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To: All IMO Members States
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **New IMO e-Learning course – Introduction to Marine Biofouling:
Impacts and Management of Risks**

1 The Secretary-General is pleased to announce the launch of a new e-Learning course entitled "**Introduction to Marine Biofouling: Impacts and Management of Risks**". This course has been developed under the framework of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships project (www.glofouling.imo.org) in collaboration with the World Maritime University (WМУ). The project assists developing countries with the implementation of the IMO 2011 *Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (MEPC.207(62))*.

2 The course is primarily aimed at any individual involved in or having an interest in matters related to invasive aquatic species and biofouling management. However, it is also adequate for students and the general public. The course provides a detailed introduction to multiple aspects related to ships' biofouling, its role as a vector for the introduction of invasive aquatic species, economic and environmental impacts, international and national policy on the subject and the management solutions and technologies currently available.

3 The course is free and currently available in English. Versions in other UN languages will be available at a later stage. Registration is open and there are no prerequisites for self-enrolment. Since this is a self-paced online course, it can be paused, saved, restarted and replayed at any time. Upon successful completion of the course and a short assessment, participants will be able to download and print a certificate of completion.

4 This new course is hosted on the IMO Learning Management System (LMS) platform that can be accessed through the IMO website (scroll down to the bottom of the page) or through the following URL: <https://lms.imo.org/moodle310/>. Please read carefully the LMS Guide, which can be found [here](#), for instructions.

5 Member States and international organizations are invited to disseminate this information to all interested parties and stakeholders.