



Seattle Maritime Blue Innovation Incubator Launches at Fishermen's Terminal

Meet the 5 startups in the 12-month program beginning September 14, 2023.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (August 31, 2023) -- Washington Maritime Blue in partnership with the Port of Seattle are launching their new incubator program for concept and early-stage maritime, oceans and fisheries focused startups and those looking to grow in the region.

The Port of Seattle has commissioned Washington Maritime Blue to create and execute a program focused on helping founders working on maritime and ocean related startups by providing access to workspace, mentors, programming and more. This one-year, free program will be housed in the Blue Hub located at Fishermen's Terminal. The program will allow founders to learn how to take their concept and early-stage companies to the next level, acting as a possible feeder to the marquee Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator.

"This new, Seattle-based incubator program supports our larger hub-and-spoke Blue Ventures model. Our goal is to support founders at multiple points along their journey so that we have a complete innovation ecosystem from ideation, to commercialization, to accessing new markets," says Joshua Berger, Maritime Blue's President and CEO. "These five companies are the perfect example of that spectrum and we're excited to see how they, and this program, grow".

"The Port of Seattle is a proud sponsor of Maritime Blue, since its inception several years ago, offering a wide array of blue economy innovators a platform to make our oceans cleaner and more sustainable while creating opportunities for entrepreneurs of all backgrounds," said Sam Cho, Port of Seattle Commission President.

Five companies have been selected for the program being housed at the Blue Hub in Fishermen's Terminal. The focus areas for Maritime Blue's selection

include: Maritime Decarbonization, Renewable Ocean Energy, Sustainable Fishing & Seafood, Ocean Health & Sustainability, and the Digital Transformation. All Blue Ventures programming works to ensure that we are providing underserved communities a safe space for ideas to grow, seek out and recruit women, BIPOC, and other underserved startup founders.

The Companies

Admitting companies on a rolling basis, the Seattle Maritime Blue Incubator will accept everything from ideation/concept to early-stage startups as well as companies that are further along who are interested in a soft landing into the region's blue economy. The first set of startups joining this fall include:



[Astraeus Ocean Systems](#) is developing autonomous, ropeless deployment and recovery systems for marine assets, ranging from climate-monitoring sensor packages to commercial crab and lobster pots. These systems reduce the cost and complexity of deploying large fleets of assets at sea while eliminating entanglement risks for marine mammals and end-of-life waste for next-generation sensor networks at sea.



[Earthwise Sorbents](#), a San Diego, California-based company, offers an array of highly effective sorbent products, made from recycled and repurposed foam and fabric materials. Earthwise Sorbents repurposes polyurethane wastes into high-performance absorbent pillows and recycles plastic and polypropylene wastes from other large vendors into melt-blown pads, sweeps, and booms. This reduces the carbon footprint of manufacturing our products and gives foam and fabric waste a second life as environmental clean-up products.



[Oo-NEE Sea Ranch](#) is on a mission to build sustainable seafood supply chains and regenerate PNW coastal communities and ecosystems by vertically integrating the harvesting, ranching, and processing of purple urchin and other symbiotic coastal species.



[RMZ Marine Construction](#) has developed SkillWind, a digital platform that connects offshore wind developers, candidates from parallel/related fields, and existing training resources to create a win-win outcome for all parties by fomenting workforce development and helping bridge the lack of qualified skilled professionals required to meet the energy transition goals for the new/developing OSW industry.



[UnCruiseAdventures](#) is a responsible travel and adventure leader in the small boat industry. UnCruise have installed their Navy award-winning prototype on the small boat Safari Quest, cruising Puget Sound & Alaska waters, for Autonomous Detection of Marine Mammals by using below-water acoustic sensors and above-water sensors.

The Program

Over 12 months, The selected startups receive rent-free collaborative working space at the Blue Hub in Fishermen's Terminal. The startups will benefit from the full suite of the Washington Maritime Blue cluster members, stakeholders and partners, be a part of unique programming, and the opportunity to connect with a global network of maritime and ocean economy mentors. Maritime Blue members include global, national and regional maritime companies, leading research institutions, government and public agencies, and other community organizations.

With the Port's final authorization last month for the completion of the Maritime Innovation Center at Fishermen's Terminal, Maritime Blue intends to relocate its activity, including the Incubator, from its existing Blue Hub co-working space to the new building that is slated to open by the end of 2025.

Why Maritime, Ocean and the Blue Economy?

The OECD predicts the Global Ocean Economy will double to \$3 Trillion by 2030. If, and only if, we employ sustainable solutions and accelerate innovation that address current climate and ocean health challenges – accelerating the Blue Economy. The Washington Maritime Blue cluster organization is a strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability building on one of the most diverse, interdependent and strong maritime and ocean economies in the U.S. Add Washington's strengths in technology development, advanced manufacturing and a culture of best practices, the region is quickly becoming a center of excellence to grow jobs, protect the environment, and support resilience in communities.

Goals of the Seattle Maritime Blue Incubator

- Increase Maritime/Oceans/Fisheries (Blue Economy) Innovation jobs in the Greater Seattle Region.
- Provide a pathway for talented entrepreneurs to form companies.
- Attract new early stage business to the Greater Seattle region.
- Increase the region's reputation as a national center of excellence; Increase the region's reputation for investing in the growing blue economy.
- Increase access to start-up support to founders that have not been traditionally supported, including women, BIPOC founders, LGBTQ+ founders, and veterans.
- Have sufficient programming to support the earliest stage companies as a potential pathway toward Maritime Blue's marquee accelerator as well as a soft landing for recruiting blue economy companies to the region.

Join us for a Launch Happy Hour!

On Thursday, September 14th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, Maritime Blue is hosting an open house happy hour networking event to invite members, partners, stakeholders, and investors to meet the five companies.

Blue Hub at Fishermen's Terminal
1900 W Nickerson St., STE 301, Seattle, WA, 98119

[RSVP Here](#)

About Washington Maritime Blue:

Washington Maritime Blue is a non-profit, strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability in support of an inclusive blue economy. With a mission to implement Washington State's Strategy for the Blue Economy delivered by Governor Jay Inslee's Maritime Innovation Advisory Council, 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. Learn more at <https://maritimeblue.org/>

Contacts:

Joshua Berger, President/CEO

joshua@maritimeblue.org

Jean-Noel Poirier, Executive in Residence

jeannoel@maritimeblue.org



Copyright © 2023 Washington Maritime Blue, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

1900 W Nickerson St, Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98119

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).