

The Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission image of Alaska's Columbia Glacier, one of the fastest changing glaciers in the world. From https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2024/01/Earth_from_Space_Columbia_Glacier_Alaska

OCEAN OPTICS XXVII

SEPTEMBER 13-18, 2026 | GHENT, BELGIUM
OCEANOPTICSCONFERENCE.ORG

SPONSOR AND EXHIBITOR PROSPECTUS

Welcome

We warmly invite your organization to join us as a Sponsor and/or Exhibitor at Ocean Optics XXVII, taking place September 13–18, 2026, in Ghent, Belgium.

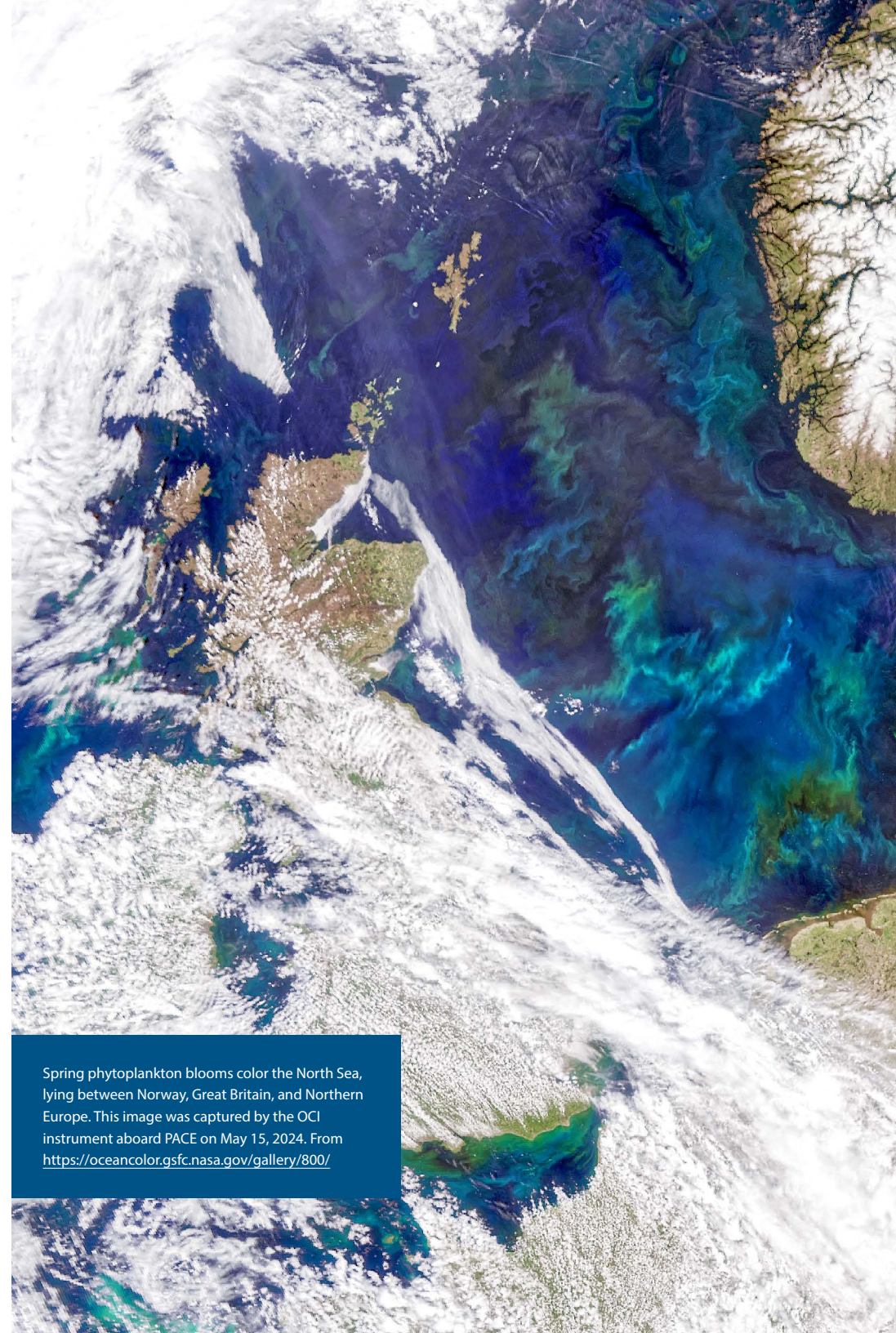
Held biennially, the Ocean Optics Conference brings together a vibrant, interdisciplinary community of professionals, including oceanographers, marine ecologists, limnologists, optical engineers, marine resource managers, Earth observation scientists, and policy experts from around the world. This unique gathering offers your organization an exceptional opportunity to connect with influential users, developers, and decision-makers in aquatic remote sensing, optical science, and technology.

