



News Release

INVOLVING INDUSTRY IN SUSTAINING ARCTIC OBSERVATIONS

WOC Co-Leading Private Sector Theme at Arctic Observing Summit (Fairbanks, Alaska, 16-18 March, 2016)

26 February 2016

The World Ocean Council (WOC) is working to ensure that the Arctic Observing Summit engages and advances industry needs and opportunities on Arctic data collection and sharing.

The WOC CEO, Paul Holthus, and Michael Macrander, Shell, will address the Arctic Observing Summit's plenary on private-public partnerships, data sharing, and industry data collection from vessels and platforms of opportunity in the Arctic.

WOC's Holthus and David Arthurs, Managing Director, Polar View Earth Observation, are co-organizing the private sector theme sessions of the Arctic Observing Summit.

The 3 sessions will cover:

- Industry Needs for Arctic Observations and Data (Panel/discussion)
- Industry Experience in Data Collection and Sharing (Panel/discussion)
- Fostering Data Collection and Sharing by Industry (Workshop)

Industry panellists will address the needs, opportunities, experience and value proposition for private sector involvement in data collection. The third session workshop will draw out ideas and actions to best develop and coordinate cooperation between industry and the research and observation community.

With decreasing sea ice and increased private sector activity in the Arctic, including oil and gas, shipping, fishing, tourism, and mining - along with associated port and coastal infrastructure development, there is a need for better Arctic information to support safe, responsible, and effective industry operations. This information could be provided by an Arctic observing system involving the research community, governments, and industry. In particular, there is a need and opportunity for industry data collection and sharing, e.g. in relation to the World Ocean Council "Smart Ocean-Smart Industries" program.

For more information on the Arctic Observing Summit, see <https://assw2016.org/about/aos>

[**Upcoming WOC Outreach**](#)

29 February-1 March

LONDON: **Inmarsat Developer Conference** - Speaker

16-18 March

FAIRBANKS: **Arctic Observing Summit** - Plenary Speaker; Co-Organizer/Chair,
Private sector theme sessions and workshop

22-24 March

ARUBA: **Private Sector Partnerships for Small Islands** - Plenary Speaker

28-30 March

NEW YORK: **U.N. Law of the Sea, Preparatory Committee Meeting** (28 March-8
April) - Industry Representative

“Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United
Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable
use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”

31 March-1 April

THE HAGUE: **Global Governance Reform Initiative – Oceans Governance**, Hague
Institute for Global Justice - Participant

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”. Companies and associations worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in ocean sustainability, stewardship and science by joining the WOC. Members to date include 85+ leadership organizations from a wide range of ocean industries: oil and gas, shipping, seafood, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, marine mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, maritime law, marine environmental services and other areas. For the current list of WOC Members, [click here](#). The WOC News Release is received by 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

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