



California Ocean Summit

DECEMBER 9-11, 2026 / SANTA BARBARA, CA

www.calocean.org

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



WHY THIS? WHY NOW?

This is a decisive decade for our ocean. California has both the opportunity and the responsibility to lead. **The California Ocean Summit brings together science, policy, investment, philanthropy, and culture to move beyond conversation and into action.**



One Summit, Two Experiences

The California Ocean Summit is intentionally designed to bring together both the leaders driving ocean solutions and the broader community that cares about the future of our coasts. Through a combination of working sessions and public-facing cultural programming, the Summit creates opportunities for meaningful collaboration, storytelling, and action.



Working Summit

The engine of the Summit, bringing together leaders across sectors to collaborate, build partnerships, and advance actionable solutions.

The Participants:

Ocean Scientists & Researchers	NGOs & Environmental Organizations
Policymakers & Government Leaders	Cultural Leaders & Storytellers
Impact Investors & Philanthropists	Media & Journalists
Venture Capital Firms	Environmental Leaders
Ocean Startups & Entrepreneurs	



Public Programming

Film, arts, storytelling, and community experiences designed to inspire the next wave of ocean leaders.

Public Events:

Arts & Cultural Experiences	Concert Experiences
Film Screenings	Community Engagement Activities
Live Performances	Public Talks & Storytelling Events



2026 Agenda at a Glance

A detailed agenda with specific timelines will be available on the Summit's conference website in the summer of 2026.



TUESDAY, DEC 8

Opening Evening Experience
(Details Coming Soon)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 9

WORKING SUMMIT:

8:00 AM

Registration Opens
Badge Pick Up
Breakfast & Networking
Opening & Keynotes

11:00 AM

Panel Discussions
Working Lunch
Breakout Sessions

3:00 PM

Main Stage Presentations

4:30 PM

Ocean Leadership Cocktails



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

7:30 PM

OCEAN with the Santa Barbara Symphony,
UCSB Arts & Lectures
Add-on for Summit Attendees

THURSDAY, DEC 10

WORKING SUMMIT:

8:00 AM

Breakfast & Networking

9:00 AM

Keynote
Panel Discussions
Working Lunch
Panel Discussion

3:00 PM

Blue Innovation Showcase, Lightning Pitches

5:00 PM

Closing Session

5:45 PM

Art Show & Reception

6:00 PM

VIP Dinner, *Add-on for Summit Attendees*

8:15 PM

Closing Night Concert



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

10:00 AM

Student OCEAN Screening, UCSB Arts & Lectures

1:00 PM-7:00PM

Free Mini-Doc Screenings

2:45 PM

Panel: Storytelling & Engagement

FRIDAY, DEC 11

WORKING SUMMIT:

7:15 AM-3:15 PM

Santa Cruz Island
Private charter from Ventura Harbor

8:00 AM-4:15 PM

Dangermond Preserve
Guided Bus Tour

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Sea Center & Creek Walk
VIP Tour



Public Event

Invest in California's Ocean Future

Become a founding partner of a first-of-its-kind summit uniting science, policy, investment, innovation, and culture to accelerate solutions for a healthier, more resilient ocean



Executive Access

Engage directly with more than 150 influential ocean leaders, policymakers, investors, and decision-makers.



Audience Visibility

Reach an audience of 1,500+ attendees through the Working Summit and public events in partnership with UCSB Arts & Lectures.



Industry Leadership

Position your brand at the forefront of ocean innovation and leadership through exclusive Founders Circle recognition.



Purposeful Alignment

Demonstrate your commitment by supporting science-backed, solutions-oriented ocean action and collaboration.



Flexible Partnerships

Choose from customizable sponsorship opportunities designed to align with your organization's goals and objectives.

