

Maritime Week Americas 2026

POST EVENT REPORT

Building resilience in a changing world



About Maritime Week Americas 2026

In a world increasingly affected by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, natural disasters and climate-related risks, the maritime industry recognised the growing importance of resilience, flexibility, efficiency and sustainability for long-term success.

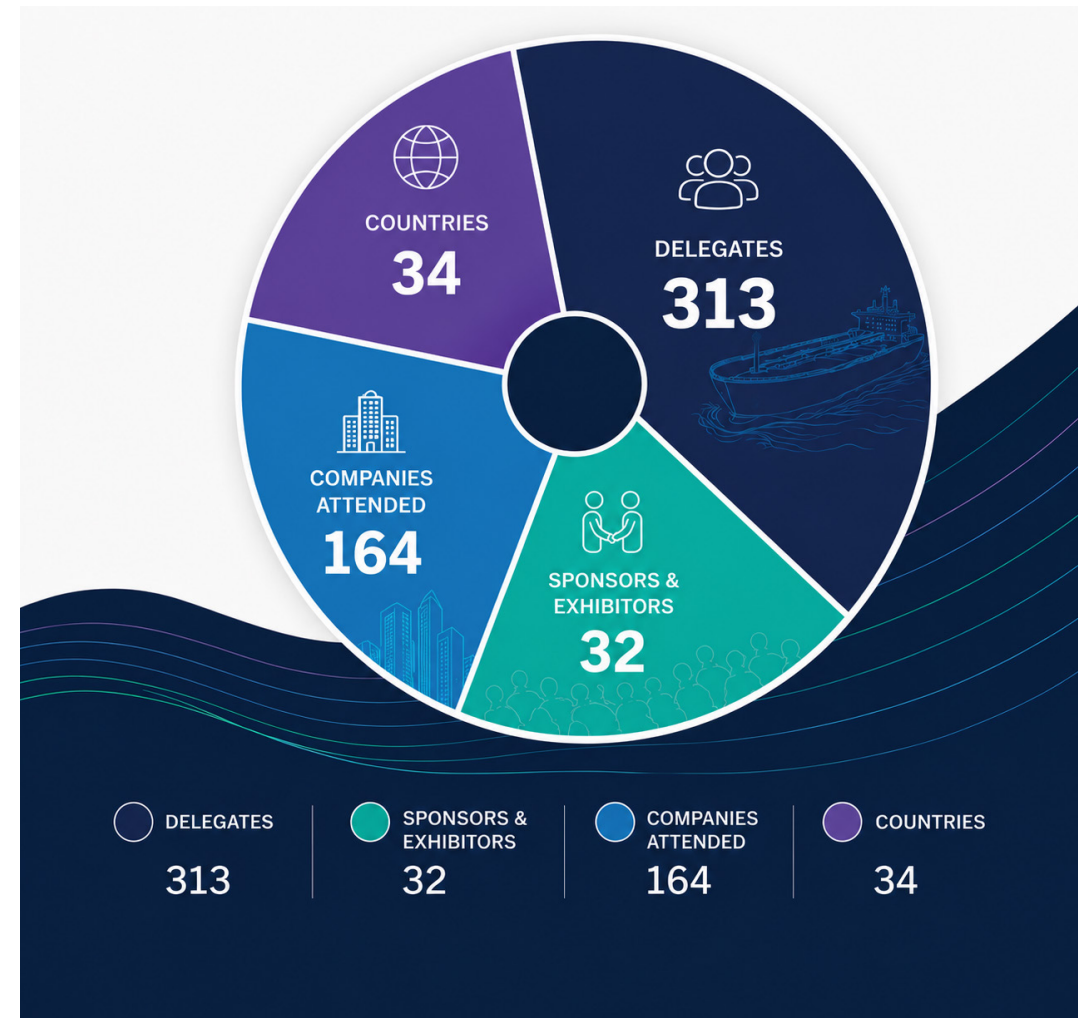
Across Latin America, ports in countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Peru continued investing in infrastructure upgrades and expansion projects. These developments supported sustained growth, while shipping lines adapted trade routes and cargo flows throughout the region.

Panama remained at the forefront of this transformation. Following a strong recovery from the 2024 drought, which had significantly disrupted Panama Canal transits and cargo volumes, the country pursued ambitious diversification plans. Alongside two proposed container transshipment terminals and an intra-oceanic gas pipeline, Panama positioned itself as a major energy corridor and global trade and logistics hub.

Despite uncertainty surrounding the postponed vote on the International Maritime Organization's Net-Zero Framework, the development and adoption of alternative fuels remained a key priority. Growing market acceptance of LNG, LPG, biofuels and alcohol-based fuels created new opportunities for the shipping sector.

