







GloFouling COVID-19 Meeting (11 and 13 May 2020) Meeting Summary

Objectives of the meeting

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and consequent lockdown in several countries around the world, the GloFouling Partnerships' Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invited the Regional Coordinating Organizations (RCOs) and Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) to discuss impacts related to COVID-19 and the way forward. Specifically, the meeting was aimed at evaluating impact of the lockdown on the overall delivery of the project's activities, possible mitigation measures and changes in terms of planning for the last two quarters of the year. The objective of the meeting was also to assess the situation in each country and region specifically and get an update on the progress achieved so far related to the implementation of the GloFouling Partnerships project, as well as expected challenges.

Organization of the meeting

The meeting was organized virtually using 'Webex'. Due to the time difference between all LPCs and RCOs, the meeting was split into two groups: The first meeting was held on Thursday, 11th May 2020. Invitations were sent to Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Philippines, Sri Lanka, PEMSEA, PERSGA and SACEP. The second meeting was held on 13th May 2020 (14th May 2020 in Fiji, Samoa (SPREP) and Tonga). Invitations were sent to Brazil, Ecuador, Fiji, Mexico, Peru, Tonga, CPPS and SPREP.

The Agenda of the meeting was shared with invited representatives prior to the event. All invited LPCs (with the exception of Tonga due to technical issues) and RCOs participated in the meeting.

PCU Progress Report

The Project Technical Manager provided an update on the status of implementation of communication and outreach activities; national awareness-raising workshops; development of global Guides for drafting national reports; development of training courses; and the launch of the Global Industry Alliance (GIA) for Marine Biosafety. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all IMO upcoming meetings and on-site capacity building activities had been cancelled and staff was working from home since the month of March until further notice. As a result, several project's activities were cancelled and needed to be rescheduled.

In terms of communication and outreach activities, the GloFouling website can be linked in the LPCs and RCOs GloFouling/biofouling dedicated pages. During the meeting it was informed that the recommendations issued by the PCU on website design and content were available in English, Spanish and French



(https://www.glofouling.imo.org/publications-menu). The PCU has also launched an animation as a tool to raise awareness about the project and the issues it is tackling and encouraged LPCs and RCOs to use/share the animation (https://video.wixstatic.com/video/3763d5 1b5051cfb58245999136d23230115824/1080p/mp4/file .mp4).

Regarding the development of global Guides for drafting national reports, the Project Technical Manager reported that the PCU was in the process of selecting the consultants to develop the guidance documents. The target was to have all three guides developed by the end of 2020. These guides are intended to assist national experts to develop the national status assessments and national strategies on biofouling management.

The Project Technical Manager also reported on the outcome of and recommendations from the GloFouling Partnerships Executive Committee meeting (held on 22nd April 2020), which serves as the project's decision-making body and is formed by representatives of IMO, UNDP, IOC-UNESCO and the PCU. Considering the consequences of COVID-19 outbreak, especially travel restrictions, the PCU was encouraged by the Executive Committee to change the approach on how the activities will be carried out, particularly when travel could be required, to minimize delays in delivering project's outputs. Such examples are e-deliveries and e-trainings instead of face to face meetings and trainings.

LPCs Progress Report

Each LPC reported on the status of implementation of the project at the national level and shared information on lockdown measures such as work-from-home requirements and travel restrictions. Almost all countries reported working from home either fully or in part, with borders closed or travel/movement severely restricted. All countries hosted a national awareness-raising workshop with the exception of Peru and Ecuador, where the workshops scheduled in March 2020 had to be postponed. In terms of project implementation, all LPCs reported that they had a National Task Force (NTF) in place. However, some countries reported that COVID-19 had caused a shift in priorities, with resources primarily reallocated to facing the COVID-19 health emergency. Some countries reported that they were working on the development of biofouling in-water cleaning guidance.

RCOs Progress Report

Each RCO reported on the status of implementation of the project regionally and shared information on lockdown measures such as work-from-home requirements and travel restrictions. RCOs had participated in the national activities (raising awareness workshop/first meeting of the NTF) and indicated that they were awaiting instructions from the PCU to begin activities at the regional level, in particular the Roundtable programmed in July 2020 to exchange experience on the development of regional strategies. RCOs deplored that the COVID-19 crisis put a brake on these activities.

Revised Plan of activities for 2020 (May-December 2020)

The Project Technical Manager detailed the relevant activities of the project which were impacted or will likely be impacted by the COVID-19 and introduced a revised planning and timeline for activities scheduled in the last three quarters of 2020. The meeting participants discussed mitigation measures that could be available, such as e-delivery options. The following was agreed during the meeting:

• In general, the PCU will shift from on-site delivery to e-delivery until such time IMO re-authorizes travel and it becomes possible to schedule certain activities on-site.

- The PCU will make sure that the format of the activities is prepared considering that it is more difficult to keep the focus for more than 2-3 hours during virtual meetings and trainings; virtual activities will also be designed in a more interactive way. The recommended tools to be used for e-delivery were: 'Zoom', 'Webex' and 'GoToMeeting'. 'Zoom' was the most favored tool due to its capacity to setup breakout room sessions. Should the current scenario change, making e-delivery no longer essential, any materials already developed should be easily transferable for face to face delivery in LPCs and the regions.
- For training specifically, it was agreed that the train-the trainer-activity, which is designed to take place towards the end of the project, will be brought forward, with the purpose to capacitate the national training institutions to deliver trainings in each country (either live, if the situation allows it, or using live e-delivery). The training packages will be developed to accommodate, as far as possible, an e-delivery format. Collaboration with the World Maritime University (WMU) and other possible service providers for distance delivery of training will also be sought.
- Where necessary, the PCU will study other actions that may support the work of the NTFs and the
 delivery of project activities, if they are impacted by changes in the order of country priorities due to
 COVID-19.

