



## **Maritime Blue Awarded Federal Grant to Scale Venture Programs for a Sustainable and Equitable Blue Economy**

*Maritime Blue was chosen by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as one of 60 awardees in the nation to enable high-growth technology entrepreneurship and foster inclusive access to proven entrepreneurship support models.*

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (November 15, 2023) -- [Washington Maritime Blue](#) has been selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) [2023 Build to Scale Venture Challenge program](#). Maritime Blue is an independent, nonprofit organization building the leadership, infrastructure, and global connections to scale an equitable and sustainable blue economy.

This award aims to scale Washington Maritime Blue's efforts to accelerate the Pacific Northwest's path towards an equitable, sustainable, and profitable maritime and ocean sector (Blue Economy) through intentional entrepreneurship programming and collaboration.

As the region's marquee cluster organization for sector-focused economic development and innovation, Maritime Blue looks to bring together more than 100 active members who have practiced collaboration through Maritime Blue-led projects. By leveraging past success, Maritime Blue is positioned to grow its capacity for programming to support new market opportunities, technology development, collaboration, and entrepreneurship to become a national leader in accelerating innovation for a sustainable and equitable Blue Economy.

These "Build to Scale" grants were awarded to 60 organizations across the country — located in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico — totaling \$53 million for programs that support technology entrepreneurs, catalyze innovation, and fuel economic growth and will unlock another \$55 million in matching funds from an array of private and public sector sources.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is Investing in America to help create entrepreneurial ecosystems across the country and put quality, 21st-century job opportunities in people's backyards," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "The 'Build to Scale' program will unlock innovation potential in regions all over the nation, improving our economic competitiveness now, and for decades to come."

"We are proud to be selected by EDA's 2023 Build to Scale program," said Joshua Berger, Founder and CEO of Washington Maritime Blue. "This achievement speaks to the strength of our cluster members and support partners and the projects they are invested in supporting, as well as the global center of excellence we are creating here in the region."

As the only award in the state of Washington, Maritime Blue will use this total \$1.75 million award and matching funds over three years to scale its Blue Ventures entrepreneurship programs. These include two incubators and two accelerator programs, data analysis, impact assessment, and new market engagement across oceans, maritime, and fisheries - the Blue Economy.



The cluster members that will support programs and projects for this award include the Washington State Department of Commerce, Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Utilities, Blue Green Alliance, Climate Solutions, The Builder's Initiative, the Middlebury Institute Center for the Blue Economy, Renewable Northwest, and Strategies 360.

Stay up to date on Maritime Blue news on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **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/>

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