

# Oceans 2006 Set for Boston

Oceans 2006, set for September in Boston, is hoping to attract many of the more than 10,000 marine science and technology professionals located along the corridor that runs from Maine through Connecticut and another 2,000 professionals from nearby Canadian provinces. In addition there are 200 colleges and universities within two hours of Boston.

Official Oceans'06 Boston action kicks-off on Monday, September 18 with a lineup of tutorials and workshops during the day and concludes with advance registration and a welcome reception in the evening.

Tuesday September 19 will mark the official commencement of the Technical Program and opening of the Exhibition Hall. The Tuesday morning plenary session will focus on Ocean Observing Systems and will feature Dr. Margaret Leinen, the Assistant Director for Geosciences at the National Science Foundation, Dr. Richard Spinrad, the Assistant Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Dr. Jose Achache, the Group on Earth Observations GEO Secretariat Director. Wednesday's plenary will focus on the theme of Oceans'06, "Revolutionizing Marine Technology." This plenary will highlight the advances of the past decades, from applications ranging from military to commercial, and manned to unmanned. Wednesday evening will feature the Oceans gala, which will be held at the Boston Museum of Science. The entire Blue Wing of the



**MTS/IEEE Oceans 2006 Chairman, John Irza hamming it up at Oceans 2005 in Washington, D.C., in keeping with the 2006 theme of "Revolutionizing Marine Science and Technology"**

museum is reserved for our use and the Canadian Consulate in Boston will sponsor a reception prior.

In addition, a session track called the "Exhibitor Product Showcase" will allow registered exhibitors an opportunity to present highlights from applications and new developments associated with the products and services they offer.

Space is limited and abstracts will be reviewed by a technical panel.

The final official day of technical sessions and exhibition will be on Thursday. A brown bag lunch and tour of the exhibit hall will be provided for secondary school students and educators, offering them an opportunity to be introduced to marine technology in a hands-on manner.

"The Technical Program is Excellent", said Technical Chair, Vince Premus of Oasis, Inc. "Nearly 500 abstracts were received by the technical program committee for OCEANS'06 MTS/IEEE - Boston. The committee is in the final stages of collecting the actual manuscripts and processing speaker registrations and copyright documents. At the end of the day, we expect over 348 technical

presentations from both students and professionals."

Exhibits Chairman, Mike Stewart, of MJ Stewart Associates, said, "the exhibit area is filling up and currently we have 160 companies and organizations that have reserved 200 booths. I am very happy with the turnout."

There are several larger pavilions that will be representing NOAA, Hawaii Ocean Science & Technology, Government of Canada and

Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia. As part of their sponsorship, Canada has an packed schedule of events such as in-water demonstrations of Canadian products; tutorials on high-profile ocean science projects; a forum on investment in Marine Technology; Canadian Product Showcase and technical track; technology transfer dialog; a Canada reception at the Museum of Science; B2B Breakfast networking event; and a visit to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. To foster development of the next generation of ocean engineers and scientists, Oceans '06 MTS/IEEE Boston will host a student poster competition for undergraduate and graduate students who are majoring in the sciences and engineering and who are conducting research in the topic areas of the conference. This year's Student Poster Program received more than 40 applicants, and brings 24 students to Boston, with students from the U.S., Canada, Venezuela, France, Russia and the U.K. scheduled to participate in this competition.

**For more information, visit [www.oceans06mtsieeeboston.org](http://www.oceans06mtsieeeboston.org)**