



News Release

FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW LAW OF THE SEA REGULATIONS BEGIN IN JULY; WOC WEBINARS WILL BRIEF OCEAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY

World Ocean Council Webinars Will Ensure Ocean Industries are Informed on Status and Content of Proposed New High Seas Biodiversity Rules

22 June 2017

The 4th (and final) U.N. meeting to negotiate a new legally binding instrument to expand the Law of the Sea to regulate the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) will take place 10-21 July. The World Ocean Council (WOC) has been providing the only comprehensive ocean business community presence in the BBNJ process.

To ensure that the private sector is aware of the status of the negotiations and the content of the emerging BBNJ legal agreement, the WOC is organizing three webinars, each of which will cover one of the three main elements of the negotiations:

Webinar 1 – BBNJ: Area-based Management Tools including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
Monday, June 26, 5PM- 6PM UTC [Click here to register](#)

Speakers: [Paul Holthus](#), WOC CEO; [Stella Bartolini](#), WOC BBNJ Project Officer; [Lora L. Nordtvedt Reeve](#), Principal, Global Ocean Consulting, LLC

Webinar 2 - BBNJ: Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)
Wednesday, June 28, 7PM-8PM UTC [Click here to register](#)

Speakers: [Paul Holthus](#), WOC CEO; [Stella Bartolini](#), WOC BBNJ Project Officer; [Robin Warner](#), Professor, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong

Webinar 3 - BBNJ: Marine Genetic Resources, including benefit sharing
Tuesday, July 11, 12PM-1PM UTC [Click here to register](#)

Speakers: [Paul Holthus](#), WOC CEO; [Stella Bartolini](#), WOC BBNJ Project Officer; [Thomas Vanagt](#), Managing Director, eCOAST Marine Research

Later in the year, a full review and analysis for industry of the final text for the proposed BBNJ legally binding agreement to the Law of the Sea will take place at a special session of the 2017 Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS), Halifax, 29 Nov -1 Dec.

It is critical that the ocean business community is well informed of this U.N. process and the changes it will bring to commercial activities in international waters for decades to come. To help promote coordinated industry involvement in the BBNJ process, the WOC and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organized the “UNCLOS-BBNJ Coalition”, with the International Chamber of Shipping as chair, and including organizations such as Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC), European Network of Maritime Clusters and Marine Bio-Technologies Center of Innovation. Additional ocean industry organizations are invited and encouraged to participate in the coalition.

The WOC is organizing for industry the only expert review and analysis of the BBNJ process, covering the preparatory dynamics, priority BBNJ issues, concerns and input of governments and other stakeholders, and the evolving content of the new legally binding agreement.

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

10-21 July, NEW YORK

U.N. Law of the Sea, 4th BBNJ Preparatory Committee Meeting - 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) (Industry Representative)

10-19 July, NEW YORK

U.N. High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Sustainable Development Goals (Participant)

13 July, NEW YORK

U.N. HLPF Sustainable Development Goals: Agriculture and Food Day - Interlinkages Between Goal 2 and Goal 14 (Invited Speaker)

18 July, NEW YORK

U.N. Sustainable Development Goals Business Forum (Participant)

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.

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