

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

THE OCEANLITTER PROGRAMME GLOBAL TASK FORCE TRAINING & WORKSHOP
From Commitment to Action on marine plastic litter from sea-based sources**IMO Headquarters, London, the United Kingdom, 12 — 14 November 2025**

1 International Maritime Organization (IMO) OceanLitter Programme houses a portfolio of multi-donor projects targeting the prevention and reduction of marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors. The OceanLitter Programme currently includes the GloLitter Partnerships and RegLitter projects, which are jointly executed by the IMO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It will also house the Plastic Reduction in the Oceans: Sustaining and Enhancing Actions on Sea-based Sources (PRO-SEAS) project, which was recently approved by the Global Environment Facility and will be executed by the IMO, with FAO as the implementing agency.

2 The OceanLitter Programme Global Task Force Training & Workshop will be held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, from Wednesday, 12 November to Friday, 14 November 2025. The Training & Workshop will feature sessions with traditional presentation formats, and open dialogue panels to encourage debate and exchange of ideas with participation from attendees and delegates, under the theme ***"From Commitment to Action on marine plastic litter from sea-based sources"***. It will bring together country officials representing maritime and fisheries sectors, industry, academia, leading scientific experts, and technology development leaders to address sea-based sources of marine plastic litter. The participants will have the opportunity to attend a research and technology exhibition related to sea-based sources of the marine plastic litter issue during the event's coffee and lunch breaks.

3 Marine litter presents a growing problem in our oceans. Both macroplastics (for example, large plastic items such as plastic bags, water bottles, and fishing gear) and microplastics (small plastic particles generally five millimetres or less in size) persist in the marine environment and result in harmful effects on marine life and biodiversity, as well as negative impacts on industries, economies in general, and human health. However, there are opportunities to tackle the issue through research, innovation, and joint action.

4 We invite you to submit abstracts for presentations, posters, or exhibition booths on the general theme of preventing and reducing marine plastic litter from sea-based sources from the maritime and/or fisheries sectors, including affected sectoral and industry activities. The guidelines and timelines for submission of abstracts are outlined in **Annex 1** to this document. After the event, a proceedings document will include the selected proposals. All proposals must include an abstract (see the proposed template in **Annex 2** to this document).

Topics

5 The event will focus on the latest developments in marine plastic litter management, with a specific emphasis on sea-based initiatives. Proposals related to plastic litter originating from land-based environments, or other aquatic environments such as rivers or lakes, will not be considered.

6 Proposals on the following topics are encouraged, however, other topics will be considered as long as they address marine plastic litter originating from the shipping and fisheries sectors.

**OceanLitter**
ProgrammePreventing and reducing
marine plastic litter
from sea-based sources

Women's roles in addressing sea-based marine plastic litter

7 The value of gender equality is widely acknowledged. Nevertheless, the historically male-dominated maritime and fisheries sectors continue to struggle to ensure a fair representation of women in the workplace. IMO and FAO have adopted a strategic approach to support stakeholders in achieving gender equality under SDG 5. The OceanLitter Programme's gender initiatives have included the establishment of a small-grant scheme and seed-funded pilot projects to support women-led activities addressing sea-based sources of marine plastic litter in the fisheries sector, including the upcycling, repurposing, and recycling of marine plastic litter from fishing operations. However, increased efforts are needed on national, regional, and global levels to close the gender gap.

8 We invite abstract submissions related to the challenges and best approaches to women's engagement in addressing marine plastic litter from the shipping and fisheries sectors. We specifically encourage submissions of abstracts from women-led businesses that utilize recycled products made from marine plastic litter from the maritime and fisheries sectors.

Research and data

9 The proposals should include topics related to sea-based sources of marine plastic litter, such as the characterization of plastic waste generated onboard vessels, monitoring, and assessment of specific impacts, as well as possible solutions applicable to the developing country context. Research is crucial in informing effective and practical solutions to prevent and reduce sea-based sources of marine plastic litter from the maritime and fisheries sectors. The topics related to research needs include improved information about plastic waste generated onboard vessels during shipping and fishing operations, monitoring and assessment of this waste, and specific impacts if this plastic waste becomes marine litter.

