CALL FOR SPEAKERS 2026

Sea Tech Week® 2026 — Workshops seeking speakers

> The following workshops still have speaker slots available. Browse the descriptions below and submit your proposal before early June 2026 via the dedicated Typeform.

Submission deadline: 14 April – early June 2026 | Submit your proposal here →

Submit your proposal here

Workshops open for contributions

Track 1 Environmental transition and maritime decarbonisation

STW07 — Sustainable offshore wind with Nature-Inclusive Design & Life Cycle Assessment

Lead structure: France Energies Marines

Summary

This workshop will explore how to connect expert knowledge, methods & SME to better integrate Nature-Inclusive Design (NID) & Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) into offshore wind (OW) development, for greater sustainability. It will address the dominance of priced criteria in OW farm tenders and the lack of tools to quantify socio-environmental impacts—highlighting how such tools can support more balanced cost-benefit analyses. A first focus will be the presentation of a collaborative project to develop such a tool and their potential integration into legislative frameworks (at EU level) to ensure environmental criteria are considered. The workshop will, also, showcase training initiatives designed to democratize these approaches & empower SMEs to actively contribute to sustainable OW planning.

STW27 — SaferSEA Maritime Event: Solutions for a Safer & Smarter Shipping Industry

Lead structure: Technopôle **Brest-Iroise**

Summary

This pitch session will bring forward startups from the Atlantic area (Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal) that drives innovation in the shipping industry. The selected companies will have the opportunity to present their project in a pre-defined framework (ex: 7-10 min, incl. Q&A with the audience). This format would enable them to benefit from targeted, international exposure, with the objectives of amplifying their impact, developing partnerships and reaching new markets. As for the attendees, this session will offer an overview of next-generation technologies, on topics such as emissions reduction, intelligent routing, alternative fuels, etc. This workshop will also mark a closing milestone for the EU project SaferSEA and give partners the opportunity to showcase the project's legacy.

STW28 — Marine Biodiversity and Offshore Wind Energy: Observing Ecological Interactions

Lead structure: Office français de la biodiversité

Summary

Offshore wind energy is rapidly expanding, creating complex interfaces between infrastructures and marine ecosystems. This workshop will explore how countries observe and assess ecological interactions, focusing on national experiences and lessons learned. Case studies will present monitoring approaches, indicators, and regulatory frameworks, highlighting common challenges and region-specific outcomes. By comparing these practices, the workshop aims to identify methodological advances, knowledge gaps, and opportunities for harmonization. Bringing together biologists, ecologists, engineers, and policymakers, it seeks to foster dialogue and outline pathways that balance energy transition with marine biodiversity preservation..

STW36 — Sustainable Maritime transport: rolling out actions

Lead structure: Conférence des Régions Périphériques Maritimes

Summary

International maritime transport is the backbone of the global economy. However, vessels release emissions that pollute the air and contribute significantly to global warming. Since 2018, international and national organisation as well as the European Commission have adopted different initiatives to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 50 % by 2050 (the Green Deal, International Maritime Organization (IMO) objectives, MEET 2050, etc). In addition, the Commission has set a Compass for Europe's competitiveness which also cover Maritime Industries (EU Strategy for Maritime Industries). To achieve the midterm and long-term objectives, how to support the industry efforts? what concrete steps to make in favour of decarbonisation and leadership of the EU maritime sectors?

STW38 — Engineering for the Ocean: Master the Art of Stainless Steel Selection

Lead structure: Aperam

Summary

In the harsh reality of marine environments, material choice is the first line of defense. This workshop breaks down the nuances of stainless steel grades, demonstrating how to align metallurgy with engineering specifications. Learn to select the optimal grade for your application to ensure maximum resistance against corrosion and environmental stress, not forgetting the cost efficiency.

STW40 — Marine-Inspired Strategies for Enhancing Materials Durability

Lead structure: LGC , Laboratoire de Génie Chimique

Summary

The marine environment, with its rich biodiversity and unique interactions with ecosystems, is a major source of bioinspiration and valuable resources for developing sustainable coatings. Microorganisms have recently been recognized for their ability to mitigate metal corrosion

through various mechanisms, known as microbiologically influenced corrosion inhibition (MICI). Although MICI strategies has emerged as a promising research field, they are inherently more complex than traditional corrosion protection approaches and require a multidisciplinary approach. This workshop aims to promote research on marine bio-inspired strategies to enhance material durability by bringing together European experts from diverse backgrounds, thereby supporting the transition to green chemistry.

Track 2 Climate and ocean observation

STW14 — Implementing the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters" on the Atlantic coast

Lead structure: Ifremer

Summary

The workshop will explore how to accelerate implementation of the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters” in the Atlantic basin, aligning Phase 2 priorities with France’s Atlantic innovation ecosystem. Building on the shift from planning to delivery, the session will highlight how regional actors can contribute to tangible impact by 2030 through cross-sector collaboration, pilots, and restoration actions. It will also connect Mission activities with the EU Ocean Pact’s broader integration agenda, fostering dialogue on policy–innovation synergies and opportunities for replication across the Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse.

STW23 & 25 — Advances in Marine Instrumentation and Methods for Marine Observations - Part I & II

Lead structure: IIT Goa

Summary

1. To discuss recent advances in marine instrumentation and methods for observations in marine environment 2. To focus on the challenges in instrumentation for marine environment 3. To seed collaboration in marine instrumentation between researchers from India and France, and other European countries 4. To discuss novel projects in marine observation

STW29 — Wind-Powered Science: Innovative Approaches to Marine Research

Lead structure: Des requins et des hommes

Summary

This roundtable brings together researchers, sailors, tech innovators, and organizations to explore how sailing vessels can transform ocean science. Through missions, citizen science, and onboard technologies, participants will show how wind-powered platforms enable agile, collaborative research. The session aims to spark partnerships, inspire projects, and demonstrate how maritime expertise and innovation can open new pathways for impactful ocean exploration.

