International Advocacy
for Access and Acreage

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
IAGC

For 47 years, the IAGC has demonstrated leadership in the geophysical and exploration industry. Our members have spurred exploration and created cutting-edge technology, bringing needed energy resources to the world. Energy Starts Here™
2018 was a pivotal year for the geophysical industry, marked with some incredible advances and challenges in ensuring the geophysical and exploration industry’s freedom to operate. The great news is the IAGC exceeded many of its goals in several areas as it worked on access and acreage issues around the world.

The IAGC and the geophysical and exploration industry gained a key victory in November when the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Marine Fisheries Service issued Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) to five IAGC member companies (TGS, ION, WesternGeco, CGG, & Spectrum). The battle to get a decision was long and hard-fought, but did come 1221 days after NOAA Fisheries recognized the applications as “final and complete.”

The granting of the IHAs was a significant step, but our battle is not over. The unnecessarily long and drawn-out process in the U.S. Atlantic illustrates the critical need for improved government accountability and transparency. Our industry’s freedom to operate by ensuring we have access for acquisition and development is not only preventing challenges to access, but also to advance our industry. This is the critical need for improved government accountability and regulatory reform.

We saw this in New Zealand where the government banned new exploration offshore. And, while some other countries contemplate their futures in oil and gas exploration, the IAGC was there to voice our position and proactively engage with them to engage with credible scientific, technical and legal information to combat misinformation and regulatory creep.

We know that opposition to seismic surveys has little to do with any perceived potential harm our activities may pose to the environment; it is clearly, and publicly stated, a bias against oil and gas exploration and development. Several organizations historically opposed to oil and natural gas production are engaged in an ongoing global campaign to garner public support and persuade governments to allow the use of seismic surveys for exploration of oil and natural gas resources.

The IAGC’s continued fight for access to the U.S. Atlantic and other regions around the world is critical. It is even more essential that at this juncture, our industry strengthens our alignment and commitment to not only prevent challenges to access but also to advance our freedom to operate by ensuring we have access for acquisition and acreage. We must continue to work to align our industry in support and messaging to promote global exploration access. There is no exploration without the geophysical industry and no geophysical industry without the exploration industry.

The International Association of Geophysical Contractors is the global trade association representing all segments of the geophysical and exploration industry.

Our membership includes onshore and offshore survey operators and acquisition companies, data and processing providers, exploration and production companies, geophysical equipment and software manufacturers, industry suppliers, geoscience consultants, and health, safety and environmental service providers.

The IAGC works vigorously on behalf of its members to advance the industry’s freedom to operate. The IAGC engages governments and stakeholders worldwide on issues central to geophysical operations and exploration access. The IAGC supports and fosters science- and risk-based regulations consistent with existing practices that are proven to be environmentally responsible, effective and operationally feasible.

There are still many countries that are opening their doors to oil and gas exploration and development. It is absolutely necessary for our industry to help the world understand the values of what we do and what it means to their existence. We must help them to see beyond the immediate perception that we only supply fuels for their homes and vehicles. We must do a better job of telling the story of how our work lifts communities and people out of poverty and, without access to this resource, many developed nations would not be where they are today. Our industry is essential to progress and advancement.

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The IAGC provides a strategic and proactive global approach to regulatory and public engagement on behalf of the geophysical & exploration industry.

Maurice Nessim
WesternGeco Chairman

Magne Reiersgard
PGS Vice Chairman

Roger Keyte
Past Chairman

Board of Directors

Maurice Nessim
WesternGeco Chairman

Magne Reiersgard
PGS Vice Chairman

Roger Keyte
Past Chairman

Huasheng Zheng
BGP International Member

Marianne Lefdal
CGG EAME Chapter Chair

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CGG Member

Brian Hanson
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Richard Price
Polarcus Member

