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**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



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## HYDROCARBONS REMOVAL FROM BILGE WATER BY ADSORPTION ONTO ACTIVATED BIOCHAR FROM POSIDONIA OCEANICA

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The normal operations carried out on the boats during navigation generate waste waters such as oily bilge water. The latter is the aqueous mixture of potential pollutants of different origins and types: oily fluids, lubricants and greases, cleaning fluids and other wastes that accumulate in the lower part of the vessel [1,2]. The current legislation provides that they can be discharge directly into the sea if the concentrations of some components are below the expected limits. In particular, with regard to oil / hydrocarbons contamination, the current regulatory limit is  $15 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  of total hydrocarbons. The present work starts from a public/private partnership funded by a grant of the Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE). Among the aims of the project, novel methods shall be tested for the reduction of hydrocarbons concentration at values below  $5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ . Moreover, instrumental techniques able to quickly measure the required low hydrocarbons concentration were tested. Among the different steps of bilge water treatment in pilot plant (coagulation, flotation, centrifugation, adsorption etc.), the latter requires the use of adsorbent materials able to reduce the oily concentration below the legal limits. Here we have chosen, optimized and tested materials obtained from bio-oil production waste, a biochar obtained by pyrolysis of *Posidonia oceanica*, a marine plant widespread in the Mediterranean sea.

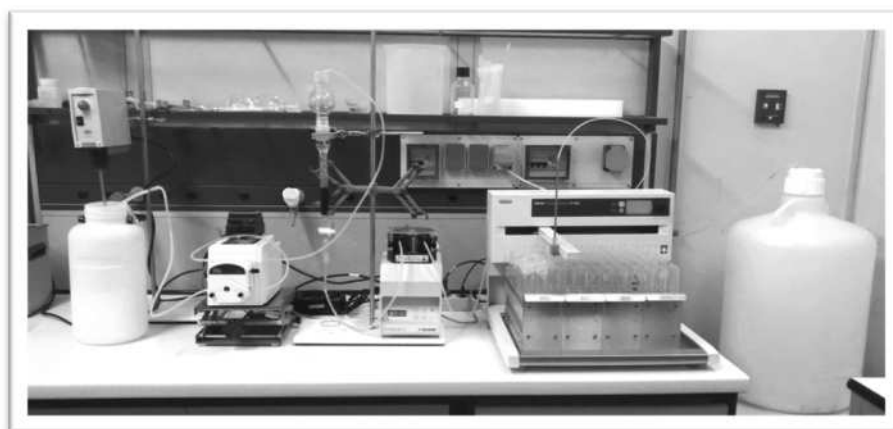


Figure 1. Benchtop pilot system for hydrocarbon/oil fraction removal from bilge water type dispersion.

The biochar has been characterized and adsorption experiments were carried out with the pristine biochar (not activated) and with two chemically activated biochars (BCB and BCA) by

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means of acid or alkali treatments. Moreover, a commercial activated carbon (Filtrisorb 400) has been used for comparison purpose. Synthetic bilge waters were prepared following the reference standards [3] for the preparation of test fluids (used to test the bilge separator plant), containing DMA (distillate marine fuel) and SLS (sodium lauryl sulfate).

Batch adsorption isotherms were carried out without ionic medium and at different ionic strengths in NaCl in order to evaluate the effect of salinity on the adsorption ability of adsorbent materials. The same adsorbents were tested by column experiments. In particular, a bench pilot system was built (Figure 1.) and breakthrough curves were obtained changing amount of adsorbent material in column, flow rate, initial DMA and surfactant concentrations .

Several instrumental techniques (turbidimetry, TOC, HPLC-QQQ and HPLC-FLD) have been used to measure surfactant and hydrocarbon concentrations in experimental samples.

The batch experimental data were fitted with the most used isotherm models (Langmuir, Freundlich, Sips) and important considerations were made on the breakthrough curves of column experiments.

#### **References**

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[2] Yu L., Han M., He F., Arab. J. Chem., 2017, 10 S1913–S1922

[3] IMO MEPC.107(49), 2003