



News Release

WOC ADVANCES CONSIDERATION OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN NORTH SEA REGION

North Sea Industry Leaders Participate in Webinar on MSP Opportunities and Challenges Organized by WOC and Scottish Association for Marine Science

15 March 2016

Ocean businesses gathered online to discuss the challenges and perspectives of marine spatial planning (MSP) in the North Sea region at a World Ocean Council (WOC) and Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) webinar on Monday, 29 February 2016. Industry representatives were able to inform the approach to MSP in the North Sea and beyond and strengthen the network of ocean industry leaders in the region.

With the North Sea as an increasingly industrialized and crucial region for the EU maritime economy, both governmental bodies and companies have emphasized the need to minimize conflicts between existing and new offshore uses. With growing intensity of marine activities, increased demand for energy and space, and a number of maritime states bordering a shared sea area, North Sea states are pursuing development of MSP processes and considering harmonizing plans across the region.

To foster increased industry MSP understanding and engagement, the WOC/SAMS webinar hosted a diverse group of companies to identify: key challenges regarding MSP as a new tool, the opportunities and benefits MSP could create for industry, and ideas for industry leadership in MSP.

The WOC/SAMS webinar summary consolidates key points for marine planning leaders in the North Sea region to consider regarding the private sector. The summary is available on the WOC website and contributes to the development of industry perspectives on best practices, for existing and future MSP. [Click here](#).

As the international, multi-industry leadership alliance on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, the WOC facilitates industry participation in MSP projects and other projects of the EU, e.g. Horizon 2020, and other government and inter-governmental bodies. WOC and SAMS appreciates the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for the webinar.

For more information on WOC's MSP Program, visit <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/planning.php>.

Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

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” (BBNJ)

31 March-1 April

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

4-5 April

ROTTERDAM: Meetings to advance *Sustainable Ocean Summit* 2016 planning

6-8 April

BARCELONA: **Offshore Mariculture** - Hague Institute for Global Justice - Plenary
Speaker on “Ocean Smart Mariculture”

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, cruise tourism, 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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