



Green Marine Europe's very first laureates: Towards an ecological transition of maritime transportation

Paris, October 8, 2020 – Six months after the introduction of Green Marine Europe, Surfrider Foundation Europe and Green Marine are delighted to present the first-ever laureates of this new environmental label. Six European ship owners renowned within the maritime transportation sector have joined Green Marine Europe to earn this label and commit to a sustainable transition.

Shipping's environmental challenges

Approximately 90% of the world's goods are moved by water. Although maritime transportation is the most efficient mode of transport, this activity still generates pollution that is harmful to the marine environment.

Faced with this reality, the Surfrider Foundation Europe NGO began in 2019 to outline an environmental program which led in April 2020 to the announcement of the new Green Marine Europe label. SFE is thus realizing its intention **to work in partnership with ship owners and the sector's primary stakeholders to reduce pollution linked to maritime transportation.**

It is by coordinating a **sustainable transportation label in Europe** – Green Marine Europe – that SFE, alongside Green Marine in North America, offers a sustainable solution to the industry to help European ship owners to reduce their environmental footprint.

A multi-stakeholder initiative to go beyond existing regulations

Beyond the Green Marine and Surfrider Foundation Europe partnership, the label is the result of the collaborative work involving all relevant stakeholders from the ship owner and port sectors, governments, NGOs, and the Agence de la transition écologique (ADEME) in France. These external stakeholders improved the discussions and successfully adapted the criteria for Europe.

Earning this independent label, these six ship owners – Brittany Ferries, CORSICA linea, Ifremer and its subsidiary Genavir, La Méridionale, Orange Marine and Socatra – are part of a sustainable process of continuous improvement of maritime transportation’s environmental performance. Through the evaluation of seven indicators, such as greenhouse gas emissions, air emissions (NOx, SOx and particulate matter) invasive aquatic species, or the management of waste or of underwater noise, the laureates provide information on their environmental performance that goes beyond existing regulations. The Green Marine Europe program is expected to be further enhanced next year, most notably with the addition of an indicator on responsible ship recycling. Laureates must requalify annually to retain their label.

Although this is the first year of evaluation and the initial group of laureates, the results already bear witness to their commitment to the environment. In fact, all six ship owners far exceeded the program’s minimum performance requirements for the first year of the certification, obtaining at least Level 2 for one of the indicators. Results are measured on a 1 to 5 scale with Level 1 representing the monitoring of regulations and Level 5 reflecting excellence and leadership. Green Marine Europe’s first annual report with these detail results is available online. To be awarded the laureate label, the candidates had to conduct a self-diagnosis and have this process and their results verified by an independent verifier accredited by Green Marine Europe, as well as agree to the publication of their individual results.

An event at the heart of maritime institutions

The announcement of the first laureates of the Green Marine Europe label was hosted today by France’s Ministry of the Sea in the presence of Madame Minister Annick Girardin, and Madame Secretary of the State in charge of Biodiversity, Bérangère Abba. The event gathered within this setting, physically and online, various interests from the maritime world: ship owners, ship builders, environmental organizations, politicians and administrations. It proves the willingness of the sector in Europe to join in a transparent, monitored, sustainable transition. The annual progress approach and the regular review of the criteria are guarantees of engagement and emulation towards greater respect for the ocean. In the years to come, Green Marine Europe will be able to inform the decisions of consumers and passengers in terms of their daily purchases and empower them to act in ways to protect the ocean.

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Green Marine Europe

Green Marine Europe is a voluntary environmental certification program for the European shipping industry adapted from the Green Marine program in North America. The Green Marine Europe label applies only to ship owners at this time. Green Marine Europe provides a detailed framework for shipping companies to measure their environment footprint, then reduce it. Applicant ship owners must demonstrate continuous and measurable improvement, year over year, to retain the label. Initially, the environmental program is addressing priority environmental issues related to the air, the water, the protection of biodiversity, and waste management. The program has seven distinct performance indicators.



Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe is an NGO for the protection of the ocean, aquatic environments and their users. With 30 years of working expertise in the field, the organization has become a reference on environmental issues related to its work themes: aquatic waste, water quality and user health, coastal development and climate change.

Surfrider Foundation Europe works on a daily basis with key stakeholders aiming to defend this common good to ignite real changes at the heart of our societies. To do so, the organization relies on three complementary levers of action: education and awareness-raising, scientific and legal expertise, as well as political advocacy in order to introduce in-depth and lasting changes for the ocean's preservation.



Green Marine (North America)

Founded in 2007, the Green Marine environmental certification program is the result of a voluntary initiative by the maritime industry to go beyond regulations. To date, more than 145 ship owners, port authorities, terminal operators and shipyard managers throughout Canada and the United States, are participating in the program. The certification process is rigorous and transparent, the results verified in an independent manner every two years, and the individual performance of each enterprise made public annually. The unique character of the Green Marine program is based on the active participation of environmental, scientific and governmental organizations in its development.

