

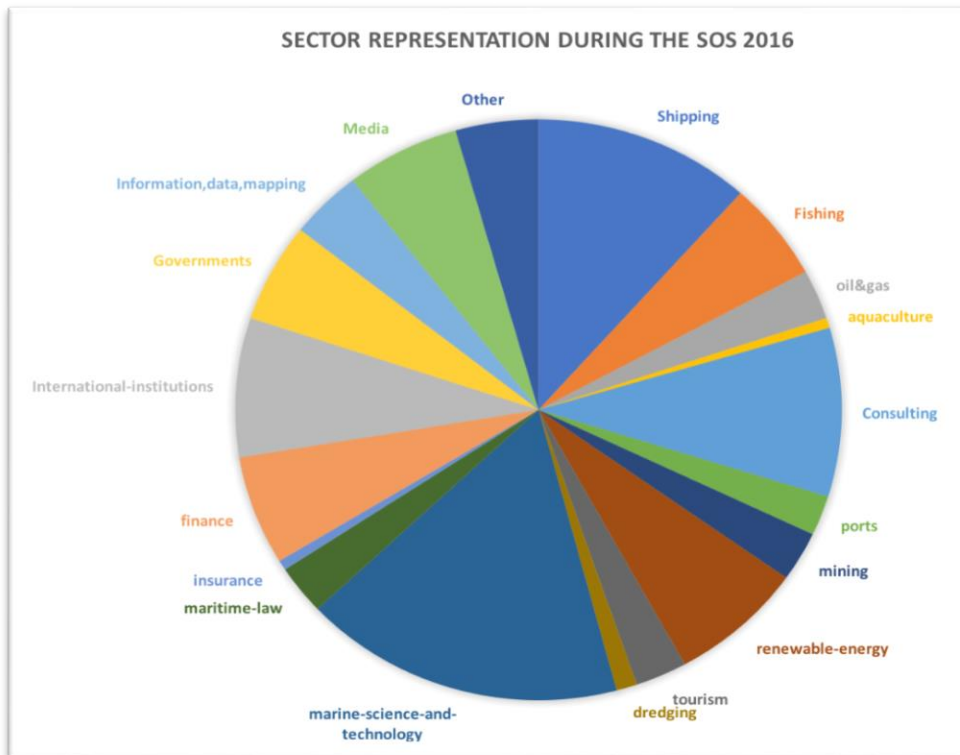
SOS 2016 Report Executive Summary

The World Ocean Council (WOC) [Sustainable Ocean Summit \(SOS\)](#) has become the premier forum for advancing industry leadership, ocean sustainable development, science and stewardship. Following the success of SOS in Singapore (2015), Washington D.C. (2013), Belfast (2010) and the continuing growth of the WOC, SOS 2016 was organized in Rotterdam, from November 30 to December 2, 2016.

The SOS 2016 theme “**Ocean 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Business Community**” has been addressed in a unique global business conference program. The SOS provided a **timely, global platform for leadership companies and organizations to advance *Corporate Ocean Responsibility*** and the implementation of ocean business community solutions to ocean sustainable development challenges.

Over three days, SOS 2016 attendees explored a range of cross-sectoral topics, strategies and solutions through workshops, plenary and parallel sessions. The working format helped identify clear, realistic pathways to **successfully achieving shared objectives for sustainable ocean use**.

SOS 2016 brought together a wide range of industries involved in the use of marine space and marine resources. The different sectors represented can be seen in the graph 1, below.



Graph 1. Sector representation of the SOS 2016 Participants

Attendees were primarily high-ranking executives and senior sustainability officers from the Ocean Business Community. Representatives of international organizations, government agencies, and academic research institutions were also in attendance. More than 230 participants represented 32 countries from all continents (in order of representation: Europe, America, Asia and Oceania, Africa).

SOS 2016: plenary highlights

The [Sustainable Ocean Summit](#) is the only international ocean business event to provide a global review of ocean economic activity for all the principle areas of ocean industrial activity - and to link this analysis to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference gathered ocean industry leaders and international experts covering the key ocean sustainable development topics affecting the future of responsible ocean business, with 5 emblematic flagship plenary sessions.

The Opening Plenary

CEOs from the Ocean Business Community ; Erik Solheim, Director, U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), U.N. Under-Secretary-General ; Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) as well as Joao Aguiar Machado, Director General, DG MARE, European Commission and the President of the World Maritime University opened the SOS 2016.

Ocean Investment Platform

The SOS 2016 has been the opportunity to launch the Ocean Investment Platform, developing mechanisms to finance ocean sustainable development. The participation of the insurance and financial sector to this common challenge has been outlined as crucial. The Ocean Investment Platform set the goal of establishing an agenda and forming two to three partnerships between investors and solution providers in the next two years. A panel of senior investment professionals provided their perspectives on financing ocean sustainable development, the development of the Ocean Investment Platform and how the Platform can best identify, articulate and evaluate ocean industry opportunities for financing responsible ocean development.