Katja Akentieva
TGS Member

Shawn Rice
Fairfield Geotecnologies Americas Chapter Chair

Charles Davison
Fairfield Geotecnologies Member

Irene Waage Basili
Shearwater Member

Rune Eng
Spectrum Member

Tara Pool
TGS Secretary

Rebecca Pitman
Shearwater Treasurer

IAGC President, Nikki Martin, delivered an opening address at BGP’s bi-annual Technical Seminar held on 19-20 September 2018 in Beijing, China. The seminar covered a wide range of subjects including seismic and non-seismic data acquisition, processing and interpretation.
The IAGC is an international trade association with more than 80 members in nearly 50 countries, led by Governing Members who steer the course for the association with their investment and leadership.
AFRICA

Africa Oil Week Presenter:
IAGC President, Nikki Martin, delivered the Association’s debut panel presentation at Africa Oil Week in Cape Town, South Africa. Martin was a panelist on “The Future of African Exploration and Production: Creating future business models” session and discussed the importance of transparency and predictability in attracting and maintaining oil and gas investment in African nations.

African Union:
Dr. Arikana Chihombori Quao, African Union Ambassador to the U.S., hosted the IAGC delegation at Africa House during its 2018 D.C. Fly-In. Twelve African nations attended the meeting to discuss paving the path to more productive partnership with individual African nations and the African Union.

Africa Energy Chamber Partnership:
The IAGC has partnered with the African Energy Chamber. The Chamber works to promote exploration across Africa’s sedimentary basins through advocacy for reformed policy frameworks and encouraging investment in the continent’s energy industry. The IAGC and AEC are planning a joint event in 2019.
The IAGC’s 2018 priorities focused on four strategic areas in establishing the Association as the leader in shaping the discussion regarding geophysical operations and elevating issues central to our industry among the overall oil and gas industry, trade associations, governments globally and other key stakeholders.

**Ensure Your Freedom to Operate**

*Increase Industry Access to Commercial Opportunities*

- Atlantic Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHAs) issued
- Congressional Hearings
- Participated in Secretary Zinke (U.S. DOI) Energy Roundtable
  > Specifically notes seismic as key to offshore investment
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Legislation Advancing
- Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Incidental Take Regulation (ITR) Published with IAGC Monitoring Language, Better Terms (more work to be done)
- Brazil Database and Sensitivity Matrix Adopted and Implemented
- Mexico Permitting Workshop Success

**Raise the Industry’s Visibility**

*Improve External Perception of Industry*

- Expanded Media Presence and Government Engagement in Africa, New Zealand, South America and Europe
- National Advertisement (U.S. and Africa); National Feature
- New Advocacy Tools (marine seismic overview animation)
- Hosted Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) Panel
- Nikki Martin on Offshore Operators Committee (DOC) Panel
- Nikki Martin on National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) Executive Panel
- American Chamber of Commerce of Rio de Janeiro (AMCHAM) Partnership
- African Energy Chamber (AEC) Partnership
- Presentation at Deepwater Exploration Workshop in Mexico
- Asia-Pacific Petroleum/Fishing Workshop Presentation
- Presentation at the First DC/State Energy Policy

**Strengthen the Health of the Geophysical Industry**

*Optimize the Business Climate for the Industry*

- Increased Government Engagement with Australia Tax Office (ATO)
- Increased Engagement with Petroleum Exploration & Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ)
- Annual Conference Success; Executive Exploration Panel
- Africa and Central Asia Engagement Increases Industry & Association
- Positions Pages Published
- Participation in the United Nations Technical Group on Underwater Noise Workshop
- Updated the IAGC’s Anti-Trust Policy and Guidelines

**Increase Depth & Breadth of the Organization**

*Enhance Sustainability and Effectiveness*

- New Associate, Contributing, Governing Members (Spectrum & Shearwater) and Industry Partners (Anadarko, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Eni, Total)
- Increased Annual Budget
- IAGC Strategic Framework Approved by Board
- Increase in CEOs Vested in IAGC
- Town Hall Meetings

**ARGENTINA**

The IAGC released its roadmap report, “Onshore and Offshore Oil and Gas EHS regulations and Permitting for Argentina Geophysical Surveys.” The report identifies national environmental, health and safety regulations and outlines the permitting process in areas under federal jurisdiction. It also includes information for key provinces.

