

5th TRADING IN U.S. WATERS @ POSIDONIA 2026

Thursday, June 4 | Metropolitan Expo Center | Central Seminar Room

U.S. and Greek Approaches on Today's Maritime Challenges

creative CODE

Seminar at Posidonia



Shark Tank Event



10:30 – 11:00

REGISTRATION – WELCOME COFFEE

11:00 – 11:20

INTRODUCTION – OPENING REMARKS



Elias Spirtoonias
Executive Director
American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce



John D. Saracakis
President
American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce



Yuri Arthur
Commercial Counselor
U.S. Embassy, Athens



Joe Hughes
Chairman, NAMEPA
Board Member, American P&I Club



Costis Frangoulis
President
The International Propeller Club, Port of Piraeus



Seminar Moderator:
Carleen Lyden Walker
Co-Founder/CEO, North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA)
Chief Evolution Officer, SHIPPINGInsight, Fmr. IMO Maritime Ambassador

11:20 – 11:45

DISCUSSION:
TRADING SMART IN U.S. WATERS: COMPLIANCE, COST AND COMPETITIVE EDGE



Matthew Thomas
Partner, International Trade Maritime
Blank Rome Law Firm



Dana Merkel
Partner, Maritime
Blank Rome Law Firm



Sydney Plante
Acting Associate Administrator for Strategic Engagement at the Maritime Administration (MARAD)
U.S. Department of Transportation



Aristidis Kourkoumelis
Assistant Secretary, Trade & Economic Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

11:45 – 12:30

SESSION 1: SAFEGUARDING GLOBAL TRADE AMID GEOPOLITICAL RISK



Joshua Volz
Special Envoy for Energy Integration
U.S. Department of Energy



Thanos Dokos
National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister



Daniel A. Tadros
Chief Operating Officer
The American P&I Club



Stratos Desypris
Chief Operating Officer
Navios Maritime Partners L.P.



Robert Obayda
Chief of Staff to the CEO, Davie Shipbuilding
Former Director of Maritime Industrial Policy, White House National Security Council



Dr. Mariniki Psifia
ALBA Visiting Faculty – Economist
Head Shipping Market Analyst, Latsco Marine Management

12:30 – 12:55

SESSION 2: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: AI IN GLOBAL SHIPPING



Joshua Divin
Senior Vice President, Marine Business Development
American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)



Maria Kolitsida
Founder and CEO
Signal Fusion



George Kokosalakis
Executive Director, Center of Excellence in Shipping, Logistics & Energy
Associate Professor, School of Business and Economics, Deree

12:55 – 13:30

SESSION 3: OPTIMIZING ENERGY IN SHIPPING: TECHNOLOGIES, EFFICIENCY, AND THE PATH AHEAD



Sydney Plante
Acting Associate Administrator for Strategic Engagement at the Maritime Administration (MARAD)
U.S. Department of Transportation



The Honorable Sang H. Yi
 President and CEO
 American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)



Themis Vagiakos
 Director, Global Sustainability
 American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)



Cynthia Hudson
 President
 Shoreline Hudson



Kirk Kaiser
 Chief Technical Officer
 Airglide AI

DISCUSSION – QUESTIONS BY THE AUDIENCE

13:30 – 14:00

NETWORKING LIGHT LUNCH

14:00 – 14:15

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Vassilis Kikilias
 Minister
 Ministry of Maritime Affairs, and Insular Policy

14:15 – 14:35

DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC COLLABORATION AGREEMENT



Panos Xenokostas
 Founder & President, ONEX Shipyards & Technologies Group
 President, Hellenic Shipyards Association



Georgios Plevrakis
 Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean
 Hanwha

14:35 – 16:15

SHIPPINGInsight's SHARK TANK: A COMPETITION OF INNOVATIVE U.S. MARITIME TECHNOLOGIES - U.S. new technology groups pitch their advanced solutions to pre-eminent "Sharks" and the global Posidonia audience



Sharks
Kimberly Guilfoyle
 U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic
 U.S. Embassy Athens



Marina Hadjipateras
 Founder and General Partner
 TMV



Semiramis Paliou
 CEO
 Diana Shipping Inc.



George Alexandratos
 President
 Hellenic Chamber of Shipping



Stephen Schueler

Managing Director, European Maritime Finance
Chairman, Enerjen Capital



Danae Bezantakou

1st Vice President, The International Propeller Club, Port of Piraeus
CEO, Navigator Shipping Consultants



Presenter - Facilitator

Carleen Lyden Walker

Co-Founder/CEO, North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA)
Chief Evolution Officer, SHIPPINGInsight, Fmr. IMO Maritime Ambassador

Presenting U.S. Firms



Miles Keeney-Ritchie

Founder and CEO
Aloft Systems



Anastasija Kuprijanova

Director of Business Development
Carbon Ridge



Sidney McLaurin

Founder and CEO
Fleet Robotics



Hans Olson

Director of Business Development
Quartermaster AI



Sean Simons

CCO & Co-Founder
Robot Toolworx



Matthew Ezekiel Riley

CEO and Co-Founder
Sidonia

16:15 – 16:30

CONCLUSIONS



Carleen Lyden Walker

Co-Founder/CEO, North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA)
Chief Evolution Officer, SHIPPINGInsight, Fmr. IMO Maritime Ambassador