REGIONAL WEBINAR on the Effective Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Dr. Matej David

12 November 2025, Webinar

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

OUTLINE

- Ballast Water Exchange Areas
- Regulation A-4 Exemptions
  - Protocol for Identifying Target Species
  - Port Survey Protocol
- Sediment Reception Facilities
- Contingency Measures
- Additional Measures
- Warnings

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Harmonised Procedure: Ballast Water Exchange Areas

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

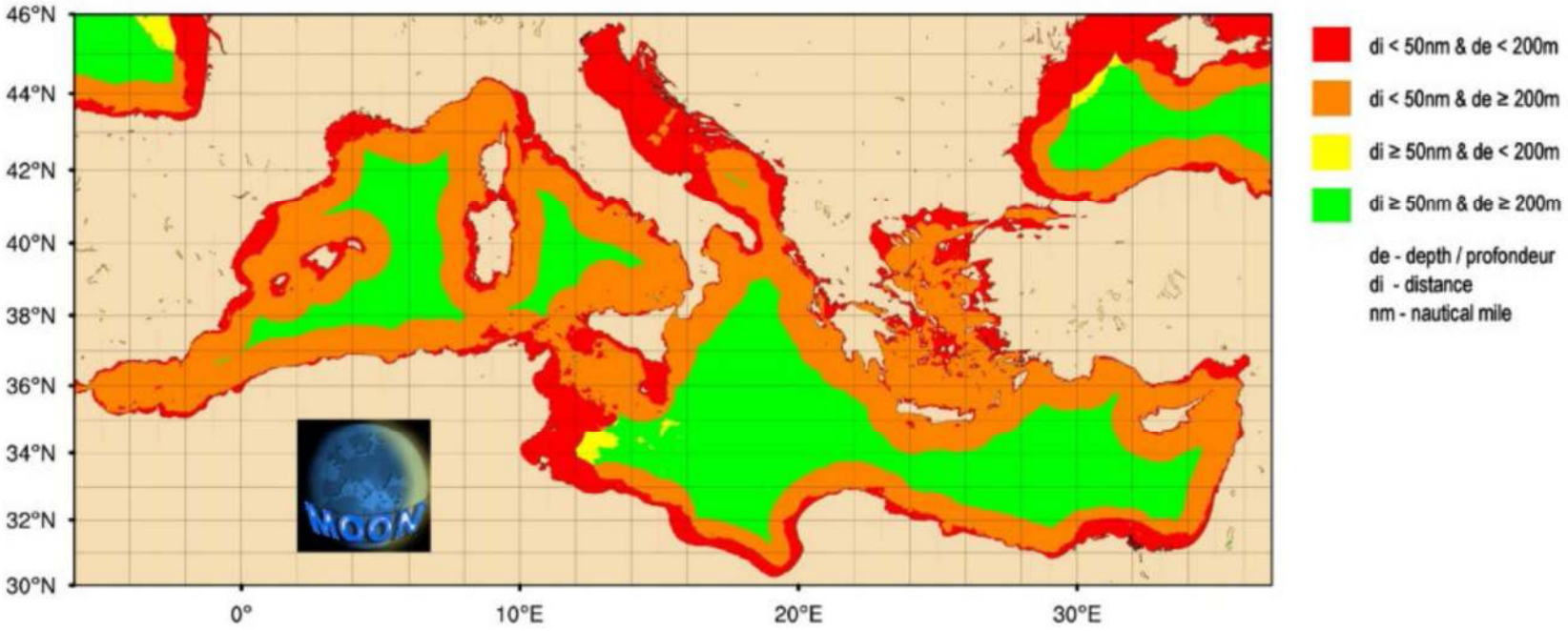
Harmonised Procedure: Ballast Water Exchange Areas

- Regulation B-4.2 and Guidelines on Designation of Areas for Ballast Water Exchange (G14)

- Ballast water exchange areas in the Mediterranean Sea according to B-4 identified earlier
- Harmonised procedure to designate ballast water exchange areas in the Mediterranean Sea defined

- This **harmonised approach to designate BWEA** in the Mediterranean Sea beyond the BWM Convention B-4 requirements (200 NM/200m and 50NM/200m) **aims** to **provide a consistent approach** to **identification and designation** of **BWE areas**, which may be used as:
  - an **interim solution until** the regulation **D-2 standard** must be met, and
  - **to address longer term contingency measure needs**, if considered necessary.

