



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

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News Release

ARCTIC COUNCIL TO CONVENE BUSINESS DIALOGUE

**World Ocean Council and Arctic Council Collaborate to Engage Industry
on Sustainable Development in the Arctic**

19 July 2012 –

The Arctic Council will convene its first-ever “Business Dialogue” (Reykjavik, 17 September, 2012) to engage responsible industry interaction via its Sustainable Development Working Group.

The day before, the World Ocean Council will hold an “Arctic Business Community” meeting (Reykjavik, 16 September, 2012) to develop coordinated, multi-sectoral input to the Business Dialogue from shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and other industries.

Gustaf Lind, Sweden's Ambassador for the Arctic, and Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, emphasized that, “The changing Arctic is creating new opportunities for transport, mining, tourism and many other activities. Sustainable development requires socially and environmentally responsible companies who recognise the challenges and responsibilities of operating in this unique and sensitive region.” He added that, “Until now, there has been no structure or process for dialogue between the business community and the eight Arctic governments - nor has there been a forum for multi-sectoral collaboration among responsible companies with interests in the Arctic.”

The Arctic Council is the main forum for governmental cooperation in the region. Its Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) is mandated to deal with the human dimension and commercial activities in the Arctic and provides the natural starting point for engaging the business community. The World Ocean Council is the leading international, multi-industry alliance for the responsible use of marine and coastal areas and is uniquely positioned to convene a global meeting of Arctic industry representatives.

Robert Blaauw, head of the Arctic Theme in Shell stated that, "We believe the industry must continue to play an integral role in terms of defining appropriate performance standards in collaboration with key Arctic stakeholders." He added, "Working with indigenous peoples, academia, Arctic government representatives and industry bodies, allows us to address concerns about our operations and improve our understanding of how we can best develop resources responsibly in the region."

Mikael Thinghuus, CEO of Royal Greenland, stated that, "Sustainable Arctic fisheries require that ocean users collaborate to maintain a healthy marine ecosystem and minimize impacts. Royal Greenland welcomes the World Ocean Council efforts to develop coordinated, cross-sectoral input to the Arctic Council's Business Dialogue."

Sustainable economic growth in the Arctic could stimulate job creation, increase the use of environmental efficient technologies and provide innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges in the region. Cooperation and dialogue among Arctic states, industry and civil society are critical to this and could pave the way for a unique approach in responsible, sustainable business in the Arctic.

Industry representatives interested in participating in the Reykjavik meetings should contact the WOC as soon as possible at paul.holthus@oceancouncil.org. Space is limited and there will be a nominal registration fee to cover the direct costs of the Arctic Business Community meeting.

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in "Corporate Ocean Responsibility". Companies and associations worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in ocean sustainability and stewardship by joining the WOC. Members include nearly 50

leadership organizations from a wide range of industries: shipping, oil and gas, renewable energy, seafood/fisheries, ocean technology, mining, maritime law, marine environmental services and other areas.

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