



The popular Catch the Next Wave conference at Oceanology International 2024 will focus on innovation at the ocean-climate nexus

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## **Influential Speaker Line-Up Confirmed for Catch the Next Wave's Return at Oi24**

*Oceanology International organizers announce details of special CTNW edition on the final day within a compelling conference program dedicated to the blue economy and energy transition*

The organizers of Oceanology International 2024 (Oi24) have announced a stellar line-up of expert speakers for the much-anticipated return of the Catch the Next Wave series at the ocean technology and marine science

exhibition and conference at London's ExCeL from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Taking place on the final day of a diverse and hard-hitting Oi conference program, CTNW is restored to the event agenda for the sixth time with a special edition focusing on innovation at the ocean-climate nexus.

A high-profile and inspirational list of industry-leading specialists from within and outside of the ocean community will take to the stage to tackle the issues and explore the solutions and options arising from the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Among the highlights is an opening keynote, 'Rising to the Challenge', by Sir David King, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, a former chief scientific adviser to the UK government, and the founder and chair of the Climate Crisis Advisory Group (CCAG), an independent panel of leading international climate experts.

Open to registered attendees only, the premium [Catch the Next Wave](#) conference aims to spark new thinking and ideas across disciplinary boundaries and between sectors, taking a futuristic look at how key areas of rapidly evolving technology might help to achieve net zero and beyond, at the same time as supporting the restoration of the Earth's essential biodiversity and ecosystem services.

CTNW speaker and conference committee member Jyotika Virmani, said: "I have been part of Catch the Next Wave for many years and what I find fascinating and wonderful about Catch the Next Wave is that it is the only conference which pairs together what is happening in marine technology with the equivalent of what is happening outside marine technology. You really get to see what is going on in other fields like medicine, material science and start to think about how they can interact and what we can pull into the marine field."

CTNW, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, includes the following highlights:

- **The Climate and Biodiversity Crisis: The Big Picture**

**Opening keynote: Rising to the Challenge** - Sir David King, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

**Opening keynote: Solutions at the Ocean-Climate Nexus** - Brad Ack, Executive Director and Chief Innovation Officer, Ocean Visions

- **The Energy Transition**

**Energy from the Ocean** - Benj Sykes, Vice President, Head of Environment, Consenting and External Affairs, Ørsted, President at SUT

- **Climate Repair**

**Beyond Net Zero** - Kelly Wanser, Executive Director, SilverLining

**Beyond Net Zero: The Role of the Ocean in Climate Repair** - Ed Hill, CEO, National Oceanography Centre

- **Protecting the Earth's Living Systems**

**Restoring the Ocean** - Professor Helen Findlay, Biological Oceanographer, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

- **The Future Evolution of Key Enabling Technologies**

**Sensors** - Jyotika Virmani, Executive Director, Schmidt Ocean Institute

**Robotics** - Justin Manley, President, Marine Technology Society

**Analytics, Digital Twins and Artificial Intelligence** - Professor Mike Wooldridge, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford.

There will also be sessions for Q&A and networking within the CTNW conference agenda.

Diving deep into the critical and controversial topics affecting the industry today and into the future, the wider [Oi24 technical sessions](#) will cover pertinent topics including the Blue Economy, Energy Transition, Sustainability, as well as controversial areas such as Ocean Mining and Oil & Gas. Varied sessions will encompass: Sensors and Software; Ocean

Observation and Measurement; Uncrewed Vehicles and Vessels; Navigation and Positioning; Data Interpretation, AI and Ocean ICT; Bathymetry; Asset Integrity and Monitoring; Offshore Renewable Energy; Marine Pollution; Site Investigation.

One of the prominent conference locations on the show floor is the keynote Ocean Futures Theatre, which brings together thought leaders from industry, academia and government to discuss meeting future ocean technology needs in line with market developments and new ocean enterprise strategies. Topics range from Sustainability in Offshore Wind and Seabed 2030, to Women in Industry and Future Talent/Careers. Rick Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator, is confirmed as the keynote speaker at the opening plenary.

The technical sessions and Ocean Futures Theatre content are all free to attend for Oi24 attendees.

Carlos Fernandes, Oceanology International Conference Manager, said: “We are very excited to reveal plans for what we believe is an inspirational and innovative conference programme for Oi24. As usual, the aim is to deliver fresh ideas and to welcome as many people as possible to join the conversation during the three days. Adding to the line-up of 5-star technical sessions, we are particularly pleased to reintroduce Catch the Next Wave for a special sixth edition. We are delighted to confirm such a strong group of speakers who we expect to deliver unmissable presentations with significant impact. Across all the content, we want to remain detail orientated, to take a deep look into case studies and reflect real world situations, helping us understand how to achieve our missions and make a difference.”

Oceanology International, and its co-located event OceanICT, takes place at London’s ExCeL from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March this year and is expected to bring 7,500+ attendees and 450+ exhibitors from 80+ countries, with 100+ companies expected to conduct product or service launch activity in 2024. Thousands of international industry buyers, influencers, and professionals will come together once again for the chance to benefit from the unparalleled global marketplace, forum and networking opportunity.

The Oi Conference program can be viewed [here](#). Registration for CTNW conference is available [here](#), with limited places. To stay updated on Oceanology International 2024, please visit

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

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**Note for editors:** Register for your press pass [here](#) to attend Oi24.

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### **About the Oceanology International Portfolio**

**Oceanology International – *Connecting the global ocean technology, engineering and science communities***

Oceanology International (Oi) is the global forum where the ocean industry, academia and government connect to discover innovative solutions from the ocean technology and marine science communities to improve strategies for exploring, protecting and sustainably operating in the world's oceans and waterways. Held at ExCeL London, Oi brings together ocean professionals, facilitates ocean connections and showcases ocean innovation and technology.

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

Oi exhibition and conference incorporates various events and features,

including:

- **OceanICT – *A smarter, more sustainable ocean through connectivity***

Co-located alongside Oi, OceanICT helps connect AI, communications, satellite, IT and IOT solutions providers with key ocean- and water-based end user sectors from around the world.

- **Catch the Next Wave – *Innovation at the ocean-climate nexus***

Returning in 2024 for its 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the Catch the Next Wave conference pairs speakers from within and outside of the ocean community, with the aim of sparking new thinking and ideas across disciplinary boundaries and between sectors. The special edition at Oi24 will focus on the climate and biodiversity crisis. It will take a futuristic look at how key areas of rapidly evolving technology might contribute to innovative solutions at the ocean-climate nexus, helping to achieve net zero and beyond, at the same time as supporting the restoration of the Earth's essential biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- **Ocean Futures – *Meeting future ocean technology needs***

Thought leaders from industry, academia and government come together to discuss meeting future ocean technology needs in line with market developments and new ocean enterprise strategies. Held in the keynote Ocean Futures Theatre within Oi, it features panel discussions and strategic debates on topics including Transitioning the Ocean Economy, Sustainable Offshore Operations, BlueTech Investment and Future Talent/Careers.

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RELX is a global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools for professional and business customers, enabling them to make better decisions, get better results and be more productive. The Group serves customers in more than 180 countries and has offices in about 40 countries, employing over 30,000 people.

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