Secretary of Interior Zinke Roundtable Meeting

Secretary of Interior Zinke Roundtable Meeting
The IAGC works on behalf of the geophysical industry in a constructive manner with regulators around the world as they develop and implement policy impacting the industry. We also work with the various multinational treaty organizations as they develop and disseminate recommendations.

831
831 pages of letters and comments to governments of countries, organizations and multinational treaty organizations regarding policies and regulations.

130
Engaged with more than 130 countries in key oil and gas areas such as Mexico, Norway, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Brazil, Canada, Africa, India, Central Asia, the United States and Uruguay.

The IAGC works to ensure that members are equipped with information they need to advance the exploration industry. We develop resources such as fact sheets, infographics and videos and animations to assist in helping elected officials, regulators, the media and laypeople better understand our operations.

It is essential that our members have access to credible scientific information, regulatory compliance resources and public advocacy materials. All member resources can be found on the IAGC website in the Members’ Only portal.

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AND REGULATORY HIGHLIGHTS

Engaged with more than 130 countries in key oil and gas areas such as Mexico, Norway, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Brazil, Canada, Africa, India, Central Asia, the United States and Uruguay.


New Zealand Parliament’s Select Committee on Environment conducted a hearing on 19 October focusing on the governments proposed bill to ban new offshore exploration, the “Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill.” Following the IAGC’s submission opposing the proposed ban on 11 October, the IAGC presented testimony at the hearing on its opposition, represented by our in-country representative, Rachel Devine of Minter Ellison.

The IAGC took many steps to prevent the ban, however on 7 November the New Zealand Parliament passed the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill banning new offshore oil and gas exploration. The IAGC will continue discussions with the government including changes to the purpose of the Act and the Petroleum Programme.

Atlantic IHAs Granted

Following years of efforts from the geophysical industry and the IAGC, NOAA Fisheries announced on Friday, 30 November, decisions on the five long-pending IHA applications for seismic surveys on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

The IAGC worked diligently on members’ behalf to get to this most important phase of the Atlantic G&G permitting.

New Zealand Parliament Hearing on Exploration Ban

Time to Modernize the Marine Mammal Protection Act

The IAGC launched a new website, ModernizeMMPA.com, to highlight the impacts of bureaucratic red tape and misapplication of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) on its members and the offshore energy industry at large. The website has numerous fact sheets about the negative impacts of the MMPA upon energy exploration and development as well as infographics comparing Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf exploration around the world.

ABCs of Seismic for Private Landowners and Public Administrators

The ABCs of Seismic book outlines what private landowners and state officials can expect during the land seismic survey process. It also explains why land energy resource exploration is critical for the U.S.

Land Seismic 101 Booklet

The Land Seismic 101 Booklet provides an overview of the various phases of land seismic exploration operations. It covers everything from pre-survey permitting through the clean-up. As a bonus, the booklet provides a brief history of oil and gas exploration.

IAGC Provides Students with an Introduction to Geoscience

The IAGC sponsored custom-designed fossil kits for teachers in the ExxonMobil American Geosciences Institute Geoscience and STEM Teacher Leadership Academies. The kits address several elements of paleontology and earth history. The kits were used in 10 states and promote wonder, engagement, and overall fascination with fossils and the amazing story they tell. The IAGC joined other organizations such as NASA, U.S. Geological Service (USGS), the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration and the Geological Society of America as a sponsor.

IAGC Releases New Short Videos Explaining Marine Seismic Surveys

Seismic surveying technology remains a crucial tool in providing the resources that maintain our health and well-being, power our economies and provide us with recreational and learning opportunities. Despite the critical role seismic surveys play in safely and efficiently developing the world’s resources, few people understand how and why surveys are conducted. The IAGC developed these short videos to be used as educational tools for our members and encourages their use.
BRAZIL

IAGC-created Integrated Environmental Database:
The Integrated Environmental Database was launched and implemented with the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) and the Brazilian National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP). It supports consolidation of the nation’s environmental data to increase efficiency among regulatory bodies for environmental permitting for geophysical surveys and other oil and gas sector activities in Brazil.

