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## A Sea Shift: Maritime Fuels Collaborative Launches to Accelerate Clean Energy Transition across the Pacific Northwest Maritime Industry

Seattle, WA – [April 3, 2025] – A new initiative facilitated by Washington Maritime Blue and with leadership from Port of Seattle, Northwest Seaport Alliance, Port of Tacoma, Washington Department of Commerce and the Consortium for Hydrogen and Renewably Generated E-fuels (CHARGE)—called the Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative (SMF Collaborative), officially launched today.

The SMF Collaborative aims to accelerate the availability, affordability, and deployment of sustainable maritime fuels and low and zero-emission vessels and technology in the Pacific Northwest. Sustainable maritime fuels are the next generation of zero and near-zero-emission energy sources needed for the global maritime industry to address climate change, improve human health, and comply with the International Maritime Organization's fuel standard and emission reduction requirements that will drive shipping decarbonization globally and in the Pacific Northwest.

The SMF Collaborative will help guide the region's maritime industry towards net-zero emissions by 2050, ensuring the Pacific Northwest remains globally competitive while confronting climate change and advancing environmental justice. This effort is driven by the need to meet growing international targets for shipping emissions, address increasing public expectations for maritime emission reductions, and address local workforce development challenges.

The SMF Collaborative will convene representatives from across the maritime value chain, including community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, the fuel industry, tribes, governments, ports, vessel owners and operators, labor, and workforce development organizations.

The SMF Collaborative's objective is to take a cross-sector approach to enable a rapid and just transition to sustainable maritime fuels in the Pacific Northwest. That includes leading research along the value chain from production to use-cases to accelerate adoption of sustainable maritime fuels, supporting policy development to enable practical deployment and use of sustainable maritime fuels, establishing regional definitions and standards for sustainable maritime fuels, enabling first-of-kind demonstration projects and fostering innovation, identifying and supporting career-connected clean energy workforce pathways, and ensuring meaningful engagement with near-port communities.

The Washington State Legislature has provided funding to support the development of the SMF Collaborative and its initial strategy. The SMF Collaborative is in its early stages and its Planning Committee has convened with facilitation funding by the Port of Seattle in order to establish a

Founding Leadership Committee. Over the next eighteen months, the Leadership Committee will expand to include diverse representation from all sectors involved in the sustainable fuels value chain and establish a sustainable model for ongoing regional collaboration and action. The first task of the Leadership Committee will be to refine the Collaborative's objectives, mission, strategy, and structure, with a report due to the Washington Legislature in June 2025.

The SMF Collaborative was initiated by and includes in-kind leadership and participation from the following organizations which have led the Planning Committee:

- Washington Maritime Blue
- Port of Seattle
- Port of Tacoma
- The Northwest Seaport Alliance
- The Consortium for Hydrogen and Renewably Generated E-fuels (CHARGE)
- Washington State Department of Commerce

"Washington has the opportunity to lead the nation and the world in developing the sustainable maritime fuels of the future. I'm pleased that the state of Washington is a partner in this critical work to protect our climate and to grow our local maritime economy." Representative Joe Fitzgibbon. Washington State Legislature, 34th LD

"The Suquamish Tribe supports the continued promotion of sustainable maritime fuels as part of the greater effort to reduce our collective carbon footprint and reduce impacts on our fragile ecosystems that sustain treaty resources," said Suquamish Tribe Chairman Leonard Forsman.

"Dual-fuel capable vessels are rapidly being deployed around the world, including 83% of the total orderbook for the world's largest containerships. The use of alternative fuels by these vessels now depends upon the development of standards and new infrastructure to produce, distribute, and deliver the fuels of tomorrow to vessels. PMSA fully supports this effort to accelerate the adoption of sustainable maritime fuels," said Captain Mike Moore, Vice President, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association whose membership includes ocean carriers and marine terminal operators on the West Coast.

"The global maritime industry is facing a multi-fuel future, and we have an opportunity to take local action to drive global change," said Port of Seattle Commissioner and Northwest Seaport Alliance Managing Member Sam Cho. "The Port of Seattle and The Northwest Seaport Alliance are eager to support the Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative to advance the maritime energy transition away from fossil fuels and lay building blocks that accelerate the availability, affordability, and use of zero and near-zero emission maritime fuels in the Pacific Northwest. This critical effort helps us chart a course to be a port for the future."

"The transition to low-to-zero-emission fuels for ocean-going vessels and other maritime uses is already beginning. But ensuring its success through the development of regional infrastructure, alignment on alternative fuel preference across industry, and involvement of the communities we serve will require strong collaboration. The Port of Tacoma and The Northwest Seaport Alliance look forward to partnering in this effort on our way to eliminating maritime emissions by 2050 or

sooner” said Port of Tacoma Commission President and Co-chair of The Northwest Seaport Alliance John McCarthy.

"Climate Jobs Washington proudly supports the Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative in guiding the Pacific Northwest towards net-zero emissions by 2050. In partnership with labor organizations, the Sustainable Maritime Fuels industry in Washington state will create sustainable, family-wage jobs in the construction and manufacturing sectors. When businesses and labor work together, we shape an inclusive, sustainable future for all." Cassie Bordelon, Executive Director, Climate Jobs WA.

"Decarbonizing the maritime sector is key to advancing the clean energy transition here in the Pacific Northwest," said CHARGE Executive Director Aaron Feaver. "Clean hydrogen plays a critical role in producing the low-carbon e-fuels needed for maritime decarbonization. As a hydrogen-focused innovation cluster, CHARGE is excited to support this effort and to help shape our region's zero-emissions future."

"Our region has a unique opportunity to lead the way in the clean energy transition for the maritime industry," said Joshua Berger, president and CEO of Maritime Blue. "The SMF Collaborative will harness our region's leadership in clean energy, technology, research, development, and maritime innovation to drive economic development while ensuring a sustainable future."

The SMF Collaborative's Founding Leadership Committee will shape the future of sustainable maritime fuels in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, please contact [info@maritimeblue.org](mailto:info@maritimeblue.org) or visit [www.maritimeblue.org](http://www.maritimeblue.org).

#### Planning Committee Members:



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#### About Maritime Blue

Maritime Blue is a strategic alliance propelling the Pacific Northwest toward global leadership in ocean-based innovation. We foster collaboration among industry, government, academia, communities, and investors to create sustainable maritime and ocean industries. We empower our region to thrive in the Blue Economy by accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship, centering equity, addressing climate change, restoring marine ecosystems, and building a diverse workforce. Strategic focus areas include maritime decarbonization, renewable ocean energy, sustainable fisheries and seafood, healthy ocean ecosystems, and digital solutions.

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