



PIANC
The World Association for Professional
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

APRIL 2026

We are just two weeks away from the first edition of the PIANC North Sea Conference and the PIANC AGA 2026, and excitement is building! We look forward to welcoming many of you to Hull for what promises to be an engaging and memorable week.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find updates on upcoming PIANC events, as well as news from some PIANC Working Groups, the latest on our publications and updates from our Platinum Partners & Sister Associations.



We are also delighted to announce that Isabelle Colot has officially joined the PIANC HQ staff team! Isabelle has been a valued part of PIANC for many years in her role as accountant. Her expertise, dedication, and deep understanding of the Association have made her an essential contributor behind the scenes.

We are very pleased that she is now joining the HQ staff team on a permanent basis and we look forward to introducing Isabelle to the wider PIANC community during the AGA 2026 week in Hull. Please join us in giving her a very warm welcome!

JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING PIANC EVENTS!

**NORDPIANC
2026**

**PIANC APAC
2026**

**PIANC AMERICAS
2026**

**PIANC-COPEDEC
XI**



**PIANC
APAC
2026**



**9-11 September
2026**

**25-27 August
2026**

**25-29 October
2026**

**21-26 February
2027**

[VISIT THE
WEBSITE](#)

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WEBSITE](#)

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WEBSITE](#)

SIGN UP FOR THESE PIANC AWARDS

**PIANC DE PAEPE-WILLEMS AWARD
2027**

**WORKING WITH NATURE AWARD
2028**

PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award

The PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award (DPWA) is a prestigious international prize encouraging **Young Professionals** to submit original technical papers in the field of waterborne transport infrastructure.

Why Apply?

- Gain international recognition for your technical paper
- Introduce yourself to an international network of experts in your industry
- Win a great cash prize and free PIANC membership

➤ 1st Prize: € 4,000 + 3-year free PIANC membership + travel & 3-night hotel stay to present at the PIANC Annual General Assembly (AGA)

➤ 2nd Prize: € 2,000 + 1-year free PIANC membership

➤ 3rd Prize: € 1,000 + 1-year free PIANC membership

Who?

All Young Professionals who have not reached the age of 40 before 31 December of the year in which the abstract has been submitted.

How?

Visit the PIANC website to learn more and submit your project for review: <https://bit.ly/4IFHxGF>

Working with Nature Award 2028

This international award celebrates outstanding waterborne transport infrastructure projects that demonstrate a proactive, integrated approach to working with natural processes — delivering benefits for both navigation infrastructure and the environment.

Why Apply?

- Gain international recognition for your innovative, eco-friendly approach to waterborne transport infrastructure
- Showcase your commitment to sustainability
- Inspire others through your example

In case your project receives a Certificate of Recognition, it will be in the running for the PIANC Working with Nature Award during the PIANC World Congress in 2028.

Who?

Any completed or ongoing navigation infrastructure project that embodies the Working with Nature philosophy is eligible for consideration.

How?

Visit the PIANC website to learn more and submit your project for review: bit.ly/41DLVU

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Read [these testimonials](#) by previous winners!

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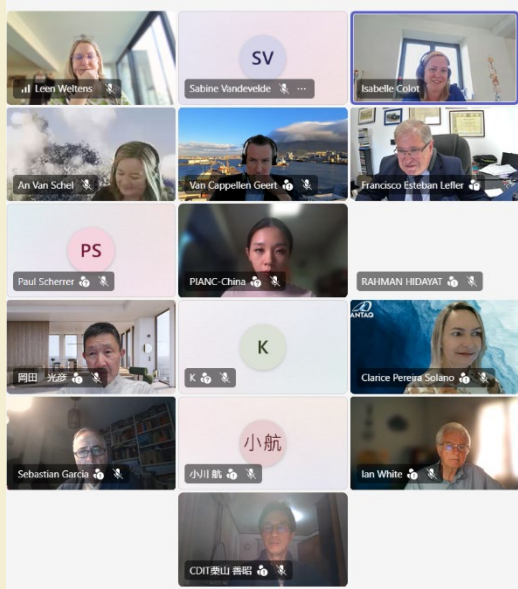
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How to Apply:

Visit [the PIANC website](#) to learn more about previous winners and submit your project for review

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COUNCIL

94th PIANC Council Meeting



The 94th Council meeting was held on 9 April 2026.