American Chamber of Commerce Rio (AmCham) Partnership:
The IAGC partnered with AmCham Rio to expand our presence in the region. This valuable partnership has allowed the IAGC to increase engagement and work with oil and gas regulators in Brazil.

AmCham featured the IAGC Environmental Database at its first International Seminar on Offshore Environmental Licensing.
The IAGC rigorously advocates and promotes the use of credible science and risk-based regulations that are consistent with existing best practices and proven to be effective and feasible. The IAGC participates in numerous scientific work groups, workshops and conferences to facilitate productive dialogue among stakeholders as a basis for making regulatory decisions.

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<th>Conferences and Workshops</th>
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<td><strong>In 2018,</strong> the IAGC’s Dr. Bob Gisiner, Dr. Alex Rivard, and Dr. Ross Compton attended and/or presented at some of the most notable conferences in the world.</td>
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**Dr. Bob Gisiner**
- An external independent advisor to the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences in Perth, Australia
- Acoustical Society of America conference in Minneapolis, MN
- OTC Session, “Ocean Sound & Marine Animals: Advancing the Geophysical Industry in a Complex Regulatory Environment” in Houston, TX
- SEG 2018 in Anaheim, CA

**Dr. Alex Rivard**
- Passive Acoustic Monitoring training

**Dr. Ross Compton**
- UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy Workshop in Edinburgh
- Beyond the Coast 2018: JNCC’s conference on the future of our offshore marine environment
- North West Waters Advisory Committee (NWWAC) meeting (in conjunction with Irish Offshore Operator’s Association)

**IAGC Participates in 3rd JIP Program Review Meeting in Netherlands**

The Exploration and Production (E&P) Sound & Marine Life Joint Industry Programme (JIP) held its third Programme Review Meeting in the Netherlands on 9-14 September 2018. The Programme Review Meeting featured more than 20 presentations from top researchers on how oil and gas E&P sound interacts with marine life. The presentations focused on marine life behavioural response, physical and physiological response, monitoring and mitigation tools and sound source characterisation and propagation.

The IAGC plays an integral role in the JIP. In addition to facilitating a discussion at the Programme Review Meeting of JIP research through Phase II, Dr. Gisiner serves on the Executive Committee and often advises on the Technical Management Committee. The IAGC’s Gail Adams is the current JIP Communications Chair and guides JIP messaging and helped to create the Programme Review Meeting Abstracts Booklet.

Increased understanding of the effects of sound generated by oil and natural gas E&P activity on marine life helps governments make regulatory decisions based on sound science and the industry develop effective mitigation strategies for any potential impacts.

Since its inception in 2005, the JIP has invested more than $60M USD to fund over 100 research studies on E&P sound in the categories of: sound source characterisation & propagation, physical & physiological effects & hearing, behavioural reactions & biological significance, mitigation & monitoring and research tools. The JIP-funded independent research has been featured in at least 120 peer-reviewed publications.

The JIP’s research is designed to support planning of E&P projects and risk assessments, provide the basis for appropriate operational measures that are protective of marine life and inform policy and regulatory development.

The 3rd Programme Review Meeting of the E&P Sound and Marine Life Joint Industry Programme met in combination with the 6th International Meeting on the Effects of Sound on Marine Mammals (ESOMM). The by-invitation-only meeting hosted more than 180 attendees.

**IAGC Participates in Ireland Conference**

IAGC’s Dr. Bob Gisiner presented at the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) Conference in Dublin, Ireland on 12 September 2018. The meeting was part of the Annual General Meeting of the NWWAC, one of about 11-12 regional fishery advisory councils that provides the European Commission and European Union countries with recommendations on fishery management matters in different regions of the EU (e.g. North Sea, Mediterranean, etc).

Dr. Gisiner’s talk was entitled “Seismic Surveys and Fisheries in North Western Waters” and detailed the science behind underwater noise and seismic surveys in the NWW region, misinformation about seismic survey effects on fisheries and how science has been misinterpreted. He offered to facilitate communications between NWWAC, the IAGC and the Irish Offshore Operators Association (IOOA) to address questions and concerns.
The health, safety and security of the people involved with geophysical operations and the environment in which they interact are priorities. The IAGC’s vision emphasizes “the development and promotion of standards and best practices.” The ultimate aim is to achieve step-change improvement in HSSE performance in worldwide geophysical operations.