Maritime Week Americas 2026 explored these challenges and opportunities through its flagship conference, alternative fuels training sessions, a bunker barge site visit and industry networking events. The MWA26 Conference, held on 20–21 May 2026, examined geopolitical and economic pressures while highlighting infrastructure growth, fuel innovation and the efficiencies being achieved through digitalisation across shipping and bunkering.

Delegate attendance

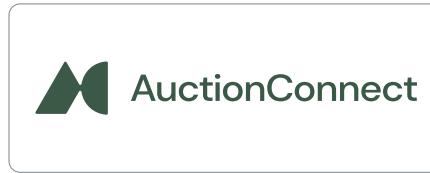


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Conference Programme

20 May 2026

CONFERENCE - DAY ONE

08:30 Welcome Coffee & Registration

SESSION ONE – THE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE

09:30 This high-powered opening session set the scene by focusing on dynamic geopolitics, world trade, international maritime regulation.

SESSION TWO – BEYOND GEOGRAPHY: DEFINING PANAMA'S NEXT STRATEGIC MARITIME CHAPTER

10:00 This session examined Panama's maritime and energy sectors, covering Panama Canal water management, new transshipment terminals, a proposed gas pipeline, logistics hub expansion, and growth in the cruise, marina, and superyacht industries.

SESSION THREE - THE MARITIME LEGAL HOUR

11:30 This panel examined global developments from the perspective of leading maritime lawyers, assessing the impact of sanctions, tariffs and trade restrictions, energy markets, and economies.

KEYNOTE

12:30 - *Adrian Tolson, Owner, 2025 Marine Energy, Chairman, International Bunker Industry Association*

SESSION FOUR - THE BUSINESS OF BUNKERING

14:00 This session provided a global and regional overview of the bunkering sector, covering trading patterns, profit margins, fuel quality, pricing, credit risk, digitalisation, and operational efficiency.

SESSION FIVE - EMBRACING NEW FUELS

16:30 This session examined shipping's energy transition, focusing on alternative fuel projects in the Americas, strategies for fuel adoption and supply, the bunker sector's response, shore power developments, and the impact on bunkering ports. Options for vessel efficiency and optimisation will also be considered.



21 May 2026

CONFERENCE - DAY TWO

SESSION SIX - BUNKERING IN THE AMERICAS

09:30 This panel examined developments in key bunker markets across the Americas and the Caribbean, covering fuel supply, availability, infrastructure, and factors affecting the shipping, maritime, and bunkering sectors.

SESSION SEVEN – MARITIME WEEK AMERICAS LEADERSHIP PANEL

11:15 This session featured leaders in the shipping, maritime and bunkering sectors who gave their frank views on the state of the industry and took questions from the audience.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

12:30 - *Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes, CEO & Founder, ship.energy*

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

Headline Conference Speakers



Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes
ship.energy



Silvia de Marucci
IME Marine Group



Steve Simms
Simms Showers LLP



Christopher Aversano
Wood Mackenzie



Paul Ross
Royal Caribbean Group

Moderators



Javier Ortiz Abadia
Decal Panama S.A.



Wajdi Abdmessih
Seahawk Services Inc.



Jonas Bentsen
Peninsula



Claudia Beumer
C4 Fuel



Sara Brady
KPI OceanConnect



Allyson Browne
High Ambition Climate Collective



Amb. Sander Cohen
Embassy of Netherlands in Panama



Kenneth Dam
TFG Marine



Thomas Damsgaard
BIMCO



Airam Diaz Pastor
Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife



Arsenio Dominguez
International Maritime Organization



Ali DySard
Environmental Defense Fund



Yousef El Bagoury
CSL Group Inc.



Ilya Espino de Marotta
Panama Canal Authority



Romano Feoli
Feoli & Co



Augusto Garcia Sanjur
Floyd Zadkovich



Michael Green
World Fuel Services



Marco Guerra
Ultrana Panama Inc.



Amb. Greg Houston
British Ambassador to Panama



Rasmus Jacobsen
Monjasa



Kenneth Zhati Juhls
AuctionConnect



Michael McNamara
Carnival Corp.