Following the longstanding Ocean Optics tradition, the 2026 program will feature invited plenary talks, selected oral presentations, dynamic poster sessions, and community-led workshops and short courses. These sessions foster collaboration, idea exchange, and innovation across disciplines and sectors.

Ocean Optics XXVII will be held at two exceptional venues located in the heart of Ghent, just across the street from one another: Wintercircuit, a stunningly renovated innovation hub centered around a dramatic circular arena, and Arts Center VIERNULVIER, with its iconic Theater room, known for its historic elegance and architectural grandeur. These inspiring, fully accessible spaces are ideally suited for presentations, exhibitions, and networking. The venues are surrounded by Ghent's vibrant cafes, hotels, and cultural attractions, creating the perfect setting for meaningful engagement.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ghent in September 2026 for a week of insight, collaboration, and connection.

*Griet Neukermans, Conference Chair,
Jenny Ramarui, Conference Coordinator,
and the 2026 Conference Planning Committee*



Spring phytoplankton blooms color the North Sea, lying between Norway, Great Britain, and Northern Europe. This image was captured by the OCI instrument aboard PACE on May 15, 2024. From <https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/800/>

Program Themes

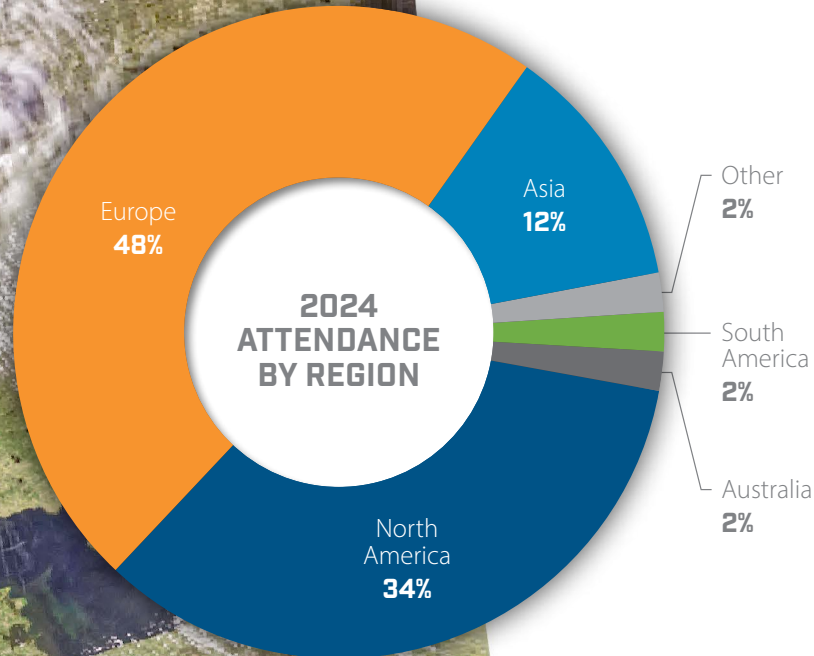
In 2026, the Ocean Optics Conference celebrates its twenty-seventh installment. This event attracts a multidisciplinary audience focused on the optics of inland, coastal, and ocean waters—a diverse community continuing to innovate and apply the discipline of optics to solve today's scientific challenges.

