



## IMarEST Special Interest Groups

### PROFILE:

#### [Biofouling Management](#)

Biofouling can be environmentally damaging and economically costly. Not only is it a means for non-native and potentially invasive species to be transferred to non-native ports around the world, but they can also affect aquaculture farming by damaging equipment and can foul internal pipes – all influencing the ecology and dynamics of marine ecosystems. Additionally, they can increase a ship's fuel demand by as much as 40%, drastically increasing shipping emissions and inciting significant economic consequences for the marine industry.

The IMarEST Biofouling Management special interest group SIG acts as a forum for knowledge sharing across the field of biofouling, from in-water hull cleaning, balancing the environmental benefits and dangers of pesticide use, regulation and identifying knowledge and policy gaps. The group's overarching aim is to ensure shipping and other maritime industries can continue to underpin trade, security and economic development with minimal environmental impact, both in the immediate and long term.

#### Recent outputs include:

- [UK Environmental Audit Committee](#) – contribution to the inquiry into the threat to biosecurity of invasive species.
- [IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee \(MEPC74\)](#) – co-sponsored the submission of a paper listing the current research focus, industry-specific management issues and best practice in biofouling.
- [IMarEST Annual Conference](#) 2019 - A presentation delivered by Tom Vance at the IMarEST's Annual Conference 2019, on '[Biofouling Management](#)', in light of the sustainable blue economy. You can watch the full recording on [IMarEST TV](#) (members only) and our [Youtube channel](#) (non-members).

#### Upcoming outputs include:

- Ship biofouling management guide – the SIG are collating relevant practical and scientific experience to produce a best practice guide, recommending the optimum methods and techniques for dealing with a number of common fouling management scenarios, including in-water cleaning. This SIG activity is part of the IMarEST



voluntary commitments towards supporting the UN Sustainable Development goal 14: Life Below Water. You can read further details in our [Year 1 Progress Report](#).

- Study on in-water cleaning – the SIG is creating an open source global index of current and pending regulations governing in-water hull cleaning. This will assist in understanding and allow ship operators to quickly identify which rules and regulations are relevant to their operations. This SIG activity is part of the IMarEST voluntary commitments towards supporting the UN Sustainable Development goal 14: Life Below Water. You can read further details in our [Year 1 Progress Report](#).
- [GloFouling Partnerships project](#) - the project looks to minimise the transboundary introduction of invasive species, particularly in developing countries. The SIG was involved in reviewing the project document for GloFouling and presented at the launch meeting. They are involved in planning the first GloFouling Research & Development forum, which will be held in conjunction with their own ANZPAC biofouling workshop. Given the IMarEST is a strategic partner in the project, the SIG will be leading on our contributions.

## How to get involved in IMarEST technical activity

The IMarEST SIGs are voluntary groups which operate to the benefit of a specialist field, spanning the interests of marine engineering, science and technology, by bringing together experts from the marine sector. SIGs are governed by a committee of members but all SIGs are open for all members to participate as corresponding members.

They provide a platform for knowledge-sharing, outreach, and advisory information for the wider industry and in some cases - influencing legislation and policy. The work of the IMarEST's SIGs is highly diverse, spanning across the three domains of the institute – often incorporating aspects of multiple disciplines.

All the SIGs welcome new members, wherever you are in the world. However, you must be an [IMarEST member](#) to join. As an IMarEST member, you can participate in a range of technical activities at both an international and intergovernmental level. The IMarEST holds an extremely privileged position of having formal recognition across a [range of intergovernmental organisations](#) at a level unrivalled by similar organisations of its kind.

By [joining a SIG](#), you can develop your knowledge through meeting and attending events with industry experts, as well as make your contribution to the development of a sustainable marine sector and blue economy – all of which counts towards your Continuing Professional Development.

You can join a SIG as a corresponding member by signing up through your [IMarEST web account](#) to follow SIG developments and hear the latest industry news. You can also engage with the SIG, other corresponding members and discuss specialist topics in the member only networking portal '[IMarEST Nexus](#)'. If you are interested in becoming more directly involved with a SIG you can apply to the committee – for more information contact [technical@imarest.org](mailto:technical@imarest.org).

The IMarEST welcomes the establishment of [new special interest groups](#) across the entire breadth of the marine engineering, science and technology domain. Whether you are a non-member or a current member, if you are interested in establishing a new SIG – please get in touch with our technical team to enquire: [technical@imarest.org](mailto:technical@imarest.org).