Track 3 Environmental risks and pollution

STW13 — Ammonia as an Alternative Fuel : what risks in the event of an accident spill ?

Lead structure: Cedre

Summary

As part of the international maritime transport decarbonization strategy, IMO member states have approved the “net-zero emissions” framework which aims to combine mandatory emission limits with greenhouse gas pricing applicable to this sector. The approved measures combine a global emissions pricing mechanism and a new fuel standard for ships. As a result, among the emerging alternative fuels emerging, ammonia is currently considered one of the most promising fuel. Furthermore, its application in inland waterway transport presents particular issues. This workshop provides an opportunity to connect scientists working on ammonia as a maritime fuel with the regulatory authorities.

STW21 — Marine Pollution in the Atlantic Area: extent of impact and potential solutions

Lead structure: Cerema

Summary

The GRAAL project, an Interreg Atlantic Area (AA) funded project identified as of strategic importance (ISO1) for the future governance of the AA, offers a synergistic working session on Marine Pollution. This thematic is part of the backbone of GRAAL and is also in the scope of the Atlantic Strategy (Roadmap for Healthy Oceans, Action Plan Pillar 4). The project leader, CEREMA, in partnership with the Atlantic Action Plan, will display transnational challenges addressing Marine Pollution, potential solution providers (GRAAL Project Result Database), environmental organisations, local stakeholders and regulators. The aim is to identify pending gaps and provide content for future action plans in order to improve the quality of our Atlantic Ocean.

STW34 — Deep Sea Mining - Environment Monitoring and Mitigation

Lead structure: National Institute of Ocean Technology

Summary

Deep sea mining for mineral resources is going to be a reality, in the drive towards energy security, adoption of renewable energy sources and increased electrification in transport. The principal mineral resource of interest is polymetallic nodules, driven by the demand for cobalt, nickel and copper. The deep sea mineral resources, formed over millions of years, occur at some of the most pristine and undisturbed areas of the ocean. The industrial equipment and systems that would be employed to harvest the nodules at commercial scales, would certainly disturb the environment and cause an impact - temporary and permanent. The workshop would aim to understand the type, form and scale of impact that would be caused and to develop technological solutions for monitoring and mitigation.

Track 4 Maritime safety, surveillance and advanced technologies

STW15 — Storm @ Sea - A Hands-On Tabletop Challenge in Maritime Cybersecurity

Lead structure: Antwerp Maritime Academy

Summary

The Antwerp Maritime Academy (AMA) and the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) propose to conduct a 2,5 hr workshop at Sea Tech 2026. This interactive session features an intense table-top exercise where different teams tackle a cyber incident at sea and each team individually respond to the issue at hand. Based on real events, the exercise explores the operational impact on board and on the vessel during transit, as well as the wider consequences for the shore-based organisation. The session aims to deepen understanding, spark discussion, share expertise, and encourage new collaborations around maritime cyber resilience. The session follows recent research by AMA and NMCI in maritime cybersecurity.

STW30 — All about the S-100 standard

Lead structure: Cerema

Summary

The S-100 standard is an international standard developed by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) to modernise electronic nautical charts and maritime navigation systems. It enables the integration and overlay of various interoperable information layers on Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) on board ships. It is establishing itself as the exchange format for all maritime data. The objectives of this workshop are to understand the general context surrounding this standard and to illustrate its implementation.

STW35 — Underwater explosions: technical, operational and environmental requirements

Lead structure: ENSTA

Summary

Underwater explosions are carried out for technical or operational reasons, such as maritime works or the neutralisation of historical munitions. In terms of technical requirements, the construction of the coastal road around Réunion Island is a prime example. In terms of technical requirements, the construction of the coastal road around Réunion Island is a prime example. In terms of operational requirements, the Brittany peninsula, due to its history, remains the location where the most historical munitions are reported to have been found. These objects, which are dangerous by nature, must usually be dealt with on site. The aim of this workshop is to bring together international experts from the worlds of research, government and industry to exchange ideas and engage in dialogue on this topic. The aim of this workshop is to bring together international experts from the worlds of research, government and industry to exchange ideas and engage in dialogue on this topic.

Track 5 Territorial attractiveness and marine policies

STW18 — Policy Labs for Coastal Governance in the Atlantic Area

Lead structure: IH Cantabria

Summary

This workshop will explore the Policy Lab developed under WP2 of the GRAAL Interreg Atlantic project, focusing on co-creating solutions for coastal governance and climate adaptation at the Atlantic Area level. As Portugal is the guest country, the session may include insights from a Lisbon pilot case to illustrate locally relevant challenges and broaden the discussion to the Atlantic scale. Participants—policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and private actors—will engage in an interactive Policy Lab exercise to design evidence-based strategies. The workshop aims to foster multi-actor collaboration, share best practices, and generate actionable recommendations for resilient Atlantic coastal management.

STW19 — Connecting Global Growth and Talent in Brest

Lead structure: World Trade Center

Summary

This workshop will give a clear overview of the key organisations that support companies in their international development and help attract foreign talent to Brest. Each speaker will present their role, their services and how they collaborate to strengthen the region's global reach. Participants will leave with a precise understanding of the right contacts, the available support programmes and the opportunities they can use to advance their projects abroad.

Ready to submit your proposal?

Submit your Talk or Poster via the online form — it only takes a few minutes:

Submit your proposal here