

Is the Blue Economy *niche*? It is not! But it certainly is an up-and-comer in the world of startups and venture capital as well as the new segments of our legacy sector spin out of a \$2.5 trillion global market.

By definition *niche* is; (n.) a specialized segment of the market for a particular kind of product or service; or (adj.) denoting products, services, or interests that appeal to a small, specialized section of the population. With a sustainability and equity lens laid over the traditional maritime and ocean economy, the Blue Economy touches every aspect of transportation, scientific research, energy, food, life-sciences, products, tourism and more.

Attending SXSW in Austin this year, we hosted an event joining the larger venture and startup community to plant a flag for maritime and oceans. We brought 13 founders, partner organizations, and investors from around the country. We received fantastic input and interest - but often got this response, "Wow, maritime, how niche!" Our response was, "*Actually*, the maritime and ocean economy accounts for nearly \$2.5 Trillion of the global economy - predicted to reach \$3 Trillion by 2030." Here's why:

- 70% of the planet's surface is ocean, while 90% remains unexplored
- Half of the oxygen you breathe comes from the ocean, while acidification and pollutants run rampant
- 80% of goods are shipped via ocean, while shipping accounts as the 6th largest global emitter of carbon and GHGs as much as Germany
- Significant wind, wave, and tidal renewable energy goes untapped
- Fishing stocks decline from ocean climate change and illegal fishing
- Sea level rise is swallowing coastal communities around the globe
- Significant disproportional access to ocean resources and livelihoods

I'd hardly call this niche! It just means there is a significant need and opportunity for innovation, investment and solutions and THAT is what we are working on.

Our **Blue Ventures** programs support entrepreneurs across the spectrum from ideation to commercialization toward growth, access to capital and partnerships with our vast ecosystem of members

We convene our membership towards **Joint Innovation** to activate new markets and pressing issues including supply chain for west coast offshore wind, maritime

decarbonization and Green Shipping Corridors, Quiet Sound, digital networks and EDGE computing capabilities, and the R&D ecosystem for ocean-based climate solutions.

We facilitate **Equity Engagement** between BIPOC and underrepresented communities and maritime employers to create accessible pathways for internships, and employment opportunities.

We are building an ecosystem around our **Blue Hub** to foster knowledge sharing, collaboration and business development here at home and across the globe!

Join us - together we are accelerating innovation for a sustainable and equitable Blue Economy here at home and throughout our One Ocean!

In partnership,



Joshua Berger
President and CEO
Washington Maritime Blue

What's new at Maritime Blue

Blue Ventures



- The fourth wave of the the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator is underway. Learn more about this year's cohort [here](#).
 - Maritime Blue Launches Inaugural Cohort of the One Ocean Accelerator for International Startups. You can read more about the One Ocean program [here](#).
 - Washington Maritime Blue's Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator (TMII) Wins Small Business Innovation Fund. [Watch this short series of videos](#) to learn more about the TMII and why it's so important to have a variety of start-up ecosystems for new businesses.
 - Washington Maritime Blue's Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator welcomes its Second Wave Cohort. Meet the 2023-2023 cohort [here](#).
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Equity Engagement



- The Youth Maritime Accelerator Project (YMAP) is gearing up for another summer. YMAP is an eight-week, paid summer program for youth ages 18-24. Participants attend skill-based workshops in the morning and intern with maritime employers in the afternoon. *Interested in hosting an intern in summer 2023?* [Sign up here.](#)
- Along with our partners, we are hosting a series of Maritime Employer Roundtables for the upcoming Youth Maritime Career Launch (YMCL) Program (coming Fall 2023). These roundtables are focused on identifying in demand jobs and skills sets in the maritime industry and to discuss how best to meet the workforce needs of industry employers.
- YMCL is a three-month, paid internship program for youth ages 18-24 to gain entry level job training and continuing careers in maritime upon completion. Stipends are covered by YMCL and the internship includes a one-week intensive job training course. *Interested in hosting an intern this fall?* Fill out the form [here.](#)
- Along with the Youth Maritime Collaborative (YMC), we are offering after-school programs this Spring, beginning with spring break programs for students from Seattle, Highline and Tukwila. The program is hosted by Sound Experience on the Schooner Adventuress. Students learn a variety of vessel operations skills from deckhand, galley & navigations skills to emergency response & safety protocols.
- We hosted our second Diversity, Equity and Inclusion luncheon in the DEI Practitioners series. These luncheons provide space for DEI practitioners and community leaders to come together and share best practices on DEI in the workplace. Stay tuned for the next opportunity to attend! All are welcome.

Joint Innovation Program



[Join us on April 6, 2023](#)
[10:00 – 11:15 a.m.](#) for

The [5G Open Innovation](#)

We are supporting the [PNW Hydrogen Association's](#)

the first stakeholder webinar on the PNW2AK Green Corridor. The webinar will include an update on the work, emerging strategies from cruise lines and ports, and how we can partner to accelerate decarbonization.

[Lab](#) submitted for a grant opportunity which would fund the initial pilot demonstration of the 5G network. If funded, the network would be constructed over the next year led by the [EDGE](#) cluster and supported by Washington Maritime Blue.

efforts toward the multi-billion dollar DOE Hydrogen Hub opportunity and including the maritime sector.

QUIET SOUND

From October 24th, 2022, to January 12th, 2023, [Quiet Sound](#) ran a [trial voluntary vessel slowdown](#) in Admiralty Inlet and north Puget Sound to quiet the waters for the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. This was the first vessel slowdown in Washington State waters specifically designed to protect critical killer whale foraging habitat. As shown by the Canadian program ECHO, when large commercial vessels decrease their speed, underwater noise is reduced to a level that improves the whales' ability to communicate and hunt. Over half of the vessels transiting the slowdown area fully slowed to our recommended target speeds, and an additional group of vessels slowed down partially, which also contributes to noise reduction. Quiet Sound is currently analyzing underwater noise data so that we can quantify how much noise was reduced by the maritime sector during this trial.

Find updates on our current work [here](#) on the Quiet Sound website.

News and links

- Amogy is [Building the World's First Ammonia-Powered, Zero-Emission Ship](#).
- Washington based All American Marine launches the highly anticipated zero-emissions ferry, the [M/V Sea Change](#), powered by hydrogen fuel cell technology.
- [Amogy Secures \\$139 Million Series B-1 Round of Funding](#).

Maritime Employment Opportunities

Want to post a job here, let us know at info@maritimeblue.org



Director of Vessel Engineering & Maintenance

Seattle, WA- Ferries Division

\$132,085 - \$165,097 Annually

See the link for more information, including details on how to apply: [LINK](#)



Director of Safety Systems

Seattle, WA- Ferries Division

\$129,477 - \$161,847 Annually

See the link for more information, including details on how to apply: [LINK](#)

New Members



As a [Washington Maritime Blue Member or Sponsor](#), you and your company will have access to member benefits including business development services, member-only events, and opportunities that will help you grow and innovate.

Interested in becoming a Maritime Blue member? Let us know by filling out [this form](#).

Washington Maritime Blue Retirement Plan Exchange

Washington Maritime Blue is pleased to offer access to a 401k Plan to all member organizations. If you are interested in learning more, let us know.

[Tell me more about the 401k](#)

[Washington Maritime Blue](#) is a non-profit, strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability in support of an inclusive blue economy. We are a partnership between industry, public sector, research & training institutions, and community organizations. Maritime Blue works to create a world-class, thriving, equitable and sustainable maritime and ocean industry through knowledge sharing, joint innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, business and workforce development.



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