership into the maritime arena. The summit will engage the maritime stakeholders in a collaborative approach to secure that environmental issues remain a high priority for the maritime community and its many constituencies.

The goals for "Environmental Vigilance" include recognizing the critical environmental issues facing the global maritime community and how they are being addressed on the regulatory, enforcement, industry, flag and NGO front to bring these issues to public awareness; examining how innovations in ship design and practices are facilitating the goals of environmental vigilance; reinforcing the need for environmental vigilance in a challenging market and economic environment; and promoting the work that is being done to ensure environmental compliance. The March 3rd workshop will develop a program for furthering the awareness of environmental compliance, identify next steps and action needs to implement the program.

For more information: www.nta.gov.ae/forms/en/NTA%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE IN SHIPPING (San Francisco, March 9)

NAMEPA debuts its Seminars with a targeted event on "Environmental Intelligence in Shipping". The NAMEPA Seminars bring together stakeholders in the marine community to discuss concerns and actions on marine environment protection. The goal of the Seminar Series is to create greater awareness of the issues and the work that is being undertaken to mitigate potential problems, and to foster collaboration amongst the stakeholders.

The March 9 Seminar will focus on three high priority areas of concern to the marine community, both the commercial maritime industry and conservationists: a) Air Emissions: Challenges and Issues; b) Wreck Waste Removal Programs; and c) Noise Emissions from Maritime Activities

For more information: www.namepa.net/events.html

DECOMMISSIONING AND ABANDONMENT SUMMIT, GULF OF MEXICO (Houston, March 29-30)

The Decommissioning and Abandonment Summit has been developed as the leading meeting point for the decommissioning community in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Working with the Operators Decommissioning Group, the organizers have pulled together a focused agenda that tackles the challenges most important to successful decommissioning of offshore oil and gas facilities.

The conference brings together senior level decision makers, engineers, project managers and buyers from oil and gas industry operators with decommissioning needs as well as contractors with decommissioning services or technologies.

Conference sessions address the planning and execution of cost effective, time efficient, environmentally sound decommissioning projects in the GOM:

- *Inside Track On Regulations*: Providing updates on the latest regulatory developments direct from the MMS and how they will impact decommissioning portfolios and planning.
- *Operator Case Studies*: Creating understanding of the decommissioning strategies of leading Major and Independent GOM operators through real examples of recent projects and their implementation.
- *Understand Insurance & Risk Mitigation*: Addressing the significant impact rising insurance premiums have had on GOM operators and how to mitigate these and other financial risks.
- *Cutting Edge Technology Update*: Informing on new and innovative technology and the challenges of well plugging and abandonment, cutting technology and sub-sea decommissioning to ensure effective toolboxes.
- *Deepwater Futures*: Developing insight into the MMS Deepwater Decommissioning report and why to prepare for the challenges of deepwater decommissioning now.

For more information:

www.eyeforeenergy.com/gom/index.shtml or <http://www.eyeforeenergy.com/gom/mailshot1209/index.htm>

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT (Belfast, UK, June 15-17, 2010)

The WOC will convene a wide range of ocean industries at the *Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS)* - the first international, cross-sectoral business conference on ocean stewardship. Representatives from shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, ports, mining, insurance, law, finance, renewable energy, dredging, marine technology and other industries will gather in Belfast.

At the SOS, ocean industries will develop the leadership, collaboration and work program to address priority cross-cutting marine environmental challenges. These include: climate change, environmental risk and responsible ocean business, the Arctic Ocean, ocean science, mariner education/training, invasive species, seafood industry interaction with other users, ocean noise, ship strikes on marine mammals, renewable energy interaction with other industries, marine debris.

This unprecedented gathering will open with the *Roundtable of Ocean Industry Association Leaders* and close with a plenary on *Improving Media, Public and NGO Understanding of Ocean Industries*. The SOS is organized in partnership with Golder Associates.

For more information: www.oceancouncil.org

The World Ocean Council is the international, cross-sectoral industry alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in ocean stewardship. Companies and associations worldwide are distinguishing themselves as sustainability leaders by joining the WOC as Founding Members in 2009/2010.

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