10 The proposed topics can address the shipping and/or fisheries sectors. The illustrative topics include, but are not limited to:

- .1 research findings on the best methods of quantification, characterization, and management of marine plastic litter originating from shipping and/or fisheries sectors. This includes assessment and monitoring of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), plastic waste generated during shipping activities (single-use plastic bottles, cups, packaging materials, or other), and/or fishing activities (such as ice bags, bait straps, coolers, and food packaging);
- .2 research findings on specific impacts from marine plastic litter on the environment, economies, and livelihoods, including the impact from ALDFG; and
- .3 research findings on adopting a circular economy approach in shipping and fisheries sectors to reduce further plastic use, including reuse or recycling at port facilities.

Technology and innovation

11 The proposals should focus on technologies and innovative solutions to prevent and reduce sea-based sources of marine plastic litter, improving the use and stewardship of plastic items used by the shipping and fisheries sectors, as well as facilitating sound end-of-life management of these plastic items and the recovery of sea-based sources of marine plastic litter.

12 Technology and innovation can drive solutions to prevent and reduce sea-based sources of marine plastic litter, particularly through private industry and research stakeholders invested in this issue. Innovative solutions are required at every stage of the plastic lifecycle for materials used within the maritime and fisheries industries.

13 The illustrative topics to highlight available technologies and innovations within the shipping and fisheries sector, include but are not limited to:

- .1 marine plastic litter preventive technologies that can be adopted by shipping and/or fishing vessels;
- .2 sustainable cleaning and monitoring technologies of marine plastic litter, including ALDFG recovery technologies;
- .3 technology for fishing gear marking and tracking;
- .4 end-of-life fishing gear management, including recycling; and
- .5 innovative approaches to establishing port reception facilities (PRFs).

ANNEX 1

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS

Timelines

1 Many abstracts are expected to be submitted to this event, the deadlines will be strictly followed. Please submit your abstract to oceanlitter@imo.org:

- .1 Deadline to submit abstracts is **Monday, 29 September 2025**; and
- .2 The OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit will review abstracts, and authors will be notified of the acceptance by **Monday, 13 October 2025**.

Selection of abstracts

2 The OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit will evaluate presentation and poster abstracts based on the following criteria:

- .1 novel approaches, relevance, and topicality;
- .2 informative content: whether technical or scientific; and
- .3 applicability to the developing country context.

3 Priority will be given to applications submitted on time and meeting the eligibility criteria. Special consideration will be given to the submissions from female authors.

4 Please note that presentation abstracts might also be chosen for a poster presentation. In this case, the OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit will inform and send you the guidelines for poster presentations.

Selection of exhibition booth abstracts

5 Abstracts submitted for research and technology exhibition booths will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Agreement

6 Selected presentation speakers agree to:

- .1 take part in a short virtual briefing session with the moderator;
- .2 give their presentation in English;
- .3 supply their PowerPoint presentation at least two weeks before the event; and
- .4 respect the period allotted per presentation.

7 Selected posters participants agree to supply their poster (in PDF format, dimensions will be provided) at least two weeks before the event to allow sufficient time for printing;

8 Selected exhibition booth participants agree to bring any equipment and material for presentation at the booth at their own expense (the organizer will provide standard booth space);

9 All selected presentation, poster, and exhibition booth participants agree to:

.1 inform the OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit if they are unable to participate and provide replacement options as far as possible;

.2 permit the OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit to use their name, job title, company/organization name, as well as any relevant information related to their presentation, poster, or exhibition booth for event advertising purposes; and

.3 permit the OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit to share their presentations and posters, and abstracts for the exhibition booth (PDF format) with delegates after the conference, and to include them in the proceedings document for publishing.

Participation

10 No sponsorship shall be expected from IMO. Speakers, poster, and exhibition booth presenters will be responsible for covering their travel and accommodation expenses, as well as any other costs related to their participation in the event.

ANNEX 2

GUIDANCE FOR ABSTRACT FORMAT AND PROPOSED TEMPLATE

1 If you have any questions regarding this call for abstracts, please contact our team by email at oceanlitter@imo.org.

Guidance for abstract format

2 The Abstract should:

- .1 be written in English;
- .2 include a title and a short descriptive text of the contents of the proposed presentation, poster, or exhibition booth;
- .3 name of the presenter or exhibition booth participant;
- .4 be of a maximum of 250 words; and
- .5 include relevant keywords.

Proposed template for abstracts

ENGLISH TITLE

Author¹, Author²: e-mail address

¹: *Department, Name of the Organization/Company, City, Country*

²: *Department, Name of the Organization/Company, City, Country*

Please select if the abstract is being submitted as a (select all that apply):

- ☐ Presentation
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Exhibition booth

TEXT [250 words]

Keywords