

Stopping the flow of **underwater invaders**



Marine Biofouling and invasive species: Guidelines for Prevention and Management

'Astoundingly, more than 70% of introduced marine species in Australia and New Zealand are now thought to have been introduced by biofouling!'

**NOW AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY**





The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is an international partnership, launched in 1996, dedicated to addressing the global threats of invasive species through policy development, awareness raising and information exchange. GISP has catalysed national commitments in invasive species and emerged as an authoritative voice on policy issues, recognised by many international instruments including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Regional Seas Programme, of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), launched in 1974, has emerged as one of the most globally comprehensive initiatives for the protection and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment. With more than 140 countries currently participating in 18 Regional Seas Programmes around the world, the programme recently adopted new strategic directions (2008-2012), which aim to enhance its sustainability and effectiveness.

Marine Biofouling occurs when living organisms attach to any submerged or surface structure in the marine environment. When these structures are mobile and move between geographic areas e.g. ships, oil rigs, barges, marine equipment and marine debris, they provide a pathway for the introduction of invasive marine species which are detrimental to the global economy, coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, fisheries and mariculture, coastal infrastructure, human livelihoods and human health.

Unlike other major pathways such as ballast water, biofouling is not yet adequately addressed under international policy and law. As a step towards addressing this gap, GISP in partnership with UNEP Regional Seas, is launching, 'Marine Biofouling Guidelines for the prevention and management of invasive marine species'. The document is essential reading for anyone working in the marine environment and aims to raise awareness of the threat posed by marine biofouling, assess the risks using detailed case studies and present strategies for the prevention and management invasive marine species.

The complete guidelines are available as a downloadable PDF at www.gisp.org/resources/ and www.unep.org/regionalseas/publications/ and will be available in hard copy from 2009!

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

United Nations Avenue
P.O. Box 633-00621
Nairobi, Kenya

Email: s.simons@gisp.org
Tel: +254 20 722 4462/50
Fax: +254 20 712 2150

Regional Seas Programme

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

Email: regionalseas@unep.org
Tel: +254 20 762 4033
Fax: +254 20 762 4618