- The Mediterranean Sea showing depth and distance from nearest land combinations, from the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027)

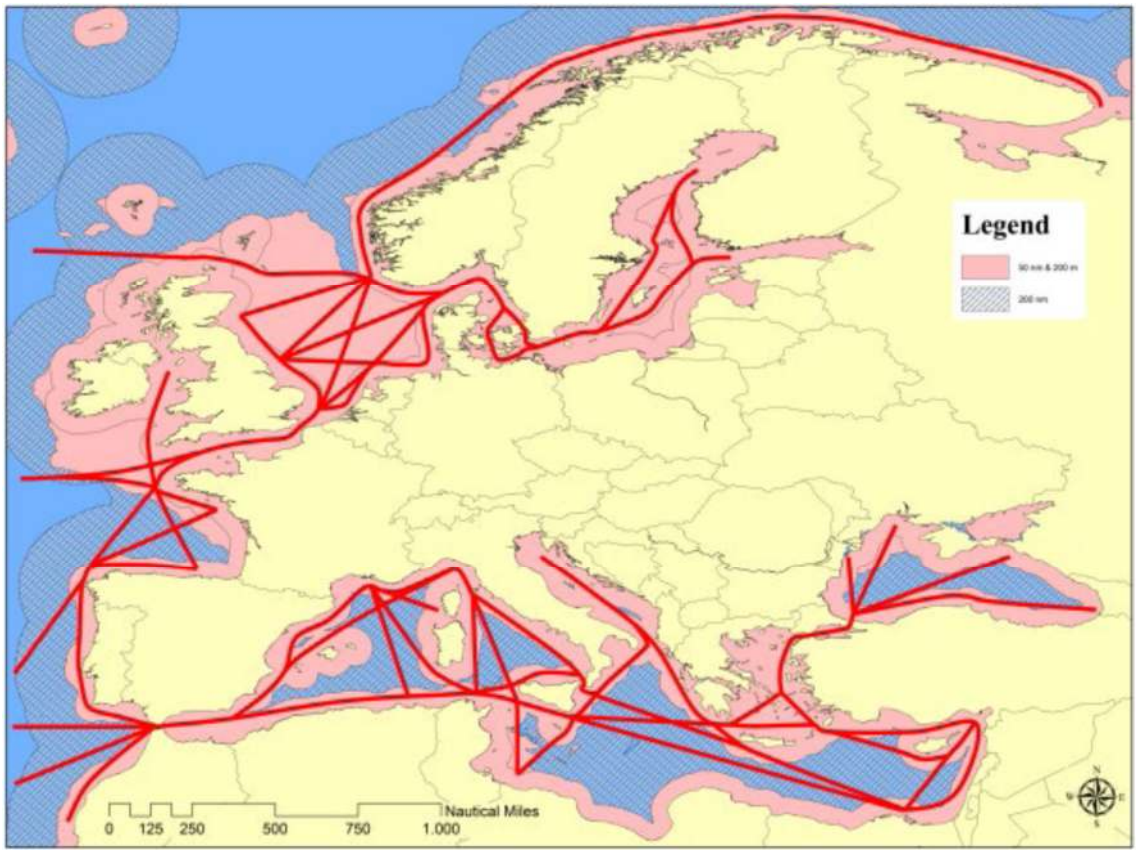


UNEP/MED 2023

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Ballast Water Exchange Areas



David et al. 2015

- The seas surrounding Europe with red lines showing the main shipping routes. The pink areas are less than 50 nautical miles from nearest land and/or in waters less than 200m deep, and the pink shaded areas are more than 200 nautical miles from the nearest land.

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

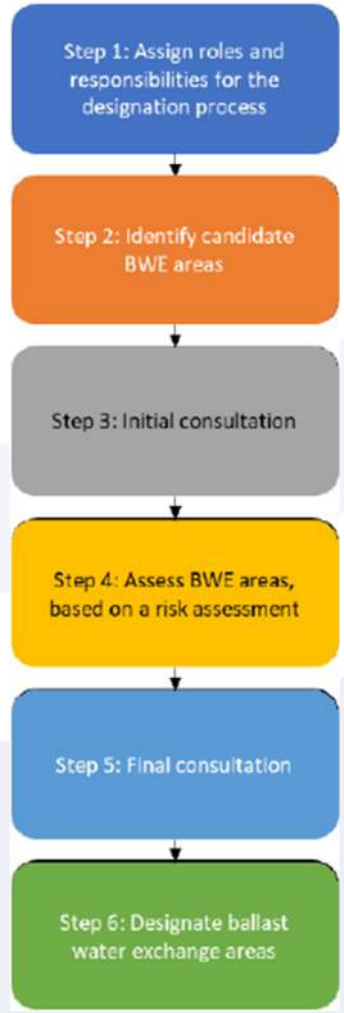
Harmonised Procedure: Ballast Water Exchange Areas

- G14 process: identification, assessment and designation

Harmonised procedure to designate ballast water exchange areas in the Mediterranean Sea

- **3 additional steps** to set up governance arrangements for the designation process and ensure an appropriate level of consultation occurs

- **Step 1:** Assign roles and responsibilities for designation process
- Step 2: Identify appropriate ballast water exchange areas
- **Step 3:** Initial consultation
- Step 4: Assess ballast water exchange areas
- **Step 5:** Final Consultation
- Step 6: Designation



