
3rd GloFouling R&D Forum and Exhibition on Biofouling Prevention and Management for Maritime Industries ***Shaping the future of biofouling management***

4 — 8 November 2024
Busan, the Republic of Korea

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 3rd GloFouling R&D Forum will be held in [The Westin Josun Busan Hotel](#)¹, Busan, Republic of Korea, from Monday 4 to Friday 8 November 2024. The Forum will feature sessions with traditional formats of presentations, and open dialogue panels to encourage debate and exchange of ideas with participation from attendees and delegates, under the main theme ***Shaping the future of biofouling management***.

We invite you to submit abstracts for papers, presentations and posters within the general theme of marine biosecurity, around the issue presented by biofouling prevention and management and its role as a vector for invasive aquatic species (IAS). This applies to all maritime industries and structures affected by biofouling, such as shipping, aquaculture, fishing, offshore oil and gas, ocean renewable energies, ports and coastal infrastructure.

There will be a proceedings document after the conference, where the selected proposals will be included. All proposals must include an abstract.

TOPICS

The event will focus on the latest developments in the field of biofouling management. Proposals on the following topics listed below are encouraged:

- **INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES (IAS) AND THEIR IMPACTS**

According to a recent [IPBES report](#)², alien species are being introduced by human activity to all regions and biomes of the world at unprecedented rates. Ships' biofouling is one of the main vectors for the introduction of invasive aquatic species, which are considered to be one of the greatest threats to the world's marine biodiversity. IAS can alter the structure and function of marine habitats, spread infectious diseases and degrade ecosystem services and coastal livelihoods. We call for proposals on latest scientific developments related to IAS introduced by biofouling and their impacts.

- **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT**

Best management practices and methods as well as innovative approaches and technologies are essential to minimise and manage biofouling growth on ships and other marine structures. We are calling for abstracts and presentations on the use of robotics, decision support software and artificial intelligence (AI), in-water cleaning systems and grooming, novel hull and ship designs minimizing biofouling, innovative anti-fouling coatings, and marine growth prevention systems (MGPS), amongst others. Examples applicable to the shipping, oil & gas, aquaculture and the ocean renewables industries are welcome.

¹ <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/puswi-the-westin-josun-busan/overview/>

² <https://www.ipbes.net/IASmediarelease#:~:text=The%20report%20finds%20that%2045,management%20and%20more%20integrated%20approaches>

- **MONITORING, TESTING, EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE**

The latest approaches using modern technology and best practices for monitoring and testing of biofouling and IAS, and early detection of IAS is crucial to increase the chance and possibility of containment or other rapid response options in the affected area. We invite interested speakers to submit proposals on case studies and innovative approaches in relation to these topics.

- **IAS AND BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT IN MPAs AND PSSAs**

The prevention and control of IAS in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) are key instruments for the preservation of marine biodiversity. The growing number of external pressures, particularly from vessels, requires suitable solutions to address risk of invasions in vulnerable marine environment. We welcome proposals on existing gaps related to legislation, planning and implementation of preventative measures for biofouling and IAS management in marine protected areas.

- **BIOFOULING ON SHIPS: FUEL EFFICIENCY AND GHG EMISSIONS**

Biofouling increases the hydrodynamic resistance of ships and their fuel consumption. To maintain speed, fouled ships must burn more fuel, thus increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, biofouling management is recognised as one important tool to minimize GHG emissions from ships. We invite speakers to share their knowledge on studies, research and solutions for monitoring ship performance and measuring the impact of biofouling on the energy efficiency of ships.

- **POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND COMPLIANCE**

UN global policy frameworks related to biodiversity protection have been recently adopted which tackles invasive species. In the shipping sector specifically, IMO adopted the 2023 *Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species* ([IMO Biofouling Guidelines](#)³) with new and updated content. In parallel, other initiatives, such as the development of ISO standards and industry practices are taking place. Submission of proposals on policy and compliance approaches to implement IMO Biofouling Guidelines, including the development and adoption of local, national or regional measures and their effectiveness, is encouraged.

- **MANAGING BIOFOULING IN PORTS, SHIPYARDS AND DRYDOCKS**

Ports, shipyards and drydocks play a central role in the prevention and management of biofouling, as they are essential hubs for ship inspection, hull maintenance and ship recycling. Due to this key role, ports and drydocks, and their infrastructure, are also exposed to the introduction of IAS and biosecurity risks, that may hinder operations and have important economic effects. Under this topic we encourage proposals related to port and drydock operations, risk assessment, port technologies for inspection, biofouling waste contention and downstream management.

- **GENDER**

The value of gender equality is widely acknowledged. Nevertheless, the maritime sector, a historically male dominated sector, continues to struggle to ensure a fair representation of women in the workplace. IMO has taken a strategic approach to help ocean's stakeholders achieve gender equality in accordance with SDG 5. However, increased efforts are needed to translate this strategy into tangible results to close the gender gap. We are looking to receive contributions related to challenges and best approaches to solve this issue, including how to increase opportunities for women working in the biofouling management sector.

³ <https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MEPCDocuments/MEPC.378%2880%29.pdf>

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS

Guidance for abstract format

The Abstract should:

- be written in English;
- include a title and a short descriptive text of the contents of the research or presentation, objectives and expected results or conclusions;
- be of a maximum 250 words; and
- include relevant keywords.

Please find the suggested format for abstract submissions [here](#)⁴.

Timelines

Deadline to submit abstracts was extended and now is **Saturday, 15 June 2024**.

Abstracts will be reviewed by an international scientific committee and authors will be notified of the acceptance by **Wednesday, 17 July 2024**.

Since many abstracts are expected to be submitted to this flagship event, the deadlines will be strictly followed. Please submit your abstract to glofouling@imo.org.

Selection of abstracts

GloFouling Partnerships will evaluate abstracts based on the following criteria:

- novel approaches, relevance and topicality; and
- informative content: whether technical or scientific.

Priority will be given to applications that respect the deadline and meet the eligibility criteria.

Please note abstracts might also be chosen for a poster presentation. In this case, the GloFouling Partnerships project coordination unit will inform and send you the guidelines for poster presentations.

Agreement

Selected speakers agree to:

- take part in a short virtual briefing session with the moderator;
- give their presentation in English;
- supply their PowerPoint presentation at least two weeks before the event;
- respect the period allotted per presentation (maximum 8 minutes);
- inform as soon as possible GloFouling Partnerships if they are unable to participate and provide replacement options as far as possible;
- give permission to GloFouling Partnerships to use their name, title, company as well as any relevant information related to their presentation for Conference advertising purposes; and
- give permission to GloFouling Partnerships to share their presentations (PDF format) with delegates after the conference and to include their presentation in the Forum proceedings document.

Participation

Each accepted presentation comes with one free speaker registration for all conference activities. Unless otherwise agreed with the organisers, speakers will cover their travel and accommodation expenses and any other costs related to their participation in the event.

⁴ https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2F34a7be59-484e-46ab-9b70-ca7b4a39b89d.usrfiles.com%2Fugd%2F34a7be_29a6f8c765524ac899eb0842879e444e.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK