

# BLUE INSTITUTE

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Blue Dozen and the Next Wave of Ocean Innovation



## IN THIS ISSUE

### BX6

#### Meet the Blue Dozen

Twelve ventures advancing ocean health, climate resilience, maritime systems, and water security through practical blue-economy innovation.

### MEDIA

#### BX6 Signals

Coverage from Marine Technology News, MaineBiz, Techstars, ECO Magazine, and company fieldwork shows BX6 moving from announcement toward visibility, testing, and external validation.

### ALUMNI

#### From cohort to market

Prior Blue Excelsior alumni continue to show momentum through pilots, funding, acquisition, and public visibility.

# From The President



Dr. Robyn E. Hannigan

This quarter, the Blue Institute’s work reminds us that ocean innovation is not a distant ambition; it is already taking shape in the hands of founders, engineers, scientists, students, and community partners who are willing to build what the future requires. The Blue Dozen reflects the power of that work: practical ideas aimed at healthier oceans, stronger coastal economies, and more resilient communities.

Our role is to connect this talent to the mentors, partners, pilots, and markets that help promising technologies become real solutions. That is how a regional network becomes an innovation corridor, and commitment to ocean health becomes economic opportunity. The work ahead is urgent, but it is also full of possibility.

## BX6

# Introducing the Blue Dozen

On Earth Day, Blue Institute announced the 12 companies selected for BX6, the sixth Blue Excelerator cohort. The cohort includes ventures from the United States, Canada, Germany, and Denmark working across:



### Ocean Health

Focus: Protecting biodiversity, monitoring species, and ecosystem restoration.

- [AirSpotter Assist](#) (Quincy, MA)
- [Algrid](#) (Frankfurt, Germany)
- [LiftLabs](#) (Lowell, MA)
- [IntelliReefs](#) (Salt Lake City, UT)

### Climate Resilience

Focus: Adaptation, carbon reduction, and coastal protection.

- [Bay State Sail Freight](#) (Provincetown, MA)
- [Sedna Robotics](#) (Boston, MA)
- [Springtide Seaweed](#) (Gouldsboro, ME)
- [Retssop](#) (Nova Scotia, Canada)

### Maritime Systems

Focus: Infrastructure, autonomous operations, and hardware/software integration.

- [DUV](#) (Copenhagen, Netherlands)
- [Innovite Solutions](#) (Dallas, TX)
- [Diversican](#) (Suwanee, GA)

### Water Security

Focus: Resource management, treatment, and terrestrial-maritime overlap.

- [C1iN](#) (SanDiego, CA and Washington, D.C.)

## MEDIA

## BX6 signals

- ✓ **Marine Technology News:** covered the BX6 announcement and highlighted the cohort's work across ocean health, climate resilience, maritime systems, and water security. [Learn More.](#)
- ✓ **Mainebiz:** featured Springtide Seaweed, reinforcing the Maine and North Atlantic dimension of the cohort. [Learn More.](#)
- ✓ **Techstars:** selected Diversican for its 2026 Founder Catalyst WaterTech & Sustainability cohort. [Learn More.](#)
- ✓ **ECO Magazine:** covered IntelliReefs' Oceanite platform for reef restoration, coastal protection, and habitat recovery. [Click to Read More.](#)
- ✓ **Field testing:** LiftLabs and Sedna Robotics tested ropeless fishing gear and offshore retrieval systems. [Learn More.](#)

## Alumni momentum

Blue Institute's impact does not end at Demo Day. Across prior Blue Excelerator cohorts, alumni are moving from concept to pilot, from pilot to market, and from promising technology to public and private-sector relevance.

## BX4

## BLUEiQ

OpenEar acoustic sensing platform gaining Boston Harbor visibility; strong fit with the Blue Incubator and ocean intelligence narrative. [Learn More.](#)

## BX5

## Crewless Marine

Acquired by Vatn Systems to strengthen underwater acoustic sensing and autonomous undersea systems. [Learn More.](#)

## BX5

## BlueShift

BlueShift announced a \$2.1 million pre-seed funding round to advance its electrochemical technology for domestic critical-mineral recovery and ocean carbon removal, including work toward a pilot facility. [Learn More.](#)

## BX3

## Dolphin Labs

Advancing wave-powered ocean-observing infrastructure that supports offshore sensing, power, and maritime domain awareness. [Learn More.](#)

## BX3

## Moby Filters

Tackling microfiber pollution from laundry systems with a founder story rooted in sustainability innovation. [Learn More.](#)

## BX1

## ecoSPEARS

Building long-term traction around sustainable remediation technologies for persistent contaminants in soil and waterways. [Learn More.](#)

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

# By the numbers

6

Blue Exceleator cohorts

61

Companies supported including BX6

84%

Reported alumni survival rate

\$24M+

Reported follow-on funding

## WHAT'S AHEAD

### BX6 Demo Day

June 25, 2026

Showcasing the Blue Dozen and the next wave of ocean innovation. See [BlueInstitute.org](https://blueinstitute.org) for more information.

### Blue Economy Week

October 4-11, 2026

The Blue Institute is preparing for Blue Economy Week, designed to connect the North Atlantic Blue Economy Corridor through innovation, workforce development, research, investment, culture, and community engagement. More information is available at <https://blueeconomyweek.org/>.

## Partnerships

### Ongoing

In tandem with Blue Innovation Labs, the Blue Institute recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maine. Bringing together the power of university partnerships with start-ups and strategically building a more robust pipeline for entrepreneurs and innovators who seek to accelerate the marine economy, this partnership is certain to broaden opportunities for our Blue Exceleator companies as well as open new doors for students and communities in Maine. Learn more about U. Maine's Office of Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Resources, and Engagement (SPIRE) [here](#).

## BUILD WITH US

Blue Institute is growing a practical innovation ecosystem for ocean resilience. We welcome partners who can help founders move from promising ideas to deployable solutions.

### What we need

<b>Mentors</b>	Technical, venture, manufacturing, finance, policy, and communications expertise
<b>Pilot Sites</b>	Ports, harbors, coastal communities, labs, vessels, and test environments
<b>Investors &amp; sponsors</b>	Capital, program support, and strategic introductions
<b>Educators &amp; researchers</b>	Student engagement, applied research, workforce pathways, and translational projects