**Title: The 21st Century Ocean Economy: Connecting China and the World through International Ocean Industry Collaboration**

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***Abstract*** *(within 300 words)*

Growing ocean economic activity supports China's economy and the global economy, but entails cross-sectoral sustainable development challenges that are beyond the ability of a single company, industry, or country to address. The World Ocean Council (WOC) is an international, multi-industry alliance bringing together ocean industries for global leadership, collaboration, and business benefits in addressing shared challenges. China's ocean industries are invited to participate in the WOC to ensure continued, responsible growth of ocean economic activity. The WOC is addressing global ocean industry priorities, e.g. ocean governance, marine planning, the Arctic, port reception facilities, port adaptation to sea level rise/extreme events, data collection by ocean industries, and investment/innovation. The growing WOC alliance includes 80+ leadership companies from shipping, shipbuilding, oil/gas, fisheries, aquaculture, seabed mining, technology, etc. The WOC network includes 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders worldwide. The next WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) - the international ocean business community conference - is in Singapore, 9-11 November 2015.

***Biography*** *(within 300 words)*

Paul Holthus is the founding President/CEO of the World Ocean Council (WOC), the international business leadership alliance on corporate ocean responsibility. The WOC brings together oil and gas, shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore renewable and other ocean industries, creating unprecedented ocean business community and private sector leadership in addressing shared marine sustainability challenges. Mr. Holthus has held senior positions with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and international environmental organizations, including serving as Deputy Director of the IUCN Global Marine Programme. Among other things, he created the "Coral Triangle" concept, a highly successful large seascape approach to international ocean sustainable development. Since 1998, Mr. Holthus has worked primarily with the private sector to develop practical solutions to ocean sustainability and responsible use challenges. He has worked in over 30 countries with companies, communities, industry associations, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations and foundations. Mr. Holthus is a graduate of the University of California and the University of Hawaii, with advanced degrees in marine resource management and international business. He was a Fulbright scholar in Australia and is East-West Center alum.