A wide range of research themes are covered, including (but not limited to):

- Radiative transfer and optical theory
- Instruments, techniques, and observational systems
- Remote sensing (passive and active)
- Autonomous airborne/underwater vehicles
- Phytoplankton ecology and biogeochemistry
- Sediment transport and water quality
- Environmental management applications
- Earth system science and global change
- Benthic processes


At the [most recent conference in 2024](#), 345 attendees representing 33 countries participated in presentations throughout the week. This event size allows exhibitors to easily network with conference participants and demonstrate their products and services.

Following the traditional Ocean Optics Conference format, participants will attend plenary presentations during the day and interact with colleagues during morning and afternoon coffee breaks, as well as during scientific poster sessions. Other opportunities for networking include social events such as the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening and Celebration Reception on Thursday evening.



WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES

Workshops and short courses that provide training on software programs and other tools widely used by ocean optics practitioners are a valuable benefit of the conference, especially for students and early career professionals.



Wintercircus serves as a tech incubator, providing space for poster sessions, exhibits, and short courses.

Venues

WINTERCIRCUS

[Wintercircus](#), a hub of innovation, heritage, and engagement, will provide the space for the Ocean Optics XXVII poster sessions, exhibits, and short courses. Originating as a circus in 1885, later transformed into a car workshop and garage, Wintercircus retains its striking architectural heritage—with its brick shell, iron columns, and former service arches to honor its layered past. Enclosed in the city center—steps from De Krook, De Vooruit, and Ghent's historic heart—Wintercircus is ideal for attracting attendees.



ARTS CENTER VIERNULVIER THEATERZAAL

The Ocean Optics XXVII plenary sessions will be held in the iconic [Theaterzaal](#) (theater) of the Arts Center VIERNULVIER. With its historic grandeur and stunning architecture, including red velvet seating, marble murals, balconies adorned with gold leaf, and a magnificent stained glass ceiling, the Theaterzaal is truly the crown jewel of the Vooruit complex. Located in the heart of Ghent, near hotels, cafes, and cultural sites, this venue is ideal for networking and attracting international guests.



Plenary oral sessions will be held in the iconic Theaterzaal of the Arts Center VIERNULVIER.

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities

Ocean Optics XXVII offers an intimate setting and collaborative environment where sponsors and exhibitors enjoy sustained, high-quality engagement with attendees throughout the five-day program. From coffee/refreshment breaks and poster sessions to free time and social events, the conference is designed to foster meaningful interactions. These moments create ideal opportunities to build relationships with a global community of active users, developers, and decision-makers in ocean optics and marine technology.

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

To determine availability and reserve exhibit and sponsorship options, please contact:

Jenny Ramarui

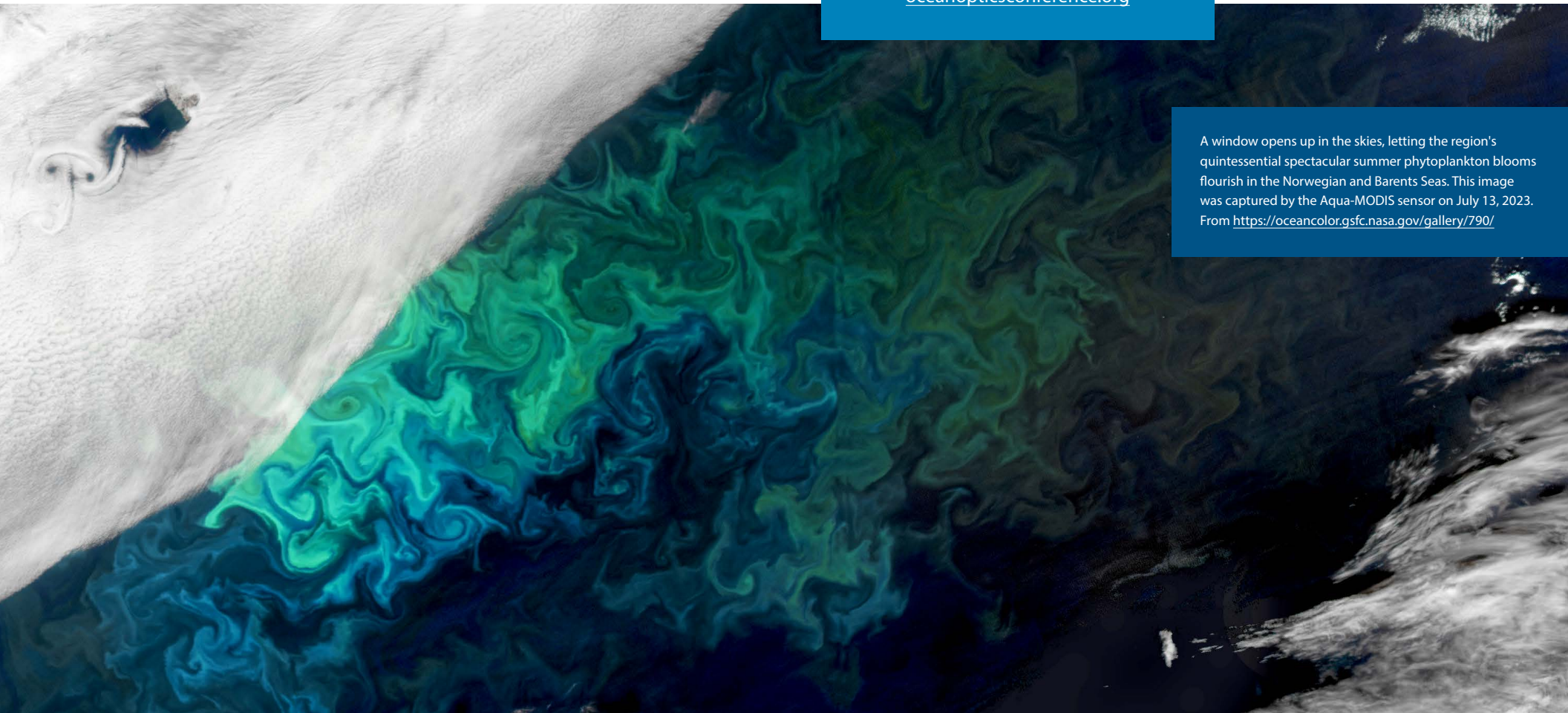
Conference Coordinator

jenny@tos.org

+1 301-251-7708

oceanopticsconference.org


A window opens up in the skies, letting the region's quintessential spectacular summer phytoplankton blooms flourish in the Norwegian and Barents Seas. This image was captured by the Aqua-MODIS sensor on July 13, 2023. From <https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/790/>



SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

	Opportunities Available	Price [US dollars]
General Conference Support	Unlimited	*
Student and Early Career Member Travel Support	Unlimited	\$500 increments
Sunday Training Workshops	8	\$1,000 each
Sunday Welcome Reception	Exclusive	\$5,000
Attendee Luncheon	2	\$5,000 each
Mentoring Luncheon	Exclusive	\$5,000
Poster Session Receptions	2	\$2,500 each
Refreshment Breaks	4	\$1,500 each
Thursday Celebration Reception	Exclusive	\$5,000
Lanyards for Name Badges	Exclusive	\$5,000

* Contact [Jenny Ramarui](#), Conference Coordinator



Two peninsulas along the east coast of New Zealand's South Island are associated with enhanced phytoplankton productivity offshore. This Landsat 8 scene was collected on May 20, 2021. From <https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/754/>

EXHIBITORS

The exhibition area will be located in Expo Halls 1 and 2, directly adjacent to Wintercircus' majestic arena, placing exhibitors at the heart of the conference's daily activity. Open Monday through Thursday at noon, this central location ensures continuous visibility.

Exhibit space includes one long table and two chairs. Electrical service and furnishings can be rented upon request. Exhibitor registration fees include access to all conference presentations and social programs.

An invitation for exhibit booth staff to attend the Thursday evening celebration is included in all exhibit packages. This popular event is the highlight of the week, providing exhibitors with an additional opportunity to interact with Ocean Optics XXVII participants.

Commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3 m x 3 m▪ Includes 2 staff registrations	8 Available	\$2,600
Non-Profit/Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3 m x 3 m▪ Includes 1 staff registration	2 Available	\$1,450

All prices stated are in US dollars. VAT @21% included.

