



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

News Release

WOC PARTNERS IN LAUNCH OF CENTRE FOR BLUE GOVERNANCE

WOC CEO Paul Holthus Keynotes on “Blue Finance” at Inauguration of Centre for Blue Governance at the University of Portsmouth

5 February 2020

The [Centre for Blue Governance \(CBG\)](#) at the University of Portsmouth, UK, will be launched on **13 February 2020** as an interdisciplinary initiative with over 45 researchers from different disciplines collaborating to meet the global challenge of advancing the sustainable Blue Economy.

The World Ocean Council (WOC) – the Global Blue Economy Business Organization – has been invited to be a part of the high level CBG launch seminar, with CEO Paul Holthus as Keynote Speaker on “Blue Finance”.

This builds on the WOC’s pioneering efforts on Blue Finance and on Ocean Governance, e.g. developing the Ocean Investment Platform, convening the most comprehensive global Blue Economy investment event to date ([Sustainable Ocean Summit 2019 “Investing in Ocean Futures”](#)), and providing thought leadership on [“Ocean Governance and the Private Sector”](#).

Over 60 international and UK organization leaders, experts and researchers related to the Blue Economy will attend the CBG launch. The event is jointly organized with IOC/UNESCO to define the blue governance challenge and to propose a framework that will facilitate the implementation of policies that meet the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Defining critical aspects at the onset of the Decade will advance democratic and sustainable use of the oceans for people and nature. The event will focus on the challenges faced in developing countries to promote the UN principles of sustainable development.

Expected outcomes of the CBG launch seminar on 13 February are:

1. Initial framework outlining the path towards implementing blue governance in developing countries in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
2. Characterizing the importance of blue governance during the Decade and identifying priority activities and knowledge gaps to be addressed for a paper targeting Nature/Science

About the Centre for Blue Governance:

The objective of the Centre for Blue Governance is to contribute to the design, setting-up and implementation of Blue Governance in countries, regions and political entities. It aims, more specifically, to develop and provide necessary transdisciplinary and actionable research expertise at both sectoral (various economic branches) and overall levels (coordination, planning), with a strong emphasis on addressing coherence challenge among nature conservation, economic development and social interests.

The Centre's four central themes are: 1) Blue Policies, Planning and Security; 2) Blue Energy, Technologies and Transport Solutions; 3) Biodiversity, Blue Carbon and Climate Change; and 4) Aquatic Resources Management). Current and future projects will be both regional and international in scope, and be multi-stakeholder across research, private sector and policy agencies.

The University of Portsmouth is an ambitious and expanding institution that has achieved 'gold' standard in TEF and ranked 21st in the UK in Guardian League Table.

For CBG information please see <http://port.ac.uk/centreforbluegovernance> and for enquiries about being considered as a potential collaborator, please email: cbg@port.ac.uk

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

28-29 January, BRUSSELS

EU BBNJ Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Participant)

5 February, BRUSSELS

All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AANChOR) Platform for Knowledge Transfer for Ocean Innovation & Economy (Stakeholder Participant)

6-7 February, BRUSSELS

All Atlantic Ocean Forum (Participant)

12-13 February, ATHENS

**European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water Column Observatory
European Research Infrastructure Consortium (EMSO) Conference** (Invited Speaker)

13 February, PORTSMOUTH, UK

Launch of the Centre for Blue Governance, University of Portsmouth (Keynote Speaker)

24-25 March, HAMBURG

3rd Green Maritime Forum (Partner)

23 March-3 April, NEW YORK

U.N. Law of the Sea, BBNJ Treaty – 4th (Final) Negotiation Session on the international, legally binding instrument under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea re the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (Industry Representative)

31 March-2 April, STAMFORD, USA

CMA Shipping 2020 (Plenary Speaker on Law of the Sea/BBNJ Treaty)

21 April, BRUSSELS

4th Meeting of the EU Marine Knowledge Expert Group (Participant)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on ocean 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 and 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, UK and France.

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