

6 TO 7 MAY 2026 | The Humber
United Kingdom

24TH The Humber 2026 COASTLINK Conference

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The short sea
shipping & sustainable
logistics network

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DAY ONE – Tuesday 6th May 2026

THE SHORT SEA SHIPPING AND SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS NETWORK

08:15 Coffee & Registration

09:00 Chairman's Welcome

Nick Lambert, Co-Founder and Director, NLA International Ltd

09:10 Port Welcome Address

Andrew Dawes, Regional Director – Humber Region, ABP

09:25 Gold Sponsor Address

Port of Bilbao

SESSION 1: NAVIGATING TRADE POLICY & MARKET VOLATILITY: MANAGING UNCERTAINTY IN A TARIFF ERA	
Address the multifaceted challenges confronting the short sea shipping sector in an increasingly volatile global trade environment. How are operators developing resilience against tariff-related cargo disruptions, climate change impacts, and broader market instability? What are the risk mitigation strategies, adaptive business models, and policy recommendations for managing uncertainty while maintaining service reliability.	
09:40	<i>Nils Minor, Director Freight Sales, West & Southern Europe, P&O Ferrymasters</i>
09:55	<i>Stephen Carr, Group Commercial Director, Peel Ports Group</i>
10:10	<i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
10:25	<i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
10:40	Q&A
10:55	Coffee & Networking



11:25	GROWTH & TRANSFORMATION IN RORO SHIPPING, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SERVICE MODELS
What are the major RoRo terminal investment projects, innovative service delivery models, and infrastructure developments designed to meet evolving shipper demands and operational requirements?	
	Panellists include: <i>Andre Mast, Commercial Director, A2B-online Container B.V.</i> <i>Graham Cross, Business Development Manager, Clarksons</i> <i>Iain Barnett, Commercial Manager – Lead Unitised & Project Cargo Development, ABP</i>

SESSION 2:	SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT DISTRIBUTION FOR SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS
Explore innovative approaches to streamlining distribution networks that meet demanding sustainability requirements while maintaining the reliability of feeder short-sea services. A look at the evolving role of shipping routes as “motorways of the sea,” the impact of changing funding structures on route viability, and strategies for building resilient, environmentally responsible distribution networks. How are operators managing schedule integrity amid increasing European port congestion?	
13:50	<i>Tracy Jin, Business Development Manager, Port of Esbjerg</i>
14:05	<i>Richard Newton, Client Director, Integrated Sales, Automotive Maersk Logistics and Services UK&I</i>
14:20	<i>Justin Atkin, UK & Ireland Representative, Port of Antwerp-Bruges</i>
14:35	<i>Paul Hatley, Lead Commercial Manager, ABP</i>
14:50	Q&A
15:15	Day 1 wrap-up by Chairman (Pre-port tour)
15:25	Coffee & Networking

16:00 Port Tour

Details to be confirmed

19:00 Evening Drinks Reception & Conference Dinner

The Deep Aquarium, Tower St, Hull HU1 4DP

The official networking dinner for Coastlink 2026 will take place at The Deep, Hull's award-winning aquarium and one of the UK's most spectacular visitor attractions. With Associated British Ports (ABP) the Humber as host port for Coastlink 2026, The Deep provides a fitting venue that on showcases Hull's maritime identity and commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community.

Drinks reception sponsor:



DAY TWO – Wednesday 7th May 2026**08:45** Arrival coffee**09:15** Chairman's Opening*Nick Lambert, Co-Founder and Director, NLA International Ltd*

SESSION 3: SECURING MARITIME & PORT OPERATIONS: POLICY, REGULATION AND TECHNICAL INITIATIVES	
Examine the latest policy developments shaping maritime security, with a particular focus on the new European Port Strategy and its implications for economic growth, energy security, and operational resilience. How are ports and short sea shipping lines adapting to evolving regulatory frameworks while implementing innovative contraband prevention technologies?	
09:30	<i>Johan-Paul Verschuure, Maritime Entrepreneur – Director/Partner, Rebel Ports and Logistics</i>
09:50	<i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>

SESSION 4: AI, DIGITALISATION AND VALUE CREATION FROM DATA	
Investigate the practical implementation of emerging technologies in port and shipping operations. How are artificial intelligence, digital twins, and advanced analytics creating measurable operational improvements? A look at vessel arrival and departure optimisation systems, predictive maintenance applications, data-driven decision making, and the quantifiable benefits of digital transformation initiatives in short sea shipping environments.	
10:15	Finding the Data Capture Sweet Spot The presentation highlights finding the "Data Capture Sweet Spot" — balancing the effort of real-time data collection with the operational efficiencies and business improvements it delivers. <i>Chris Hicks, Managing Director, TBA Doncaster</i>
10:30	The Role of ITS in Digital Green Corridors <i>Tim Morris, Principle Engineer, ARUP</i>
10:45	<i>Theresa Huang, Public Sector Account Manager, Amazon Web Services</i>
11:00	<i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
11:20	Q&A
11:40	Coffee & Networking

12:10 PORT-CENTRIC LOGISTICS & INLAND WATERWAY DISTRIBUTION	
Examine trends in logistics network expansion, vertical integration, and the evolving balance of power in inland distribution systems. How can container barge operations be optimised alongside existing intermodal networks to maximise efficiency and capacity? A look at growth opportunities for inland waterway transport, integration strategies that enhance competitive positioning, and innovative approaches to port-hinterland connectivity.	
	Moderator: <i>Logistics UK</i> Panellists include: <i>George S Macleod, Managing Director, Highland Shipping Company</i> <i>Matthew Lowes, Commercial Manager, PD Ports Humber Region</i>
13:10	Conference Wrap up – Chairman
13:20	Lunch & Networking

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☐ Technical Visit (6th May 2026)

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