



News Release

WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THEME AND PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT (SOS) 2017

The theme for 5th Sustainable Ocean Summit (29 Nov – 1 Dec 2017, Halifax, Canada) is “The Ocean Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14): Business Leadership and Business Opportunities”

4 May 2017

Since 2010, the WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) has been the unique gathering of the world’s ocean industries focused on sustainable development, science and stewardship of the global ocean. The international ocean business community will gather again this year to advance leadership and collaboration in developing industry-driven solutions to ocean sustainability challenges.

The SOS 2017 will:

- Focus on ocean business community leadership in achieving the U.N. “Ocean” Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 14.
- Develop business growth and investment opportunities in ocean sustainable development.
- Ensure continuity and follow through with the themes, discussions, and outputs from previous SOS events.
- Build on the results and momentum of the U.N. Ocean/SDG 14 Conference (June 2017), the “Our Ocean” conference (October 2017) and other ocean events of 2017 by bringing these to the unique convening of the global ocean business community that the SOS provides.

The SOS 2017 theme recognizes:

- The growth of the Ocean Economy and its contribution to food, energy, transport, communications and other needs of society as part of the U.N. SDG process/Agenda 2030.
- The role of the Ocean Business Community over the next 15 years, and beyond, in ensuring ocean sustainable development.

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2017: Program Topics

The program and topics for SOS 2017 are being developed with input from the business community.

The draft SOS 2017 conference program includes the following proposed sessions:

Plenary Sessions

- Opening Plenary: Leadership and Success Stories in Ocean Sustainable Development
- Ocean Executive Forum: The Signature SOS Panel of CEOs from Across the Sectors
- Ocean 2030: Ocean Industry Projections and the Future of the Ocean Economy (covering ocean transportation, energy, food, tourism, and minerals)
- Ocean Investment Platform: Financing Ocean Sustainable Development
- SDGs: Business Development and Opportunities Linked to SDG 14
- The Digital Ocean: Big Ocean Data for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030

Parallel Sessions

Parallel sessions will be built around the targets of the SDG 14 and the other SDGs that are strongly related to ocean sustainable development issues and opportunities.

MARINE POLLUTION

- Circular Economy, Marine Debris, Plastics: The Need for Port Reception Facilities
- Biofouling and Invasive Species: Addressing the Threat through Industry Collaboration

CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT

- Arctic Sustainable Development: Maritime Vessels Traffic Projections and Scenarios
- High Seas Area-Based Management and Protected Areas: Engaging Industry as an Essential Partner
- Addressing Conflicts/Developing Synergies: Oil and Gas and Fisheries
- Addressing Conflicts/Developing Synergies: Wind Energy and Fisheries
- Ship Strikes and Marine Mammals: Practical Solutions for Ocean Industries

CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- CO2 Sequestration at Sea: Considering the Case for Responsible Negative Emissions
- Port Resiliency to Sea Level Rise and Extreme Events: Ocean Industry Collaboration to Advance Adaptation for Small Islands and Developing Countries

FOOD SECURITY: SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

- Pirate Fishing: Harnessing Technology and Investment for Catch Documentation and Traceability
- Aquaculture: Advancing Sustainable Aquaculture in a Multi-Use Ocean

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)

- Offshore Renewable Energy: Scaling Up Decarbonized Energy Options for SIDS and LDCS

OCEAN KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

- Smart Ocean-Smart Industries: Advancing Ocean Industry Data Collection, including on Ocean Acidification

OCEAN GOVERNANCE INCLUDING UNCLOS

- UN Law of the Sea: New Legally Binding Instrument on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and Ocean Industries
- Dark Vessels: Monitoring and Reporting Illicit Vessels

SDG Cross-cutting workshops

- Young Ocean Professionals: Achieving Agenda 2030 through Future Industry Leaders
- Sustainable/Green Shipping Initiatives: Coordination and Collaboration for Synergies
- Maritime Clusters: Engaging a Global Network of Clusters in Support of Ocean Sustainable Development
- Blue-Action: Understanding Arctic Impact on Weather and Climate Service
- Climate and Ocean: Advancing Industry Awareness and Action

Invitation only event

- CEOcean Club: A Networking Reception for the C-Suite Participants at SOS 2017

More detailed information on these topics and a *Call for Abstracts* will be available soon.

Program Development

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 to propose a session at SOS 2017.

The evolving SOS 2017 program will reflect the level of interest in these and potentially other topics.

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2017: Workshops

Interested parties are invited to propose workshops that they would like to sponsor and organize in the days preceding or following the SOS 2017. Please contact info@oceancouncil.org to propose a workshop to be held in association with SOS 2017.

Registration

SOS 2017 registrations will open in June 2017. Conference space is limited so register early to secure a place at the only ocean sustainable development event developed by and for the global ocean business community.

SAVE THE DATE

Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2017: 29 Nov-01 Dec, Halifax, Canada

**SOS 2017 Theme: “The Ocean Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14):
Business Leadership and Business Opportunities”**

Mark your calendars for this unique gathering of the global ocean business community.

Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

8 May, FAIRBANKS

Arctic Council/Arctic Economic Council Annual Meeting (Invited Speaker)

8-12 May, BARCELONA

Oceanoise 2017 (Invited Speaker)

12 May, LONDON

Valuing the Oceans: Scoping a Supplement to the Natural Capital Protocol (Participant)

14 May, BEIJING

Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (Invited Panelist)

16 May, BEIJING

2nd Silk Road Summit (Invited Panelist)

18-19 May, POOLE

European Maritime Days

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, investment. WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

Contact email: info@oceancouncil.org **Web:** www.oceancouncil.org

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