



## A Nexus for Marine Biotechnology Supporting the Blue Economy

### Waves of Opportunity for 2017



**March 15-17, 2017: [Fish 2.0](#) South Atlantic and Gulf Coast Shellfish** workshop will take place at MARBIONC in the CREST Research Park, Wilmington, NC. MBCOI was selected by **Innovate SENC** and **UNC-Wilmington's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship** to lead NC's role in the global **Fish 2.0 2017** business competition, which was made possible through the generous support of an *Ecosystem Partner Grant*

from **NC IDEA**. We will leverage our vast network to draw applicants from the shellfish industry across eleven states in the Southeast (DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, and TX) and Washington DC. This regional workshop will teach participants how to communicate effectively about their business and give them practice pitching to investors and buyers. It will also prepare them for the Fish 2.0 competition, which culminates at the Global Forum and Competition Finals in November at Stanford University. Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).



**INNOVATE SENC** [Innovate SENC](#) is a collaboration between local governments, academia, economic development organizations, and the private sector to advance marine biotechnology and the life sciences sector, focused on growing the talent pipeline, increasing access to capital and technical support, and fostering growth in these sectors. UNC-TV has published a short [video](#) describing Innovate SENC's mission and its impact on local entrepreneurs, as is demonstrated by their sponsorship of last November's Cucalorus Connect business conference where Innovate SENC hosted a panel session, [Notion to Ocean](#), to promote its mission to the community.

#### [UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(CIE\)](#)

nurtures emerging companies and works to accelerate the entrepreneurial ecosystem in southeastern NC. CIE is the largest sponsor of events, training, and educational programs for the entrepreneurial community.



**NC IDEA** is a private foundation committed to supporting business innovation and economic advancement in North Carolina. Today, the organization fulfills this mission through four initiatives. The Ecosystem Partner Grant program funds organizations across the state that execute creative programs to support entrepreneurs. Over the last decade, the Seed Grant program has awarded over \$4.75M to 114 high-growth companies across the state. Since 2011, more than 100 companies have participated in the Groundwork Labs startup program. SoarTriangle, a program founded in 2012 to address the proven funding gap for female entrepreneurs, formally became a foundation program in August 2016. Learn more at [www.ncidea.org](http://www.ncidea.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

**February 8-11, 2017, New Bern, NC:**  
[North Carolina Aquaculture Development Conference](#). The annual

**North Carolina Aquaculture  
Development Conference**

conference is designed to bring together the general public, current and prospective fish farmers, scientists, and personnel from regulatory agencies to share information and ideas about the development of aquaculture in North Carolina. Attendees will learn about several topics relevant to aquaculture species in North Carolina, and find out about the latest aquaculture equipment and products by browsing the ongoing Trade Show. **Register** at [www.ncaquaculture.org](http://www.ncaquaculture.org)



**February 28-March 1, 2017, Raleigh, NC: [CED Life Science Conference 2017](#)**. If you are developing a product or technology in the life sciences / healthcare space, maximize your exposure to investors, partners, and more - click [here](#) to register.

**March 8-10, 2017, University of Tromsø, Norway: [BIOPROSP 17](#) - 8th International Conference on Marine Biotechnology**. BIOPROSP is held every two years with a focus on the exploitation of biotechnology in marine environments. BIOPROSP aims to unite scientists with industry representatives in an effort to translate basic research into applied research with industrial application. The marine environment has been described as the last untapped resource in discovering new and unique bioactive molecules with potential to lead to significant advancement in a variety of commercial applications. Register [here](#).



**BIOPROSP\_17**

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
on Marine Biotechnology



**April 4-5, 2017, Raleigh, NC: [North Carolina's Coastal Conference](#)**. Join **NC Sea Grant**, researchers and partners from across the state to discuss a range of critical [issues](#) including weather, storms and climate; community and ecosystem health; fisheries and aquaculture; planning and economics. Register [here](#) by **noon, March 31, 2017**.

**May 11-12, 2017, Durham, NC: The 7th Annual North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force Conference** will take place at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. The 2017 Conference Theme is **WATER**. The organizers are currently looking for speakers, so if you have any suggestions, please contact: Jennifer Stewart [jennifer.stewart@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:jennifer.stewart@dhhs.nc.gov) or Steve Tracey [Stephen.Tracey@delhaize.com](mailto:Stephen.Tracey@delhaize.com). Registration Fees: \$75 Industry, \$50 Government, \$25 Students. Registration details to follow.



**March 3, 2017: [Marine Science and Education Partnership \(MSEP\) Marine Coastal Science Competition](#)** open registration for anyone who is a full-time, registered student in a private or public middle or high school in North Carolina. Eligible students will submit

their solution describing how NC coastal communities may benefit from expansion of the oyster industry. Complete details are available [here](#).

## OTHER NEWS

### It's a Bright Day for Deep Sea Corals

It's official, the Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area takes effect, which establishes the US Atlantic's largest protected area. The science-driven and collaborative process behind this protection set a new standard that is hoped other Councils around the country will follow. Read the Pew Charitable Trusts story here: [A Bright Day for Deep-Sea Corals](#).

**The 2nd North Carolina Marine Biotechnology and Seafood Symposium was held in RTP, NC on 9-10 Oct, 2016. The theme was *Reimagine the Future - Sustainable and Safe***

**Seafood.** Click [here](#) for video proceedings.

MBCOI is pleased to bring you these updates about developments within our stakeholder network.  
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