

# PORTS AS ANTHROPIZED ENVIRONMENTS: AN ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

## ABSTRACT:

A port environment is a significant novel ecosystem as it is an interface of land and marine domains; it has been altered to receive vessels coming from local or international sources. Artificial structures replace natural ones, which are less heterogeneous than original habitats. The structures coupled with marine traffic make port environments reservoir to non-indigenous species, which can co-exist with indigenous ones, or displace them and become invasive. As the Philippines acceded to IMO-BWMC, it has been obliged to reduce risk of biological invasion in marine environments. A port biological baseline survey was warranted, and same risk areas be identified. My discussion aims to discuss the port baselines of the Port of Manila and the Port of Cebu. The methodology uses an ecological approach, which deploys PICES collectors. Foulers are identified using morphological investigation. Data are deposited in a database. Results show non-indigenous and invasive species in the survey. *Mytella strigata* has been tagged as invasive due to its economic and ecological impacts. *Mytilopsis sallei* and *Mytilopsis adamsi*, which have been invasive in Asian ports, are being monitored. *Hydroides elegans*, *Brachidontes pharaonis*, *Irus* sp. and *Arcuatula senhousia* have been detected. Results will be a basis for the same risk area assessments. There is the need for port management policies, as presence of potential invasives will become a pressing environmental problem if no legislation for its control will be created.