



Michael Jones, President, The Maritime Alliance

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# OINA 2017: “Front Door to the Blue Economy” – Leaders from the World’s

# Largest Ports and Port Authorities Come Together to Speak on Key Issues at OINA 2017

*High-profile influencers from the North American and international port community to tackle diverse issues from cyber security to sustainability and climate change*

**San Diego/London, February 3rd 2017** – Reed Exhibitions in association with The Maritime Alliance (TMA), have announced details of a new Ports and Authorities Program, which will be introduced at the first Oceanology International North America (OINA 2017) in San Diego next month. The Track will run on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> as part of the event's conference program and provide a vital platform for key figures to discuss global issues affecting this sector.

Michael Jones, President of TMA, a non-profit organization that promotes BlueTech and Blue Jobs<sup>®</sup> in San Diego said: *"Seventy one percent of the earth's surface is ocean and more than ninety per cent of commerce travels by sea, so ports are the "Front Door" to the Blue Economy. All ports are similar in that they are logistics hubs but their location, capacity, use and many other factors make them very different from each other. That is why we are pleased to have representatives of a diverse set of ports from the Americas and Europe sitting on panels along with innovative technology and service providers to explore solutions to their current and future needs. Ports are changing as customer needs change, so it is timely to add this track as an on-going focus for OINA."*

In today's inextricably connected world, recent breakthroughs in communication and information technologies have had a huge impact on port and maritime security. *The Port & Maritime Security and Maritime Cyber Security* session at OINA 2017 will look at physical and virtual security in the maritime world from ports to high seas, allowing port operators and service providers to discuss these issues.

Moderating this session, Kurt Nagle, President, American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) said: *"There have been significant changes to address maritime and port security. As challenges or threats evolve, our member ports are collaborating on an ongoing basis to continue to enhance physical and*

*cybersecurity at their facilities and throughout the supply chain. This collaboration includes initiatives among ports to identify and share best practices, as well as in coordination with a range of federal agencies and supply chain partners.”*

A *Sustainable Port Management & Environmental Protection* session will comprise a panel of experts from port operators and technology companies who will discuss how regional economic engines and environmental stewards can be harmonized. Panellists will consider the current and future developments in transportation and the associated ocean science and technology requirements. There will be a particular focus on emerging environmental regulations affecting ports and shipping, the future large scale use of autonomous vessels and the challenges associated with safe and secure maritime operations.

The *Transportation and Security Keynote* panel pays particular attention to emerging environment regulation affecting ports and shipping. Panellist Dr Noel Hacegaba, Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Long Beach is encouraged by the number of ports around the world following its lead in becoming more environmentally efficient. *“The Port of Long Beach prides itself in being the world’s first Green Port. Since 2005, we have pioneered and implemented innovative programs in collaboration with our industry partners that have dramatically reduced emissions while our cargo volumes have continued to grow. Our experience demonstrates that a major port can be both green and commercially successful.”*

The *Services to Ships/Ports and Navigation Control* session will allow port operators and private sector practitioners to discuss important advances from AIS-based logistics services to hydrographic surveys and their associated cost savings and operational solutions for the maritime transportation system.

Finally, the *Floating Infrastructure to the Rescue* session will explore opportunities for floating port assets and offshore mega-ports that offer high efficiency, reduced homeland security and ‘NIMBYISM’ risks, and mitigate danger of earthquakes and sea level rise. A highlight will be to hear from panel moderator Paolo Costa, President of the Venice Port Authority, which is developing the Venice Offshore Onshore Port System (VOOPS) – a multi-billion euro offshore port in the northern Adriatic capable of handling oil shipments and the berthing of Ultra Large Container Vessels (UCLVs).

More exhibitor information and the full conference schedule can be found on the OINA website: [www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com/](http://www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com/). OINA conference and exhibition visitors can register here: [www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com/register](http://www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com/register)

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**For further information, please contact:**

Maria Harper

Marketing Manager, Energy & Marine Group

**Reed Exhibitions**

Tel: +44 (0)20 8910 7007

[maria.harper@reedexpo.co.uk](mailto:maria.harper@reedexpo.co.uk)

Jules Riegal/Karen Bartlett

**Saltwater Stone**

Tel: +44 (0)1202 669244

[j.riegal@saltwater-stone.com](mailto:j.riegal@saltwater-stone.com)

[k.bartlett@saltwater-stone.com](mailto:k.bartlett@saltwater-stone.com)

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**About the Oceanology International Portfolio**

The Oceanology International portfolio of events offer a global forum where industry, academia and government share knowledge and connect with the marine technology and ocean science community, improving their strategies for measuring, exploiting, protecting and operating in the world's oceans. First established in 1969, the flagship event in London features the world's largest exhibition for marine science and technology, multiple agenda-setting technical conferences, and a visiting vessels and waterside demonstration program.

**The Oceanology International portfolio includes**

- **Oceanology International China:** Developed with government and industry associations, Oceanology International China provides organizations with the opportunity to capitalize on China's rapidly growing offshore energy and marine industries. With 215 exhibitors from 20 different countries, more than 5000 domestic and overseas professional attendees from 32 different countries and regions were attracted to OI China 2015. [www.oichina.com.cn/en](http://www.oichina.com.cn/en)
- **Oceanology International:** Oceanology International is the leading conference and exhibition dedicated to serving all professionals working in the global ocean science and marine technology sector. The first Oceanology International was held in Brighton, in 1970. Today, it's home is at ExCeL London. The OI2016 exhibition was the

largest ever in the show's 47-year history with over 8,500m<sup>2</sup> occupied by 520 exhibiting companies from 33 countries.

[www.oceanologyinternational.com](http://www.oceanologyinternational.com)

- **Catch the Next Wave conference:** Now in its fourth edition, Catch the Next Wave is an exclusive conference taking place alongside or as part of Oceanology International events globally. The most recent program in London took place at the prestigious Royal Institution, and the North American edition will form part of the OINA conference program on February 16th 2017. The event takes a longer-term view of the capabilities that will shape our future ability to explore, understand, exploit and protect the oceans.  
[www.ctnwconference.com](http://www.ctnwconference.com)
- **Oceanology International North America** (February 14-16 2017, San Diego Convention Center, USA) The launch event of the biennial series is taking place in 2017.  
[www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com](http://www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com)

### **About Reed Exhibitions**

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading events organizer, with over 500 events in 30 countries. In 2015, Reed brought together over seven million event participants from around the world generating billions of dollars in business. Today, Reed events are held throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa and organized by 40 fully staffed offices. Reed Exhibitions serves 43 industry sectors with trade and consumer events. It is part of the RELX Group plc, a world-leading provider of information solutions for professional customers across industries.

[www.reedexpo.com](http://www.reedexpo.com)

### **About The Maritime Alliance**

The Maritime Alliance (TMA) is a non-profit industry association and organizer of the San Diego maritime technology community, which is the largest BlueTech (ocean & water technology) cluster in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. Its Mission Statement is "Promoting Sustainable, Science-Based Ocean & Water Industries". TMA have a strong outreach effort to promote the creation of organized, regional Blue Economy and BlueTech clusters globally and has recently helped form a BlueTech Cluster Alliance with eight of the leading clusters in the world representing seven countries. [www.themaritimealliance.org](http://www.themaritimealliance.org)