The International Maritime Organization and Biodiversity

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• 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
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- **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