RINA
THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS
NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION

IMAREST
The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology
Sydney Branch

RINA/IMarEST Technical Presentation

Biofouling on Ships:
Character, Consequences, Concerns and Control

Speaker: John Lewis
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ES Link Services

Date Wednesday 2 May 2018

Venue: Harricks Auditorium
Engineers Australia
8 Thomas St
Chatswood

Refreshments: 6:00 pm

Presentation: 6:30 pm

The growth of marine life on vessel hulls has troubled mariners since they first set sail and, today, prevention of biofouling requires regular slipping or dry-docking for the application and renewal of antifouling coatings. For the ship operator, the primary consequence of a fouled hull is the increased hull friction, which reduces ship speed and manoeuvrability, and increases fuel consumption. Biofouling can also accelerate corrosion of hull plates and other immersed metallic surfaces. Additional concerns have been raised over recent decades that vessel biofouling and methods for its control also have environmental impacts, by the release of toxic biocides from antifouling paints, by increasing the emission of harmful gases to the atmosphere, and by the spread of invasive aquatic species.

This presentation will provide an overview of the current trends in antifouling technology, the constraints on its application, environmental risks of ship biofouling, and regulatory directions in biofouling management to address biosecurity concerns. An overview will also be given on the IMarEST Biofouling Management Expert Group and this special-interest group's current actions to address gaps in our understanding of biofouling, its impacts, and control.