

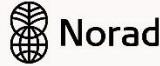


Latin America and Caribbean Women in Maritime

Biofouling Management Workshop



LACWIM BMW



MTCC Caribbean's Participation at the Latin America and Caribbean Women in Maritime-Biofouling Management Workshop (LACWIM-BWM)

Panamá City, Panamá

July 11-12th 2024



The [IMO-Norad TEST Biofouling project](#) aims to strengthen the involvement of women in biofouling activities. Therefore, in celebration of the IMO International Day for Women in Maritime 2024, the GEF-UNDP-IMO [GloFouling Partnerships project](#), in collaboration with the IMO-Norad TEST Biofouling project, hosted the Latin America and Caribbean Women in

Maritime – Biofouling Management Workshop (LACWIM-BMW). This event followed the TEST Biofouling Training Workshop also held in Panamá (July 8-10th), and took place from July 11-12th, 2024, at the Universidad Marítima Internacional de Panamá. This event builds upon the remarkable involvement of women in previous IMO-Norad projects and seeks to further integrate gender equality in maritime activities. Through this initiative, the workshop aimed to empower women in the Latin America and Caribbean region by enhancing their knowledge of biofouling management a key factor in safeguarding marine biodiversity and contained interactive sessions on strategy development.

The workshop was held over two days and featured speakers and participants from across the globe. Additionally, representatives from regional and national women's associations were invited to participate, fostering wider stakeholder engagement. The representatives and participants that were included, came from:

- Women's International Shipping & Trading Association ([WISTA](#)),
- Women in Maritime Association of the Caribbean ([WiMAC](#)),
- The Latin America Women's Maritime Association ([MaMLA](#)),
- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute ([STRI](#)),
- [Charles Darwin Foundation \(Galapagos\)](#),
- [Red Sea Global](#)
- [ECO Subsea](#)
- Maritime Educational Institutions such as the World Maritime University (WMU),
- International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies, Fiji National University and Agence Portuaire, Maritime et Fluviale, Madagascar.

There were five sessions on Day 1, with a segment that focused on information geared towards promoting mechanisms that women in the region could benefit from. Day 2 featured a carefully tailored workshop for Empowering Women Leaders: Strategies for Success. These sessions included:

Day 1

1. Environmental Impacts of Ship's Biofouling
2. The Global Response
3. Technology Development and Innovation
4. Industry Perspectives
5. Biofouling Gender Action Plan and Analysis Report

Day 2

1. Build Your Network
2. Build your Visibility
3. Manage your Personal Brand
4. Women on Board

Aligned with the IMO's "Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector" programme, this workshop encouraged participating countries to promote the inclusion of women in maritime governance and policy development. Special attention was given to the material being delivered which ensured gender balance in training, with materials developed to showcase the importance of gender equality.

Mr. Michael Razack and Ms. Sarita Emmanuel of the MTCC Caribbean presented on Day 1 under the session *Technology Development an Innovation* with a presentation on *Technology Demonstration: Lessons Learnt & Decision-Making Framework*. Feedback on the capacity building within the region was shared which included lessons learnt and suggestions that can help cater to the needs of the region. Included in this presentation was the decision-making process for pre and post-selection of the technology device used in the demonstration of the In-Water Cleaning and Capture that was showcased on July 10, 2024, at the TEST Biofouling Technology Demonstration and Training Workshop.



MTCC Caribbean's Mr. Michael Razack and Ms. Sarita Emmanuel Participate in a Panel discussion on Biofouling Technology and Innovation. (L-R) Facilitator-Angelica Borja; Abigail Robinson Vice President of Sustainability, ECOsubsea AS; Michael Razack Project Manager, MTCC Caribbean; Sarita Emmanuel Project Officer, MTCC Caribbean; John Armstrong Managing Director, HullWiper Ltd; and Ashley Coutts Managing Director and Principal Scientist, Biofouling Solutions Pty Ltd.

Attendees of the LACWIM-BMW benefited from the In-Water Cleaning and Capture technology demonstration on Wednesday 10th July. This experience complemented their workshop and allowed for the active engagement of the attendees with the technology providers. This experience is vital in progressing sustainable and eco-friendly solutions within the maritime sector, and at the same time, involving women to be a part of innovative technological solutions through various institutions and networks to promote a more environmentally conscious maritime sector.



Participants at the LACWIM BMW workshop.



Participant from the LACWIM BMW workshop using the controls for the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) assisted by a Hull Wiper Representative.



Dr. Inti Keith from the Charles Darwin Foundation (Galapagos) shares her experience and research on biofouling.