



IMarEST Special Interest Groups

PROFILE:

[Ballast Water Management](#)

Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to global biodiversity and their transfer through ships' ballast water – used to improve stability at sea – is a huge culprit for their transportation to new waters around the world. With the continued growth of the international shipping sector, there is a global need to address the issue.

With consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the IMarEST Ballast Water Management Special Interest Group (SIG) works towards reducing the industry's spread of alien species by contributing to the development of the Ballast Water Management Convention which is now in its experience building phase and implementation due in 2020. Addressing the priority engineering, science and technology concerns, it acts as a forum to disseminate information within the marine sector.

Recent outputs include:

- [Submission to IMO 74th Marine Environmental Protection Committee meeting \(MEPC74\)](#) – the SIG submitted two papers for consideration by the committee exploring: the practicalities and safety issues of ballast water exchange plus treatment and providing an overview of indicative analysis instruments that are used to test that ballast water complies with IMO regulations. 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](#).
- [UK Environmental Audit Committee](#) – contribution to the inquiry into the threat to biosecurity of invasive species.
- IMO Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) – supported PPR6 discussions (IMO, 18 to 22 February) including data gathering during the experience-building phase and revised guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis.
- [IMarEST Annual Conference](#) - presentation delivered by Marcie Merksamer and Kevin Reynolds on the SIG's contributions, outlining the scope of ballast water in shaping a sustainable blue economy. You can watch the full recording on [IMarEST TV](#) (members only) and our [Youtube channel](#) (non-members).



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.

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.