Who You'll Reach

Scientists
Researchers
Policymakers

Investors
Entrepreneurs
Conservationists

Storytellers
Media & Journalists
Environmental Leaders



Science, Capital, Policy, & Culture Converge

The California Ocean Summit is organized around five interconnected themes designed to spark collaboration, accelerate innovation, and advance meaningful action. Together, these focus areas bring diverse perspectives into conversation around the future of ocean stewardship and coastal resilience.



Ocean Innovation

Explore the research, technology, deployment, and commercialization shaping the future of ocean solutions—highlighting the people and innovations moving from concept to real-world impact.



Community & Culture

Experience the power of storytelling, film, arts, and public engagement to inspire action and deepen our connection to the ocean. This portion of the event explores how culture can help move ocean issues from the margins to the center of public conversation.



Policy & Progress

Engage with policymakers, agency leaders, and advocates working to advance practical solutions for California's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Discussions focus on implementation, collaboration, and the policies needed to drive measurable progress.



Field Experiences

Step beyond the conference venue and into the landscapes that make California's coastline unique. Guided site visits and immersive experiences provide firsthand perspectives on the challenges, opportunities, and innovations shaping our coastal future.



Capital & Investment

Discover how philanthropy, ocean venture capital, impact investing, and blended finance can help scale ocean solutions. This focus area connects funders and innovators around opportunities to accelerate environmental and economic outcomes.

Hosted in Santa Barbara, CA

An Epicenter of Ocean Innovation

Santa Barbara is a place where ocean, innovation, and culture meet. From Nobel laureates to world renowned surfers, Santa Barbara brings together the voices and lived experience needed to shape the future of ocean protection.



WHERE REAL SOLUTIONS TAKE SHAPE

Who Participates

The California Ocean Summit is organized around five interconnected themes designed to spark collaboration, accelerate innovation, and advance meaningful action. Together, these focus areas bring diverse perspectives into conversation around the future of ocean stewardship and coastal resilience.



Ocean & Climate Scientists / Researchers

Leading scientific experts driving ocean research, climate systems, and marine ecology.



Investors / Philanthropy / Family Offices, Ecosystem Builders

Capital allocators focused on ocean, climate, and impact investment.



NGOs & Conservation Organizations

Global and regional environmental NGOs advancing ocean protection and arts, culture, storytellers, filmmakers.



Ocean & Climate Funds, Startups / Innovation Ecosystem

Funds, founders, accelerators, and venture platforms scaling blue economy solutions.



Policymakers / Public Sector / Marine Governance

Government, regulatory, and public ocean governance leaders.

Note the above is a representative cross-section of the community we're convening, with more to come including the broader 1000 Ocean Startups ecosystem



California
Ocean Summit



The Steering Committee



Assemblymember Gregg Hart, 37th District

Gregg Hart represents California's 37th Assembly District, serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Before joining the State Assembly, he spent more than three decades in public service, including as a Santa Barbara County Supervisor, City Councilmember, and California Coastal Commissioner. In the Legislature, he has authored landmark environmental legislation to accelerate the plugging and abandonment of idle oil wells, strengthen environmental review for coastal oil projects, and establish California's first statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction program to reduce whale strikes, underwater noise, and greenhouse gas emissions.



Laura Francis, Sea Forward Fund

Laura Francis is the Founder of the Sea Forward Ocean Health Fund, a collaborative, multi-donor philanthropic fund that channels capital into globally diversified ocean impact investments. She spent 27 years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a marine biologist and educator — and now focuses on pioneering new models of blended finance to accelerate innovation for our ocean.



Matthew Stotts, Cerulean Ventures

Matthew Stotts is Co-Founder and Partner at Cerulean Ventures, where he invests in early-stage companies building solutions for climate resilience, biodiversity, and a nature-positive economy. He is a former technology founder and professor of technology management at the University of California.



Robert Miller, UCSB Marine Science Institute



Roxanne Nanning, Blue Biome Advising



Gunnar Langenhuizen
37th District



Jaden Gill
Sea Forward Fund



Skylah Reis
UCSB Marine Science Institute



Elly Iverson
Conference Director

THE SUMMIT'S GOALS

Building a Lasting Legacy for California's Ocean



150+ Leaders

Bring together 150+ invited decision-makers from science, policy, investment, and innovation.

Cross-Sector Partnerships

Foster meaningful collaboration across science, funding, policy, and entrepreneurship.

Lasting Initiatives

Launch partnerships and projects that continue long after the Summit concludes.

Shared Commitment

Advance a California Ocean Action Declaration to align leaders around a common vision.

Innovation Hub

Support the development of a Santa Barbara Ocean Innovation Hub to accelerate future collaboration.

Catalyzing Impact

Drive new investment and public engagement to scale ocean solutions across California.

Partnership Opportunities

Become a founding partner of a first-of-its-kind summit uniting science, policy, investment, innovation, and culture to accelerate solutions for a healthier, more resilient ocean

Ocean Visionary

Presenting Partners, Closed

Receives exclusive presenting credit across all summit materials and featured presence on the mainstage. Includes customized package of benefits.



Ocean Guardian

\$50,000

Featured brand placement across key summit materials, with a spot in a featured conference section and onstage recognition. Includes 4 VIP conference passes (public evening events included), supports discounted tickets for 8 nonprofit/student attendees, includes 8 additional seats to Wed. Ocean Screening with Arts and Lectures, and includes 2 seats at the very limited VIP dinner experience Thursday evening.

Ocean Steward

\$25,000

Featured brand placement across summit materials, with the opportunity to speak during the conference and onstage recognition. Includes 3 VIP conference passes (public evening events included), supports discounted tickets for 6 nonprofit/student attendees, includes 6 additional seats to Wed. Ocean Screening with Arts and Lectures, and includes 1 seat at the very limited VIP dinner experience Thursday evening.

Ocean Advocate

\$10,000

Featured brand placement across summit materials and recognition in summit communications. Includes 2 VIP conference passes (public evening events included), supports discounted tickets for 4 nonprofit/student attendees, and includes 4 additional seats to Wed. Ocean Screening with Arts and Lectures. Dinner seating is not included at this level.

Ocean Ally

\$5,000

Featured brand placement across summit materials and recognition in summit communications. Includes 2 VIP conference passes (public evening events included), supports discounted tickets for 2 nonprofit/student attendees, and includes 2 additional seats to Wed. Ocean Screening with Arts and Lectures. Dinner seating is not included at this level.

Public Programming

The California Ocean Summit extends beyond the Working Summit through a vibrant series of films, performances, exhibitions, conversations, and community experiences. **A defining feature of the Summit, this public-facing programming sets it apart from traditional ocean conferences** by inviting the broader community into the conversation. Designed for both attendees and the public, these experiences celebrate ocean culture, amplify diverse voices, and inspire meaningful engagement with the future of California's coast and ocean.

DAY 1

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY

OCEAN in Concert

A Live Screening of the Film OCEAN, Narrated by David Attenborough

7:30 PM / Granada Theatre · PUBLIC EVENT, ADD-ON FOR WORKING SUMMIT ATTENDEES

DAY 2

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY

Student OCEAN in Concert

A Live Screening of the Film OCEAN, Narrated by David Attenborough

10:00 AM / Granada Theatre · INVITED SCHOOL GROUPS

Mini-Doc Screenings

1:00 PM–7:00 PM / Santa Barbara Public Library Faulkner Gallery · FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Panel: Storytelling & Engagement

2:45 PM / Santa Barbara Public Library Faulkner Gallery · FREE TO THE PUBLIC





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The Future of Our Ocean Depends on What We Build Together

The California Ocean Summit is more than an event—it's the beginning of a new era of collaboration, innovation, and action. As a founding sponsor, you'll help bring together the leaders, ideas, and partnerships that will shape the future of our ocean for generations to come

For sponsorship opportunities and partnership inquiries email:

info@calocean.org

Become a Founding Sponsor Today.

For more information visit www.calocean.org

BE PART OF THE LEGACY