"Have conviction, create trust, build alliances, and demonstrate possibilities!"

*Paraphrasing ocean climate leader and former President Carlos Alverado of Costa Rica.*

Addressing the enormous challenges facing our ocean and accessing opportunities for solutions coming from the ocean is hard! The ocean is unforgiving, difficult to access, and requires patience, deep expertise, and enormous amounts of capital. And yet - we cannot afford not to prioritize it. The evidence is overwhelming that the largest climate impacts and solutions start and stop in the ocean.

So HOW do we do that?

In order to truly prioritize the ocean climate nexus from policy to investment is a focused and mapped out coordinated approach across government, research institutions, industry, communities, and funders along the entire spectrum of capital. They need to work in conjunction with one another and that is why we exist. That is our mission and we are starting to see it manifest. The largest corporations are engaging the earliest of startup founders. Our research institutions are coordinating with one another and then partnering with industry to seek smoother pathways to commercialization.

And what does it LOOK like?

This last week we had the incredible opportunity to engage with some of the smartest and most passionate ocean climate change makers, tribal leaders, business leaders, scientists, founders, funders, and decision-makers of all backgrounds. Our [Ocean Climate Action Plan](#) Workshop in collaboration with PNNL featuring Dr. Geraldine Richmond, DOE's Under Secretary for Science and Innovation worked to align our Cluster’s research capacity to the Biden administration’s goals and priorities for ocean-based climate solutions. (We will be publishing a report in the coming weeks).

As well, the [1000 Ocean Startup Coalition](#) met for its annual gathering alongside Climate Week New York. Now 37 members, we are made up of clusters, investors, incubators, accelerators, and innovation ecosystem builders of all kinds working to accelerate innovation during this crucial UN Decade of the Ocean. Coordinated by the World Economic Forum’s Friends of Ocean Action we work collaboratively to build common metrics and develop startup pipelines, mentors, capital, and more.
What are our NEXT steps?

We have to expand and accelerate these partnerships and we need you to help define them. We need your commitment to collaboration and that means you need to show up. Be ready to explore new partnerships and new models for collaboration. Engage in the workshops, give your perspective, sponsor an initiative, and hire an intern. We will ease the risk of your early deployments and together, see Returns on Investment and Impact.

**Join Us! October 17th, 2023 for the State of the Blue Annual Gathering** of Maritime Blue members, program partners, and funders share updates, collect feedback, and inspire deeper engagement. [Existing and new members can register today!](#)

We'll see you there!

Joshua Berger, President and CEO

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### What's new at Maritime Blue

**Quiet Sound**

As early as October 1, 2023, the Quiet Sound Program will begin its seasonal voluntary large ship slowdown in Admiralty Inlet and north Puget Sound. Last year, 70 of ship transits participated in the first trial of this voluntary initiative, reducing underwater noise intensity by 45% in the critical habitat of the endangered Southern Resident killer whale (SRKW). This allows SRKW to have more space to successfully hunt for food and communicate among their pods. The maritime industry in Puget Sound is asked to reduce vessel speeds when safe to do so, turn off ultrasonic hull antifouling mechanisms, and help these whales and the blue economy thrive together.

**Details about the slowdown:**

Dates: October 1*, 2023 - 11:59 pm on January 12, 2024

*The voluntary vessel slowdown will begin once SRKW are observed in the slowdown area on or after Oct 1, 2023. This slowdown has a fixed end date and may span a maximum of 3.5 months.*
Joint Innovation Program

In September, the Joint Innovation Program hosted an Ocean Climate Action workshop, in partnership with PNNL to discuss key research needs and partnership opportunities. Invitees included representatives from the breadth of the ocean/climate/blue economy community: researchers, policy makers, federal and state government, industry, community-based organizations, and nonprofits. We will be releasing a report on the convening in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

This fall we are convening around Green Corridors and the supply chain for Offshore Wind on the West Coast. If you are interested in getting involved with these efforts, please reach out to us at info@maritimeblue.org

Blue Ventures
Washington Maritime Blue, in partnership with the Port of Seattle, launched the Seattle Incubator program for concept and early-stage maritime, oceans and fisheries focused startups and those looking to grow in the region. The program is 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 is housed at 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 potential feeder to the marquee Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator. Check out the latest here.

Equity Engagement

Equity Engagement hosted our very first Equity Summit that was attended by maritime employers, community members, and industry stakeholders. Our premier lineup of speakers delivered powerful messages and the DEI facilitators led roundtable discussions on developing a diverse talent pipeline with an emphasis on recruiting and retaining a diverse and equitable workforce. As we wrapped up our summer programming, 15 Youth Maritime Accelerator Program interns successfully completed rigorous workplace readiness training and started their network of maritime pathway influences through experiential field trips in addition to their maritime employer engagement. The EE team now heads into the fall season engaging with BIPOC high school youth as we partner with other youth serving organizations to create memorable experiences. We continue on our mission to spark interest and foster youth towards sustainable and equitable maritime careers.
The Blue Hub has office space available.
We are currently taking inquiries for a closed-door office, 138 sq ft, facing the marina at Fishermen’s Terminal. Six month, one year, and two year leases are available. Office space includes access to a shared kitchen, meeting rooms, cleaning service, and utilities are included. Please reach out to devon@maritimeblue.org if you are interested in learning more.

News and Links

- Maritime Blue is a recipient of the NAMEPA 2023 Marine Environment Protection Award. Our member TOTE was also recognized.
Welcome to our 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 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.