

For Immediate Release Sausalito, CA – February 12, 2025

> The Stone Soup Leadership Institute Partners with College of Marin on Blue Economy Initiative

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is proud to announce Blue Job Shadow Day, in partnership with the College of Marin's Environmental Action Club. The event will take place on February 12, 2025, at 12:30-1:40 PM at the Kentfield Campus.

Sustainable Workforce Development Opportunities Interactive Dialogue with Blue Economy Leaders John Finger, Hog Island & Perry Raso, Matunouk Oyster Farm & College of Marin Environmental Action Club Members

This immersive experience will showcase **Educational Exhibits** with workforce development opportunities – internships, jobs, certificates - for students to explore and pursue in the Blue Economy in the Bay Area community. This career-focused event will bring together industry leaders from blue companies and educational institutions to enlighten students, educators, and academic leaders.

The Institute is proud to be hosting California Aquaculture Association, Call of the Sea – Sail, Explore, Learn, Clipper Yacht Harbor, College of Marin, Galilee Harbor Community Association, MARE: The Marine Advanced Technology Education Center, Redwood Empire JATC • IBEW-NECA Local 551, San Francisco Blue Tech, Sausalito Sustainable Waterfront Association, Sausalito Working Waterfront Association, Spaulding Marine Center, SeaTrek Kayak and SUP, and ZeroMar.

The California Chancellor of Community Colleges has championed the Blue Economy initiative with a coalition of 17 community colleges in Southern California. <u>link</u> We're honored she is sending her representative to our event in hopes of sparking interest in creating a similar initiative in Northern California to develop workforce development training to grow the Blue Economy.

The **Blue Economy** is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in California. From ocean exploration and regenerative aquaculture to underwater robotics and renewable energy, the blue economy is expected to create new jobs of every kind, bringing opportunities that <u>benefit diverse communities</u>. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development <u>projected the blue economy would reach \$3 trillion in global value</u> by 2030.

About The Institute's Blue Job Shadow Day

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's **Blue Job Shadow Day** builds on three decades of hosting Job Shadow Days on Martha's Vineyard and in other communities around the world. In 1994 we developed the first Job Shadow Day in partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Over the years this one-day event was adopted by national organizations and the US Department of Labor. The Institute's educational tools and professional development (PD) trainings empower educators to guide students towards building a sustainable world. Founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard, the Institute has worked with Blue Economy's leaders and community colleges in New England since 2018.

As the Blue Economy continues to expand, it presents immense opportunities for career growth, environmental sustainability, and community development. The Institute is proud to contribute to this exciting sector by organizing **Blue Job Shadow Day**, a career-focused event designed to connect students with industry leaders and educational institutions. This immersive experience will provide valuable insights into the diverse job pathways emerging within the Blue Economy, empowering the next generation of leaders to embrace sustainable career opportunities.

After Blue Job Shadow Day, COM students will explore sustainable career pathways using SustainWDNTM, the Institute's workforce development platform. Since 2018, the Institute has tested SustainWDNTM with high schools, Blue Economy companies, and community colleges in New England. This prototype, designed for community college students, aims to expand statewide and globally, guiding students toward careers that support environmental preservation and restoration. We hope it will catalyze blue companies, organizations, academic institutions to develop partnerships to build a Blue Economy.

The Opportunity: Schedule Interviews with Speakers & Exhibitors at Reception following event

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Stone Soup Leadership Institute

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