



The International Business Alliance  
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

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**The challenge**

**The ocean is an interconnected global ecosystem supporting a wide range of uses. Maintaining a healthy ocean requires responsible stewardship by all users.**

Concerns about the impacts of economic activity on ocean health from growing range and level of commercial use are on the rise. These concerns may limit industry access to marine areas and resources. Ocean users are increasingly being held accountable by governments and NGOs for the state of the ocean. Continued ocean access and use will increasingly require the social license to operate - above and beyond simple regulatory compliance - and participation in Sustainable Development Goals.

The best efforts by a single company or an entire sector will not be enough to address the cumulative impacts on the inter-connected marine ecosystem from growing use across the sectors. Companies dependent on the ocean can achieve business value from working with others to address shared challenges regarding sustainable development, science and stewardship.

**Creating an ocean business alliance**

**The World Ocean Council is the only international, cross-sectoral industry leadership alliance on “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”.**

The WOC brings together the diverse ocean business community (shipping, fisheries, oil & gas, aquaculture, offshore renewables, tourism, seabed mining, marine technology, manufacturers, law, retailers, insurers, finance, etc.) to achieve the business benefits of cross-sectoral leadership and collaboration.

The WOC develops global ‘platforms’ on cross-cutting ocean business and sustainability challenges, e.g. ocean policy & governance, marine planning, marine debris, marine sound, marine mammal impacts, water pollution, data collection by industry vessels & platforms, sea level rise/extreme event impacts, priority regions (Arctic, Indian Ocean), and investment & innovation for ocean sustainable development.

**The invitation**

**Responsible ocean companies are invited join the growing number distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility” through the WOC.**

In addition to the 75+ WOC Members from the diverse ocean business community, the WOC Network includes 34,000+ ocean industry and media stakeholders around the world. The WOC is recognized or accredited by numerous U.N. agencies and other international organizations as the credible, global leadership body on ocean business and sustainability. The *WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS)* - 2010, Belfast; 2013, Washington DC; 2015, Singapore; 2016, Rotterdam; 2017, Halifax - is acknowledged as the international ocean business community conference on Corporate Ocean Responsibility.

