



News Release

## **WOC ANNOUNCES THEME AND PROGRAM FOR 2016 “SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT”**

**“Ocean 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Business Community”  
is the Theme for SOS 2016 (30 Nov-2 Dec, Rotterdam)**

8 May 2016

**The international ocean business community will gather at the World Ocean Council (WOC) Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2016 to advance leadership and collaboration in developing industry-driven solutions to ocean sustainable development challenges.**

**With the theme of “Ocean 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Business Community”, the SOS 2016 will:**

- Address the 2016-2030 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and what they mean for the ocean business community.
- Advance development of SDG targets and indicators being developed with and for the Ocean Business Community via the WOC during 2016.

The SOS 2016 theme recognizes:

- The SDGs adopted by the U.N. in 2015 to guide international economic development from 2016-2030.
- The growth of the ocean economy and the diverse ocean business community, and their contribution to the food, energy, transport, communications and other needs of society.
- The role of the ocean business community over the next 15 years, and beyond, in 1) Ensuring the health, productivity and sustainable development of the ocean, 2) Advancing responsible ocean economic activity that contributes jobs, income, goods and services in support of societal needs.

The SOS 2016 program potential Plenary Sessions include:

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Ocean Business Community
2. Ocean Executive Forum: The Multi-Sector Ocean CEO Panel
3. Ocean 2030: Ocean Industry Projections and the Future of the Ocean Economy
4. European Blue Growth: EU Plans for the Ocean Economy and Sustainable Development, and the Role of the Marine Strategy Directive
5. Investment and Innovation for Ocean Sustainable Development

The SOS 2016 program potential Parallel Sessions include:

**Improving Ocean Governance and Marine Planning**

- Law of the Sea: What the Development of a New Binding Legal Agreement Means for Ocean Industries and How to Engage with Other Ocean Stakeholders in Balancing Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
- Marine Planning and International Waters: Shaping High Seas Sustainable Development Through Spatial Planning
- Marine Planning and the North Sea: Multiple Ocean Use and Sustainable Development in a Heavily Used, Transboundary Sea Basin
- Multi-use Offshore Infrastructure: Creating Synergies in Ocean Industry Facilities
- The Future of Ocean Habitation: Projects and Plans for Living On and Under the Seas

#### **Conserving Marine Biodiversity and Reducing Marine Pollution**

- Marine Protected Areas and Ocean Industries: Balancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in an Interconnected Global Ocean
- Marine Sound: Reducing Impacts to Biodiversity through a Global, Multi-Industry Approach to Marine Sound
- BioFouling and Invasive Species: Reducing Impacts to Biodiversity through a Global, Multi-Industry Approach to Biofouling
- Plastics and Marine Debris: Reducing Impacts to Biodiversity by Ensuring Adequate Port Reception Facilities for Shipborne Wastes and Discharges

#### **Improving Ocean Knowledge**

- Smart Ocean-Smart Industries: Industry Data Collection to Improve Ocean and Climate Knowledge

#### **Contributing to Food Security**

- Fisheries: Ocean Industry Interactions and Sustainable Fisheries in a Growing Multiple-Use Ocean
- Pirate Fishing: The Role of Ocean Industries, Technology and Innovation in Reducing IUU Fishing
- Aquaculture: Advancing Sustainable Aquaculture in an Increasingly Crowded, Multi-Use Ocean

#### **Addressing Climate Change**

- Adaptation: Ocean Industry Collaboration to ensure Ports Resiliency for Sea Level Rise and Extreme Events
- Ocean Acidification: Advancing Ocean Business Community Knowledge and Action
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>: Evaluating the Potential for Responsible Carbon Uptake Initiatives
- Renewable Energy and the Ocean: Addressing Constraints to the Growth of Offshore Wind and Ocean Energy

#### **Advancing Maritime Industry Collaboration**

- Maritime Clusters: Progress and Lessons Learned in Private Sector Collaboration to Advance Responsible Ocean Economic Development
- Maritime Accidents: Prevention, Search, Rescue, Recovery, Salvage and Pollution Prevention
- Marine Engines: Improving Energy Efficiency and Reducing Emissions Across the Sectors

#### **Engaging Sector Developments and Opportunities**

- Marine Mining: Opportunities and Challenges for a New Ocean Industry
- Dredging: Environmentally Responsible Dredging in Support of Sustainable Development
- Offshore Oil and Gas: Cross-Sectoral Opportunities from Rig Decommissioning and Re-Use
- Shipping: Potential for Synergies among Green/Clean/Sustainable Shipping Programs

#### **Creating Regional Ocean Industry Leadership**

- Arctic: Ocean Business Scenarios and Responsible Arctic Development
- Western Indian Ocean/E Africa: Regional Ocean Industry Leadership

More detailed information on these topics and a *Call for Abstracts* will be available soon. The final SOS 2016 program will reflect the level of interest in these, or other, topics. New topics may be added based on expressions of interest. Interested parties are invited to propose session themes that they would like to sponsor and organize. Please contact [info@oceancouncil.org](mailto:info@oceancouncil.org) to propose a session at SOS 2016.

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#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2016: 30 Nov-02 Dec, Rotterdam**

***“Ocean 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Business Community”***

The next World Ocean Council Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) will take place in Rotterdam. The specific venue and draft program will be announced soon. Mark your calendars for this unique gathering of the global ocean business community.

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#### **Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement**

11-12 May

SINGAPORE: **6th Maritime Security Management Summit** - Plenary Speaker

14-15 May

COLUMBO, SRI LANKA: **Global Environment Facility, International Roundtable: Partnering with the Private Sector for Sustainable Financing from Source-to-Sea** - Plenary Speaker, Session Chair

17-18 May

DUBAI: **Offshore Arabia 2016** - Plenary Speaker

18-19 May

TURKU, FINLAND: **European Maritime Day 2016** - Theme Session Panelist “Improving Ocean Governance”; Workshop Panelist “Blue Growth – regional/international approaches and the role of industry/SMEs”

23-24 May

LONDON: **Deep Sea Mining Summit** - Plenary Speaker

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#### **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 80+ 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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