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Characterization of nano-level coefficient of friction of oleophobic and superhydrophobic coatings on 316L SS in harsh conditions HAMZA SHAMS, DHA Suffa University (DSU), SAJID SALEEM, KANZA BA-SIT, SALMAN NISAR, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), MATDRS COLLABORATION - 316L SS is widely used in marine applications due to its high resistance to corrosion. This study emphasizes on investigating the commercially available superhydrophobic / oleophobic coatings applied over 316L SS and subsequently finding out the nano-level coefficient of friction. Samples of 316L SS were prepared and coated with three oleophobic coatings. After coating, one set of samples were tested in sand-storm conditions and another set in seabreeze conditions. Lateral Force Microscopy (LFM) has been used to determine the coefficient of friction at nano-level. The coefficient of friction is associated with the amount of wear. The coefficient of friction is obtained for three states; before coating, after coating and after sand-storm / sea-breeze condition. From the comparison of results, the performance of the coating has been evaluated. The coefficient of friction changed drastically when the coated samples were exposed to sand-storm conditions whereas very little difference was observed for sea-breeze condition. Since oleophobic coating prevents a material from corrosion as well as erosion, it was seen that the coating was damaged after a considerable amount of time and it protected the base substrate from being exposed to the environment.

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