For the first time, a virtual Council was held in advance of the General Assembly, to address statutory matters requiring approval at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Hull in May 2026.

The Council formally approved the succession of Mr [Ian White](#) by Mr [Manuel Arana Burgos](#) as Chairman of FinCom. The Council members thanked Mr White for his many years of dedication and commitment throughout the years and welcomed Mr Arana Burgos as the new Chair.

As a final step for the approval of the new version of the PIANC Rules and Regulations, the Council also approved 3 proposals for submission to the AGA dealing with the Working with Nature Award, the PIANC 'Jack Nichol' Marina Design Award and Article 3g on the minimal subvention for Qualifying Members. Moreover, the draft proposal on a twin-track approach for National Sections dealing with their subvention fee was approved by the Council.

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMISSIONS

PIANC on the Closing Event of the MERLIN EU-Horizon 2020 Project Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of Freshwater-Related Ecosystems



'Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of Freshwater-related Ecosystems in a Landscape Context: Innovation, Upscaling and Transformation' was the primary objective of the [EU Horizon 2020 project MERLIN](#), which ran from 2021 to 2025.

44 partners, including universities, research institutes, conservation organisations, and stakeholders from the private sector, governments, and local authorities, have worked to promote the ecological restoration of freshwater ecosystems (rivers, bogs, wetlands) in Europe to promote and mainstream nature-based solutions on a broad scale.

From the very start, representatives from different sectors - such as agriculture, water supply and sanitation, insurance, hydropower, peat extraction, and navigation - were involved in the process to represent their interests.

A wide range of representatives from the shipping sector took part in roundtable discussions and workshops to present their views. Elmar Fuchs, the German representative of EnviCom, outlined PIANC's stance on shipping and its position on nature-based solutions in the sector.

The PIANC Working with Nature (WwN) initiative was introduced and presented at these events, where it was very well received and welcomed by the MERLIN community. PIANC was even recognised as a key pioneer and catalyst in the process of mainstreaming nature-based solutions in the navigation sector.

As a result of this participatory process, MERLIN has developed and published a 'Navigation Sectoral Strategy: Greening the European Inland Waterway Network by Mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions' and a ['Briefing for the Navigation Sector' document](#).

From PIANC's perspective, participation in MERLIN can be viewed as a mutually beneficial initiative for both MERLIN and PIANC.

Elmar Fuchs

PIANC EnviCom

NEWS FROM THE PIANC WORKING GROUPS



[Status Report of WG 255 - 'Structural Re-Assessment of Existing \(IW\) Hydraulic Structures'](#)



[PIANC WG 262 - 'Remote Operated Inland Waterways Navigation'](#)

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMUNITY



[Virtual PIANC Germany Meeting on 22 April 2026](#)

PIANC WEBINARS

Tune in on the Following Upcoming PIANC USA Webinar:

PIANC USA WEBINAR
'Design of Navigation Locks – Overview of the State-of-the-Practice'
DATE Wednesday 24 June 2026 | 2-3 PM (EDT)

PIANC USA is pleased to announce the second webinar in its 2026 series. "Design of Navigation Locks – Overview of the State-of-the-Practice" will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 2 - 3 p.m. EDT. There is no cost to attend the webinar and 1 PDH credit will be given to attendees.

Presenters are Mr. John Clarkson, PE, Navigation Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-RET) and Chair of the International PIANC Working Group 206, and Mr. Eric Johnson PE SE, USACE Inland Navigation Design Center.

This webinar will provide an overview of all the facets of lock design including planning, engineering, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Participants will learn how to utilize the new state-of-the-practice report from PIANC Working Group 206 <https://www.pianc.org/publication/design-of-navigation-locks/>, that is a must-have resource to efficiently design, construct, and operate a navigation lock.

Register for the webinar at [Registration Form for 24 June 2026 Webinar | PIANC USA](#)
 For questions related to accessing the webinar, contact pianc@usace.army.mil

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Register for the webinar at pianc.us/news-and-events/recent-events/.