Gary Murphy
Simms Showers LLP



Julie Nielsen
StormGeo



Kelly Owen
Wolverine Terminals LP



Enrique Piqueras
PSA Panama



Captain Chris Roberts
Minerva Bunkering (USA) LLC



Alexis X. Rodríguez Almanza
Nex Bridge Advisors



Rodolfo Sabonge
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Panama



Argyrios Schoinas
Bureau Veritas Verifuel



Louis Sola
Former Chairman of the US Federal Maritime Commission



Thomas Sosnowski
OPIS



Paal Stenberg
Faerder Tankers Norway



Kenneth Thorup
Fueltech A/S



Adrian Tolson
2050 Marine Energy / IBIA



Flor Torrijos
InterMaritime Group



Francisco Venetucci
Venetucci Maritime



Jeroen de Vos
Peninsula / IBIA



Dr Ricaurte Vásquez Morales
Panama Canal Authority



Reid Wagner
Growth Energy

Marketing

These images showcase a strategic sponsorship marketing campaign for Maritime Week Americas 2026 in Panama. The posts leverage event branding, sponsor visibility, and thought leadership to increase awareness and engagement. Two posts highlight major sponsors—AuctionConnect (Diamond Sponsor) and Peninsula (Platinum Sponsor)—giving them prominent exposure to a targeted maritime audience. The third post features a key industry speaker, *Amb. Sander Cohen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Panama*, using a personal profile to add credibility and generate interest in the event. Together, the campaign combines sponsor promotion, speaker spotlighting, and consistent event branding to attract attendees, strengthen industry partnerships, and build anticipation for the conference.

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Maritime Week Americas

18-21 May 2026
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Ambassador [Sander Cohen](#), Ambassador at Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Panama will be speaking at Maritime Week Americas taking place in Panama, 18 - 21 May 2026.

Ambassador Cohen will speak in session one – The political and commercial landscape.

This high-powered opening session will set the scene by focusing on dynamic geopolitics, world trade, international maritime regulation and the importance of Panama and the Panama Canal, both regionally and globally.

Learn more here → <https://lnkd.in/eqc6jsz6>

Register to attend → <https://lnkd.in/ehqPAHn2>

#MWA26 #Panama #MaritimeWeekAmericas #Bunkering #MaritimeEnergy

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Maritime Week Americas

18 - 21 May 2026 | Panama

Ambassador Sander Cohen

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Panama

Embassy of the Netherlands

Delegate Feedback

“A valuable week at Maritime Week Americas 2026 in Panama.

It was a pleasure connecting with suppliers, colleagues, customers, and industry professionals from across Latin America.

A great opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss market trends and regional challenges, and gain insights into where the marine fuels industry is heading in the region.

Thank you to everyone who shared their time, knowledge, and perspectives. Looking forward to staying connected and creating future opportunities together.”

- *Alejandra Echeverri, Key Account manager, KPI OceanConnect*

“This week, I had the privilege of attending #MWA26 here in Panama, a key forum for connecting with industry leaders, exchanging perspectives, and analyzing the future of the maritime and bunkering sectors in the region.

It was a week of great insights and, above all, valuable discussions shared with colleagues and strategic partners.

Special thanks to Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes and the organizers for putting together such a high-caliber event, as well as to everyone I had the pleasure of connecting with. Looking forward to driving the future of our industry forward!”

- *Carlos Jacobo Medina Montañez, Site Director, Vopak Panama*

“Back home after a successful week in Panamá at #MWA26.

It was an excellent opportunity to connect with industry leaders, exchange ideas, and strengthen partnerships across the maritime sector. Thank you to Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes and the team from ship.energy for making this event such a remarkable experience.”

- *Eugenia Benavides, Wista Colombia board member/ Former IBIA board member*

“Proud to have participated and spoken at Maritime Week Americas 2026 in Panama this week.

The discussions throughout the conference clearly showed how rapidly the marine fuel landscape continues to evolve — from fuel quality and contamination risks to fuel blending with renewable biofuels, operational challenges, and the industry’s path toward decarbonisation.

It was a pleasure sharing perspectives with such an experienced and knowledgeable panel, and reconnecting with many friends and colleagues across the global bunkering and shipping community.

A sincere thank you to Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes, Christopher Aversano, Hannah Jeacock, the expert panel participants, and the entire ship.energy team for organizing such a successful and engaging event.

Looking forward to continuing these important industry conversations in the months ahead.”

- *Wajdi Abdmessih, Founder and President, Seahawk Services Inc.*



Panama Canal tour



Conference



Conference



Branding



Ethanol training course



Networking



Networking



USEFUL LINKS

View all event photos here: www.flickr.com/photos/petrospot

[View](#) Maritime Week Americas website

TV & PRESS COVERAGE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNsJMI230WA&t=1934s>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DYm5jijLnY5/?img_index=3

https://www.instagram.com/p/DYoACVuDvXW/?img_index=1



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Maritime Week Americas

May 2027 | Panama

#MWA27