



## 香港商船資訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**Guidance on In-water Cleaning of Ship's Biofouling**

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies*

***Summary***

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned of the Guidance on in-water cleaning of ships' biofouling approved by the 83<sup>rd</sup> session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. The MEPC at its 83<sup>rd</sup> session approved the Guidance on in-water cleaning of ships' biofouling ("Guidance"), and disseminated as MEPC.1/Circ.918 on 29 April 2025.
2. The Guidance is intended to support the universal application of the 2023 Guidelines for control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (resolution MEPC.378(80), see MSIN 18/2024). It provides guidance on safely planning and conducting in-water cleaning operations while addressing risks to the environment and ship coatings, including the conduct of pre-cleaning and post-cleaning inspections, as well as record-keeping and reporting.
3. The Guidance as set out in the annex to MEPC.1/Circ.918 can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/legislation/notices/msin/index.html>) as attachment to this Information Note.
4. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Shipyards, Manufacturers and Classification Societies are advised to note the information provided in the documents and act accordingly.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

30 October 2025