

# The International Maritime Organization and Biodiversity

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# International Maritime Organization – London, UK





# International Maritime Organization – London, UK

- Specialized UN agency responsible for regulating international shipping: ‘Safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans’
- Membership:
  - 173 Member States and three Associate Members (including all major ship owning nations and all major port/coastal states)
  - Observers in consultative status: IGOs and NGOs
- 50+ IMO conventions and 100+ protocols/guidelines covering ship design and construction, ship operation and equipment, crew and discharge/emissions

# Biodiversity and IMO Instruments/Guidelines





# Biodiversity and IMO Instruments/Guidelines

- **Ballast Water Management Convention:** reduces the risk of invasive aquatic species arriving via ballast water



- **Anti-Fouling Systems Convention:** bans harmful substances from anti-fouling coatings
- **Biofouling Guidelines:** recommended best practices to reduce the transfer of invasive aquatic species from fouled hulls
- **London Convention & Protocol:** bans dumping waste at sea

# IMO projects to prevent invasive species

- **GloBallast:** Two-phase project over 15 years to address the legal, policy, and technical challenges to implementing BWM Convention and reduce invasive aquatic species



- **GloFouling:** 5 year project beginning late 2018 to reduce the transfer of invasive aquatic species from fouling



# Cooperation with relevant organizations

- Environment Management Group
- Intergovernmental processes (e.g. BBNJ)
- Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)
  - ICES, IOC, IMO
- Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species
  - CBD, CABI, CITES, FAO, ICAO, IMO, IPPC, IUCN, OIE, WTO
- Biological and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)
  - Hosted by UNDP



# Unique challenges

- Multiple stakeholders/competing interests:
  - separate agencies within Member State governments (e.g. maritime and environmental ministries)
  - civil society stakeholders (shipowners and environmental groups)
  - Biodiversity an “invisible” problem to many stakeholders
- IMO is a regulatory organization
  - Member States must implement and enforce regulations
  - Necessary to support implementation of mandatory instruments and guidelines in developing countries





# Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme: effective implementation of IMO instruments

Assist developing countries in building their human and institutional capacities for compliance with IMO's regulatory framework

**IMO-ITCP 2017: 215 activities delivered to 3500 people**



## International Maritime Organization

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