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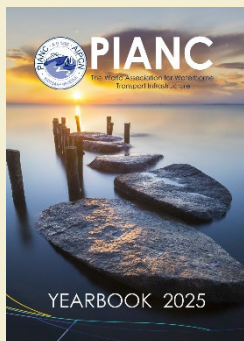
Helen Brohl

PIANC USA

PUBLICATIONS

Just Shipped

The following publication was published in [April 2026](#):



We are excited to introduce the new format of the PIANC Yearbook - we hope you like it!

This edition is more concise and user-friendly, featuring QR-codes throughout so you can easily scan and access the articles that interest you most.

Enjoy this new edition and discover all about PIANC's worldwide activities in 2025.

We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the new Yearbook format and invite you to complete the short survey we have prepared:

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Publications Pipeline

The following publication is expected in [May 2026](#):

- PIANC WG 171 (MarCom): 'Ship Handling Simulation Dedicated to Channel and Harbour Design'

NEWS FROM OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS

ShibataFenderTeam Strengthens Ties with PIANC Mexico by Joining AMIP

As part of its ongoing engagement with the global PIANC community, ShibataFenderTeam has become a member of the Asociación Mexicana de Infraestructura Portuaria, Marítima y Costera (AMIP), PIANC Qualifying Member in Mexico.

This step reflects not only our growing commitment to the Mexican port sector, but also – as a long-standing PIANC Platinum Partner – our dedication to supporting knowledge exchange and the development of port and coastal infrastructure worldwide.

Later in May, ShibataFenderTeam will attend as an exhibitor the commemorative forum marking AMIP's 60th anniversary in Mexico City. On 19-20 May, [Luis Moreno López](#), Sales Manager, will represent the company, engaging alongside key players from the port, maritime, and coastal sectors to foster knowledge exchange, innovation and strategic partnerships.

Trelleborg Marine & Infrastructure to Participate in PIANC Hull 2026: Navigation to Net Zero

Trelleborg Marine & Infrastructure will participate in PIANC Hull 2026: 'Navigation to Net Zero', taking place 11-12 May 2026 in Hull, United Kingdom, a two-day conference focused on the future of sustainable waterborne transport and port and navigation infrastructure, our experts will share insights into how automated mooring technology can support decarbonisation objectives in modern port environments.

At the conference, we will highlight its work in marine fender systems and docking and mooring solutions, with a focus on infrastructure performance, safety and operational efficiency under evolving environmental and regulatory requirements. Trelleborg representatives Mike Howie and Alex Kondratiev will be present throughout the conference, to discuss the changing requirements of next-generation docking and mooring solutions and also address how marine fender systems and mooring technologies must adapt to accommodate new vessel sizes, alternative fuel vessels, and increasingly stringent emissions protocols.

On the second day of the conference, [Mike Howie](#), Regional Sales Manager, will deliver a technical presentation titled 'Automated Mooring and How It Helps Work Toward Net Zero', focusing on the role of automated mooring systems in supporting decarbonization objectives, including their contribution to reduced vessel turnaround times, improved berth efficiency and more predictable port operations. These factors are increasingly relevant as ports and terminals seek practical measures to reduce emissions while maintaining safety and throughput.

The presentation draws on practical applications where automated mooring systems have transformed terminal efficiency whilst advancing

environmental performance metrics. As ports worldwide face mounting pressure to reduce their carbon footprint without compromising throughput, these systems represent a proven pathway to simultaneous operational and environmental gains.

PIANC Hull 2026 offers an ideal platform for addressing the technical challenges inherent in maritime decarbonisation, and Trelleborg welcomes the opportunity to contribute to these critical industry conversations.

[Alexandra Yang](#)

Marketing Executive Trelleborg Marine and Infrastructure

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Dredging Education Returns to Delft: Two Complementary Programmes in June 2026



In June 2026, Delft will become an international hub for dredging knowledge and professional exchange, as two complementary dredging education programmes take place.

From 15-18 June 2026, the 'Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure' course will be held for the first time in the Netherlands, while in the same week the 5-day Seminar on Dredging and Reclamation will be held from 15-19 June 2026, both organised in collaboration with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. Together, these programmes offer both a broad foundation and a forward-looking perspective on dredging, combining technical fundamentals with sustainability-driven project thinking.

[Read more...](#)

[Ria van Leeuwen](#)

PIANC's Platinum Partners are:



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