

#Partnership is not to be undervalued!

I'm sometimes asked, "What is the ROI for my business by joining a Cluster organization"? The answer is always a bit nebulous. Frankly, it's all about what you put in. One may simply join an event, read a quarterly newsletter, and learn about something new happening around them that inspires a new idea. One may sign up to take on an intern, engage in DEI/Cultural Competency training and find a new, young, and eager employee. One may get connected to a project being developed that needs a piece of your technology or expertise. One may help drive the agenda for analyzing the next largest maritime market since the advent of the container. One may get access to the latest technology that will either solve critical challenges for their business or completely disrupt it. One may make an investment in that innovation and see a 6X return in 3 years. **It all depends on what you put it in!**

We are conveners, connectors, and co-creators. We take your goals and align them to the goals of the cluster of businesses, research institutions, public agencies, and community organizations around you. We'll work with you to explore new business models, technologies, and ways in which we engage with our communities. So join us! Read below some of the latest updates and ways to engage and invest in YOUR Blue Economy.

All the best!



Joshua Berger
President and CEO
Washington Maritime Blue

What's new at Maritime Blue



Quiet Sound

Quiet Sound oversaw a voluntary slow-down program for large commercial vessels in Puget Sound in the fall/winter of 2022-23, which saw a high level of participation and resulted in a 45% reduction in noise pollution on average, including a reduction in noise at the frequencies used for killer whale echolocation and communication.

NOAA has chosen Quiet Sound as the 2023 Partner in the Spotlight for exceptional efforts related to the conservation and recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales. This award is given to one organization or initiative each year -- recent awardees include Governor Inslee and the Orca Task Force, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We are honored to receive this recognition for our work.

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



Joint Innovation Program

The last quarter has continued to be a busy one for our Joint Innovation Program. Our **Tacoma Green Hydrogen** and **Tacoma Blue Edge Network (TBEN)** projects were both awarded WA Commerce Evergreen Manufacturing grants to support their demonstration projects. We continue to support the **Fast Foil Ferry** project on a number of active grant applications and are working diligently with the project team and FTA to finalize our project report from the FTA's Accelerating Innovative Mobility scope of work. We also continue to support emerging Blue Economy markets through engagement in regional **Green Corridors** and through our Blue Hub activities of facilitated discussions and Roundtables mentioned below. We are in early-stage conversations with our partners around the next steps for **sustainable maritime fuels** for our region and are also in the process of standing up a collaborative focused on understanding and activating WA's portion of the **West Coast offshore wind supply chain**.

- **DOE Fellows Roundtable:** In late April we hosted a roundtable for visiting DOE Fellows from the Wind Energy Technologies and Water Power Technologies Offices (WETO & WPTO). Maritime Blue members discussed how our region is working to decarbonize the maritime sector and participate in the national conversation on floating offshore wind supply chain.
- **US Commerce Secretary Roundtable:** With support from the US Commercial Service - Seattle and the Washington Department of Commerce, Maritime Blue hosted a Blue Economy Roundtable in early May for Arun Venkataraman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Members contributed to an exciting conversation that highlighted Washington's maritime industry's leading role in emerging clean technologies like port decarbonization through zero-emission drayage trucks at ports, alternative fueled vessels, offshore wind supply chain, and workforce diversification, as well as addressed how the USDOC might support this work.

- **Japanese Ministerial Visit:** In late May, we had the honor of hosting Mr. Takatoshi Mori, Director, Second North America Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to discuss the rapid growth of our region's hydrogen industry and its overlap with the Blue Economy, particularly through our Tacoma Green Hydrogen JIP with OCOchem and Tacoma Power.
- **Elisa Corporation Visit:** June began with a visit to our Blue Hub from Finland's Elisa Corporation, a telecommunications, information technology, and online services company, for a discussion on ways digital transformation is enabling a sustainable Blue Economy through emissions tracking, predictive maintenance, and 5G network enabled solutions.



Blue Ventures

Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator

- The second cohort of the Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator (TMII) are halfway through the program and we are excited to see what these companies contribute to innovation and economic growth in the South Sound community. Meet the 2023 cohort [here](#).

Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator

- The Inaugural cohort of the One Ocean Accelerator finished the program in April. All seven companies have filed to be WA based companies in the future. You can read more about the One Ocean program [here](#).
- On June first we hosted our fourth showcase for the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator. These [seven companies](#) have spent the last four months learning new skills, connecting with resources, and learning from mentors and investors about ways they could gain an advantage for their companies.
- Washington Maritime Blue has also launched a new Seattle-based incubator. The one-year program gives early-stage maritime-focused startups free rent at our Fishermen's Terminal office, access to our network, and valuable feedback about how to scale their companies. Learn more about the Seattle Incubator [here](#).



Recruiting Employers! Youth Maritime Career Launch Program

We are currently recruiting employers to host interns ready for work in the maritime industry and Blue Economy. Maritime Blue and our partners provide matchmaking, wrap-around support, and weekly training for youth ages 18-24 including three months of stipends at no cost to employers. We also provide training and wrap-around support for employers who are ready to engage with typically underrepresented communities. Internships will begin in Fall 2023. Please contact Robert@maritimeblue.org for more information.

The Expanded Maritime Collaborative (EMC) Spring Program

The Equity Engagement team hosted a total of 45 high school students during our spring programming. Our partners included: Sound Experience, Seattle Skills Center, Sail Sandpoint and Sea Potential. Each student earned a \$500 stipend and many program participants experienced being on the water for the very first time. From learning to sail, to exploring marine life restoration, to earning seetime certification on the Schooner Adventuress, students gained skills, exposure and connection to various parts of the maritime industry.

News and Links

- Washington Maritime Blue's ocean cluster serves as model for proposed nationwide effort. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, introduced the [Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation \(ROI\) Act of 2023](#), which would direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish and support “Ocean Innovation Clusters” to strengthen the coastal communities and blue economy of the nation.
- [Corvus Energy](#) revealed their next generation marine fuel cell system live at Nor-Shipping in Norway. And [Corvus Energy](#) announces that their newly developed containerized solution – the Corvus BOB (Battery-On-Board), has received Type Approval from DNV.
- [Amogy](#) signed the first pre-order for its Zero Emission Powerpack with a Norwegian Shipowner.

Funding Opportunities

- [RFP for a Grant Evaluator for the Alaska Mariculture Cluster \(AMC\)_grant](#)
- [Department of Energy Releases Request for Information on the Progression of Clean Fuels in the Shipping Industry](#)
- [Learn about and apply for the Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships \(ZEVIP\)_grant. Deadline is June 29, 2023](#)

New Members



GIGACHAN



JJ&COMPANIES



microsystems

MUVEEN



TAS GLOBAL
HULL CLEANING ROV
FILTRATION SYSTEM

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](#).

Member Benefit

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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