GloFouling global events 2021-2022

The Project Technical Manager informed the participants that the second R&D Conference will likely be pushed back toward the end of 2021, given the lack of visibility regarding the time it will take for the current situation to return to normal. A second Global Project Task Force (GPTF) meeting was planned to be organized in 2022.

Other business

The Project Technical Manager reminded all the participants that IMO's Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) was reviewing the <u>2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species</u> (Biofouling Guidelines), and that a correspondence group - chaired¹ by Norway, has been established for this purpose. The Project Technical Manager encouraged all LPCs to contact the Chair of the Correspondence Group to ensure their country takes part in the review of the Guidelines. This is a correspondence group and no travel is required.

Organization: Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

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List of participants

Monday, 11th May 2020

Indonesia:

- Capt. Sudiono Soenardjo Wijaya (<u>sudiono1802@dephub.go.id</u>), GloFouling National Focal Point, Director of Marine Safety and Seafarers, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Ministry of Transportation
- Mr Barkah Bayu Mirajaya (<u>pr.intcoop.dgst@gmail.com</u>), Head of International Cooperation and Treaty, Legal and International Cooperation Division, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Ministry of Transportation
- Ms Murni Herawati Sitinjak (<u>murnihs@hotmail.com</u>), GloFouling National Project Coordinator, Senior Officer of International Cooperation and Treaty, Legal and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Transportation
- Mr Rudi Taryono (<u>ruditaryono67@yahoo.co.id</u>), Deputy Director, Marine Safety and Seafarers DGST
- Ms Dessie Fatmawati (<u>dessiefatmawati@gmail.com</u>), Marine Inspector, Directorate of Marine Safety and Seafarers DGST

Jordan:

• Eng. Walid Alhannini (psc@jma.gov.jo), GloFouling National Deputy Focal Point, Head of port state control Division, Jordan Maritime Commission

Madagascar:

- Mr Reza Ludovic (<u>reza.ludovic@apmf.mg</u>), GloFouling National Focal Point, Technical Advisor, Research, Prospective and Development, Agence Portuaire, Maritime et Fluviale (APMF Madagascar)
- Ms Miora Rabemiafara (<u>miorarabe@apmf.mg</u>), GloFouling Project Coordinator, Head of Environmental Affairs Department, Agence Portuaire, Maritime et Fluviale (APMF Madagascar)

Mauritius:

- Mr Prakash Mussai (<u>prakashmussai@gmail.com</u>), GloFouling National Project Coordinator, Research Scientist, Mauritius Oceanography Institute
- Ms Bhavnah Komul Kalidin (<u>bhavnah07@gmail.com</u>), GloFouling Deputy National Project Coordinator, Marine Scientist, Director of Shipping, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Philippines:

- Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia (<u>jppia@marina.gov.ph</u>), GloFouling National Focal Point, Director II, Overseas Shipping Service, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
- Ms Dana Angela D. Fajardo (<u>fajardodana047@gmail.com</u>), Maritime Industry Development Specialist I, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)

Sri Lanka:

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- Mr Jagath Gunasekara (<u>aim12 2000@yahoo.com</u>), Deputy General Manager, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)
- Ms. Thalatha Ranasinghe (<u>thalatha15@yahoo.com</u>), Deputy Manager, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)

PEMSEA:

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PERSGA:

 Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed (<u>mahmoud.ahmed@persga.org</u>), Environmental expert, Coordinator of sea based pollution Program, Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

SACEP:

 Dr Sivaji Patra (<u>spor_sasp@sacep.org</u>), Senior Programme Officer, South Asia Co-Operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Wednesday, 13th May 2020

Brazil:

- Mr Robson Jose Calixto De Lima (<u>robson-jose.calixto@mma.gov.br</u>), GloFouling National Focal Point, Environmental Analyst, Ministry of Environment
- Mr Ricardo Coutinho (<u>ricardo.coutinho@marinha.mil.br</u>), GloFouling Project Coordinator, Titular researcher, Instituto Estudos Almirante Paulo Moreira (IEAPM)

Ecuador:

- Admiral Lenin Sanchez Mino (<u>dirnea@armada.mil.ec</u>), National Director of the Aquatic Spaces, Armada del Ecuador (Ecuadorian Navy)
- Capt. Freddy Espinoza-Huaypatin (<u>fespinozah@armada.mil.ec</u>), Chairman of the Working Group, Armada del Ecuador (Ecuadorian Navy)

Fiji:

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Mexico:

- Mr Gildardo Alarcon (<u>alarcondaowz@yahoo.com</u>), Asesor Maritimo-Ambiental, Unidad de Capitanías de Puerto y Asuntos Marítimos - The Secretaría de Marina (UNICAPAM-SEMAR)
- R. Adm. Leopoldo Diaz Gonzalez (<u>Idiazgs@semar.gob.mx</u>), Mexico Permanent Representative for IMO, Embassy of Mexico

Peru:

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CPPS:

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SPREP:

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Project Coordination Unit (PCU) 11 & 13 May 2020

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