BENEFITS

All exhibitors will be recognized:

- On the exhibitors page of the conference website
- In conference signage
- In the slideshow before the oral sessions

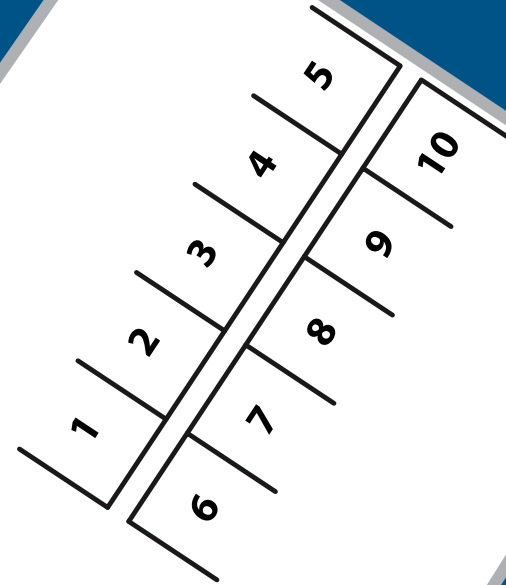
SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

To determine availability and reserve a booth, please contact:

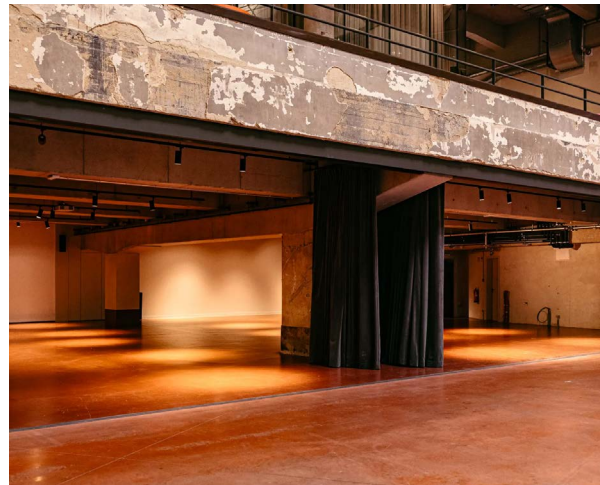
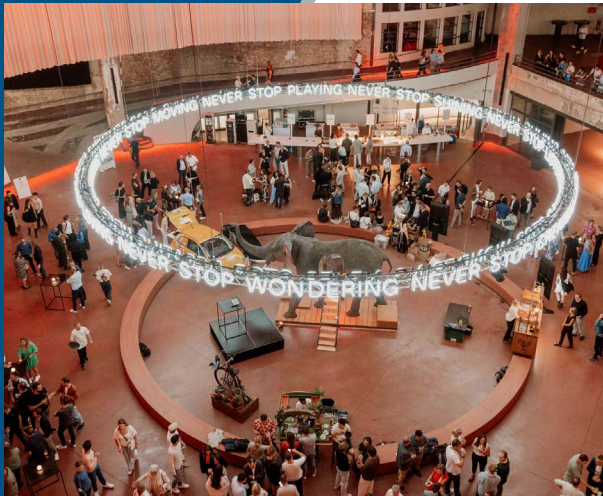
Jenny Ramarui
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+1 301-251-7708
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EXHIBIT AREA FLOOR PLAN

- Two adjacent booths can be reserved to create a double booth.
- Adjustments may be made to the final configuration prior to the conference based on the number of exhibit booths sold.
- Exhibitors will be assigned locations based on the order in which requests for space are confirmed.



WINTERCIRCUS ARENA



Please note: Space and location may be adjusted.

Apply to be a Sponsor

To determine availability and reserve sponsorship options, please contact Jenny Ramarui, Conference Coordinator, at jenny@tos.org or +1 301-251-7708.