Whether on land or in the marine environment, the geophysical industry takes health, safety, security and the environment (HSSE) seriously and promotes the sound management of environmental and cultural resources. We support measures that are proportionate to the potential risk and based on the best available science to minimize any potential impact of geophysical operations.

Our members share, review and discuss the latest HSSE issues and decide how each should be addressed. The IAGC develops guidance documents that address HSSE issues impacting the geophysical industry.

**Key HSSE Accomplishments**

- Created focused, solutions-oriented HSSE remit and initiatives
- Revised and enhanced member HSSE data collection and reporting, including environmental and proactive statistics
- Successful HSSE Fall Forum with increased attendance and participation
- Support Vessel Guidelines revised and published
- Aide Memoir updated and published
- Fishing Industry Interaction Checklist published
- Created and implemented the Brazil Environmental Database
- Contributed to Allied Trade Guidance documents
  > IMCA/DMAC consultation on an update of DMAC 12 – “Safe Diving Distance from Seismic Surveying Operations”
  > IOGP 503: Introducing behavioural markers of non-technical skills in oil and gas operations
  > IOGP 509: The use of behavioural markers of non-technical skills in oil and gas operations: supporting material
  > IOGP 365-7: Off-road variations
  > IOGP 459: Life Saving Rules
UNITED STATES

NMFS Issues Atlantic IHAs:
The IAGC’s years of effort resulted in the National Marine Fisheries Service issuing Incidental Harassment Authorizations to our member companies that applied four years ago.

IAGC/IADC MMPA Workshop:
The IAGC and partner Trade Association, International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) co-sponsored a Marine Mammal Protection Act Workshop, exploring the impacts on energy exploration and production in Alaska and possible application in the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

MMPA Legislation Advancing:
IAGC has been successful in advancing MMPA modernization. A MMPA update was included in the U.S. Government’s Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and De-Regulatory Actions. The House Natural Resources Committee moved out of committee H.R. 3122, SEA Act of 2017 which would streamline lengthy permitting reviews.

Successful Washington, D.C. “Fly-In”:
IAGC staff and members visited Washington, D.C. for the annual Fly-In to meet with government officials, members of congress and African officials. The meetings provided IAGC Governing Members (Fairfield Geotechnologies, ION, PGS, Polarcus, Shearwater, TGS, WesternGeco) and Industry Partners from ExxonMobil and Equinor opportunities to discuss primary issues hampering the energy industry’s freedom to operate.

Government Engagement at all Levels:
The D.C. Fly-In delegation attended several meetings with key officials including RADM Tim Gallaudet (Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting Under Secretary of NOAA Fisheries), Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Senator Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) - Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Senator Dan Sullivan’s staff (Alaska).
The IAGC has expanded E&P trade association partnerships and strengthened multistakeholder alliances through increased interaction and cooperation to foster alignment and support of IAGC initiatives and positions.

IAGC’s Ghost Net Initiative

IAGC’s Ghost Net Initiative highlights the work IAGC member companies do in helping to keep the world’s oceans clean and free of lost fishing gear, or “ghost gear,” which is among the greatest killers of marine life in our oceans. The IAGC’s Ghost Net Initiative recently entered into a partnership with Healthy Seas which improves on the aim of both groups to clean the oceans and seas of derelict fishnets responsible for the unnecessary death of marine animals and recycle the removed debris. The partnership allows both organizations to expand their efforts and to coordinate on specific marine debris clean-up projects.

Media

1,387 IAGC QUOTES, MENTIONS AND FEATURE ARTICLES
2 OPINION/EDITORIAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED
14 PRESS RELEASES
1 MEDIA BRIEFING

Social Media

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS 519
POSTS 1,578
LIKES 550

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS 86
POSTS 100
LIKES 30

2018 Submissions: 47
2017 Submissions: 40
2016 Submissions: 8
In 2018, the IAGC continued to leverage every dollar and demonstrated success on priority issues even with fewer resources.