

International Response to Marine Biofouling

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More than 80% of world trade is transported by ships. With the rapid advances in ship design, ships are larger and travel faster than ever before. The impact of this transformation translates to increase in magnitude of ship-mediated organism transfers around the globe, and recent research findings suggest that the invasion risk from biofouling may exceed that arising from ballast water discharge. Unlike ballast water treatment, antifouling has a long history of research and development, and management practices are better established. However, most of these were developed for purpose of improving ship efficiency and not toward addressing biosafety concerns. This paper provides an overview on marine biofouling associated with shipping, current marine antifouling technology and research, and knowledge gaps for integrating biosafety and sustainable development.



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