Apply to be an Exhibitor

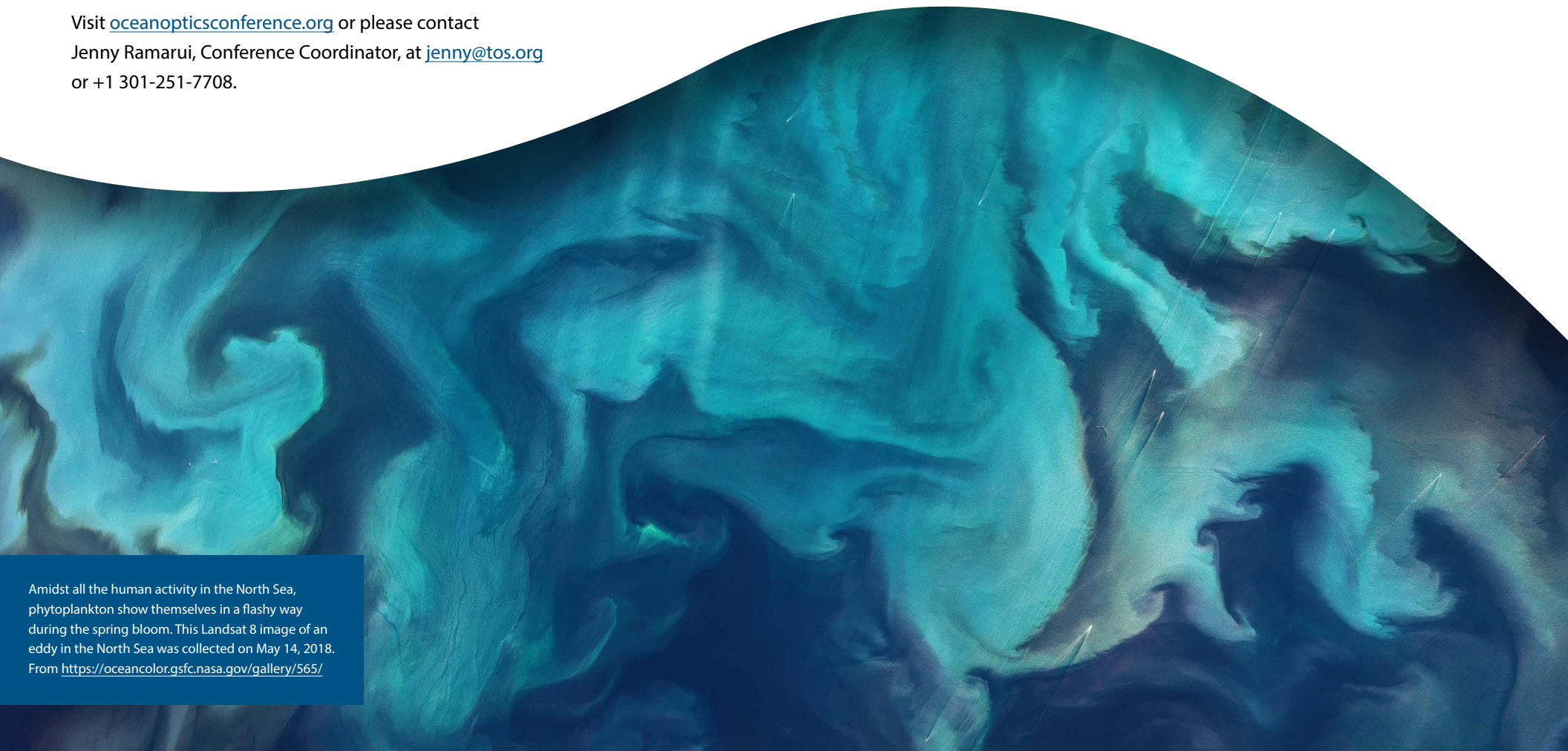
To determine availability and reserve exhibit space, please contact Jenny Ramarui, Conference Coordinator, at jenny@tos.org or +1 301-251-7708.

Questions?

Visit oceanopticsconference.org or please contact Jenny Ramarui, Conference Coordinator, at jenny@tos.org or +1 301-251-7708.



Ocean Optics XXVII is organized by The Oceanography Society (TOS). As a professional society, TOS is committed to supporting a community that encourages the open expression and exchange of ideas, that is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and that is welcoming to all members and to those who participate in its activities. In pursuit of that commitment, TOS is dedicated to the philosophy of equal opportunity and treatment for all participants.



Amidst all the human activity in the North Sea, phytoplankton show themselves in a flashy way during the spring bloom. This Landsat 8 image of an eddy in the North Sea was collected on May 14, 2018. From <https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/565/>