Ocean Executive Forum

The Ocean Executive Forum is a plenary dialogue among the CEOs of 11 ocean industry sectors – a convening of industry leaders unlike anything you will find in any other business conference or ocean event. This extraordinary high-level, multi-industry panel considered the challenges and opportunities for the private sector to respond to the growing need to responsibly supply energy, food, transport and information from the sea.

Ocean 2030 Plenary Sessions

These sessions featured authoritative presentations on the 15-year projections for 14 ocean business sectors – many delivered by the heads of global industry associations. The Ocean 2030 sessions considered the opportunities and risks that future ocean use create for each sector, for the collective ocean business community, for the ocean economy overall, and for the ocean itself. The SOS 2016 linked this unprecedented collation of information on ocean economic activity to the WOC efforts to work with the ocean business community to develop SDG targets and indicators.

SOS 2016: outcomes and discussions

The main conclusions of the 24 different sessions (sessions' details and precise discussions are included in the full SOS 2016 report), thanks to their rich array of speakers and analysts, were:

- **Sustainable Development Goals**

The SOS 2016 introduced United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to a wide audience of key stakeholders from the ocean community. SDGs represent a unique opportunity to settle collaboration at all levels and place sustainability at the core of business practices, with regards to economic losses due to climate change effects on global ocean ecosystems. In that perspective, the SOS 2016 represented a unique opportunity for the Ocean Business Community to discuss and comment important challenges such as marine biodiversity, cross-sectoral collaboration and adaptation to climate change and extreme weather events. The Ocean Business Community showed interest and support in tackling climate change challenges through cooperation and innovation.

- **Data for Ocean Sustainability**

SOS Speakers agreed upon the necessity to collect and analyze more data. The biggest challenge in assessing the current state of the oceans is said to be the quantity of data necessary to have a good overview of the global ocean ecosystems' situation. That's why all business sectors and, more largely, all the ocean community, called for the development of accurate and rational data about the ocean.

The growing demand could be fulfilled with a global effort for collaboration. Advanced data collection technology and infrastructure already exist but it should be used through a global marine sensor network. Data could be provided to new technological tools, such as autonomous vessels and important scientific data gaps could be filled.

- **Legislation and Regulation**

Legislation can be a driver for innovation and should be considered as such when planning business. In that perspective, SOS 2016 inputs on international regulation brought key information to the business sector. The establishment of a legally binding instrument on Marine Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) will affect industry operations in areas beyond national jurisdiction for the foreseeable future.

- **Collaboration for Ocean Responsibility**

Cross-sector cooperation has been deemed as central by all SOS 2016 participants to foster sustainable oceans. Ocean industries have common interest and the potential for the exploration of synergies between sectors (e.g. offshore wind and fisheries/aquaculture) is tremendous. Maritime clusters, as unique examples of gathering of a sector, have been presented to inform the Ocean Business Community of the core principles to implement such a structure.

- **Energy for the Ocean**

SOS 2016 discussions presented the latest trends in fuel business potential and focused on their sustainable aspects. Some sessions also provided opportunities to discuss about raw materials such as mineral and associated practices (deep sea mining, ...).

The renewable energies issued from the ocean have been at the core of many panels: offshore wind and the concomitant risk for navigation, wind and tidal energy sources and battery technology have fed many passionate discussions.

- **Fishing and Aquaculture**

The ocean food sector is a key stakeholder in the ocean business community. Fishing represents a crucial access to food for many developing countries and climate change could endanger food security. Various speakers exchanged opinions on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and tailored programs have been presented. Aquaculture has also been at the core of many discussions, as a sustainable and growing alternative to fisheries which can help ensure food security in many countries.

- **Shipping**

The potential to improve the efficiency of vessels has been discussed and industries agreed upon the necessity of collaboration to increase shipping vessels environmental efficiency. Speakers emphasized the need for “disruptive innovation” in the shipping industry, to increase the pace of change and anticipate regulations. Green certification is key to establish environmental indicators.

Apart from this concrete need for business action in environmental efficiency of the shipping industry, the opportunity for smart shipping to disrupt the market appears as a central trend in the industry and innovation and collaboration have been discussed to change the structure of the market.

- **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**

MSP faces similar challenges all over the world, most importantly low stakeholder participation and poor communication between different ocean industry sectors. Stakeholder struggling with these facets of MSP should use the unique platform offered by WOC to engage in productive cross-sectoral collaboration and communication.

- **Regional Business Council: Arctic**

The Polar regions are changing rapidly. As a result, common practices changed and industry is in high demand to fill many data gaps. Collaborating with the science community will benefit industry operating in Polar regions by improving models and greatly reducing operating risk. WOC has a unique opportunity to facilitate such challenging interactions, through its Smart Ocean-Smart Industries program.

Learn more on ocean sustainable development and *Corporate Ocean Responsibility*: buy the Sustainable Ocean Summit 2016 Full Report and participate in the [Sustainable Ocean Summit 2017](#) (Halifax, Canada, November 29 – December 1). More information at info@oceanCouncil.org