

# GREEN MARINE: AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH SUSTAINABILITY IN MARINE TRANSPORTATION



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***This paper evaluates the merits of the Green Marine Environmental Program (GMEP) as a coordinated sustainable framework. As the first major voluntary certification program aimed at reducing their environmental footprint of the maritime sector, the GMEP presents a rare potential to encourage the industry to move above and beyond regulatory compliance.***

## **APPROACH:**

An appraisal and review was made of the program, focusing mainly on the GMEP website and included an interpretation of recent performance indicator results published therein. Benefits to the environment and potential limitations of the current program are discussed in the article. Based on this preliminary review, suggestions are made to some elements of the GMEP that could be improved.

## **MAIN FINDINGS:**

- The research from this study indicates that the GMEP's focus on continual improvement, transparency, and fostering a positive corporate image has made it a generally efficient tool for encouraging green shipping.
  - Participants' overall average score tends to indicate maintained improvement, alongside increasing membership in the program overall.
- Several recommendations are made to encourage greater future sustainability including making participation in the GMEP mandatory for the approval of large federal contracts to increase its influence and overall participation.