UNEP/MED 2023

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Regulation A-4 Exemptions

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Regulation A-4 Exemptions

- Regulation A-4 and Guidelines for Risk Assessment under Regulation A-4 (G7)

Harmonised procedure for granting regulation A-4 exemptions in the Mediterranean Sea *aims to ensure that* ***exemptions are assessed and granted*** *in a* ***consistent manner*** *in the Mediterranean Sea, and that any exemption issued* ***does not impair or damage*** *the environment, human health, property, or resources.*

Harmonised procedure defines:

- Establishing roles and responsibilities for Applicants and port State authorities
- Application process for Applicant and Administration
- Risk assessment and data
- Decision making
- Records and communication

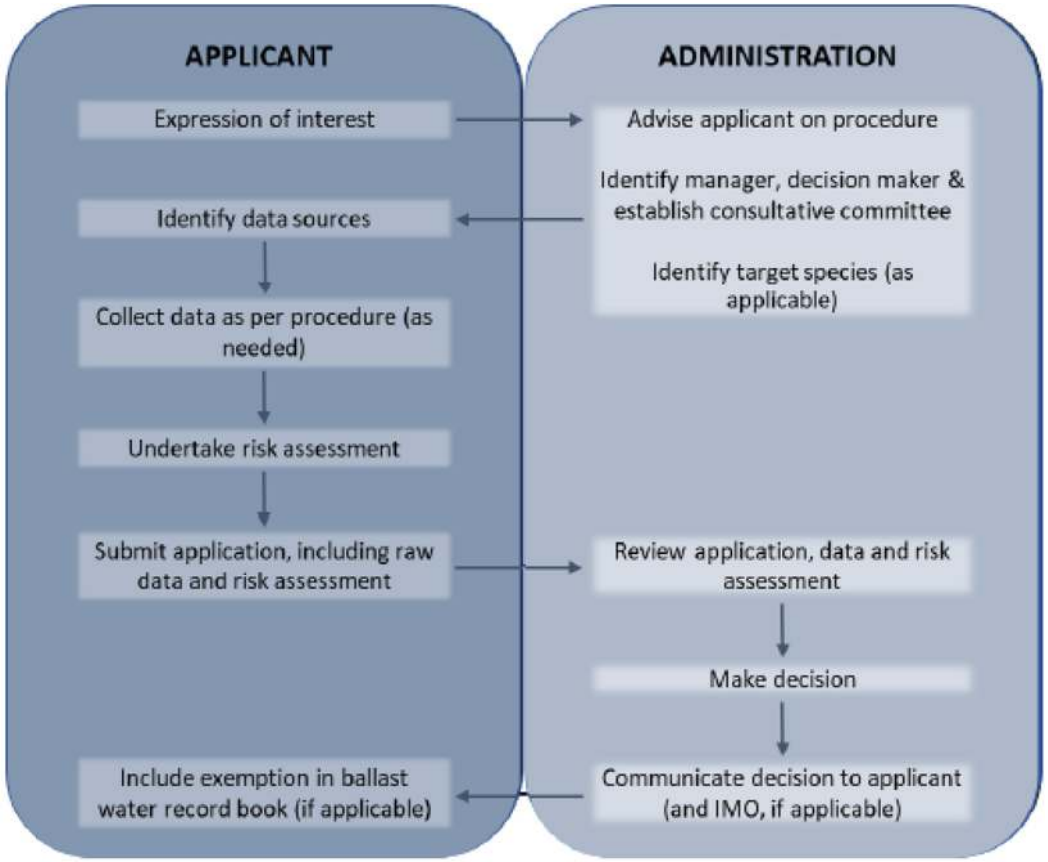
UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Establishing roles and responsibilities

APPLICANT	PORT STATE AUTHORITY(IES)
Consult with relevant port State Authorities as soon as possible	Inform applicant about the procedure and any associated conditions for exemptions
Collect data in accordance with this harmonised procedure, taking into account any guidance or directions from the port State Authorities	Target species selection
Pay for data collection as necessary	Consult with other port State Authorities as necessary.
Submit raw data to the port State Authorities	Guide and advise applicant(s) on the procedure requirements
Undertake risk assessment in line with this procedure, taking into account any guidance or directions from the port State Authorities	Share raw data for inclusion in regional databases
Submit application, including all information and data required along with the risk assessment report	Review applications, submitted data and the risk assessment report
	Make a decision on whether or not to issue an exemption
	Issue exemption (if relevant)
	Clearly communicate exemption decision to applicants and the IMO (if relevant)
Undertake intermediate review and provide report to port State Authorities	Notify applicant when intermediate review of exemption is required (if relevant)
	Review intermediate review and make a decision on whether or not to withdraw, or continue, the exemption (if relevant)
	Clearly communicate intermediate review decision to applicant and IMO (if relevant)

Application process



UNEP/MED 2023

Risk assessment and data needs

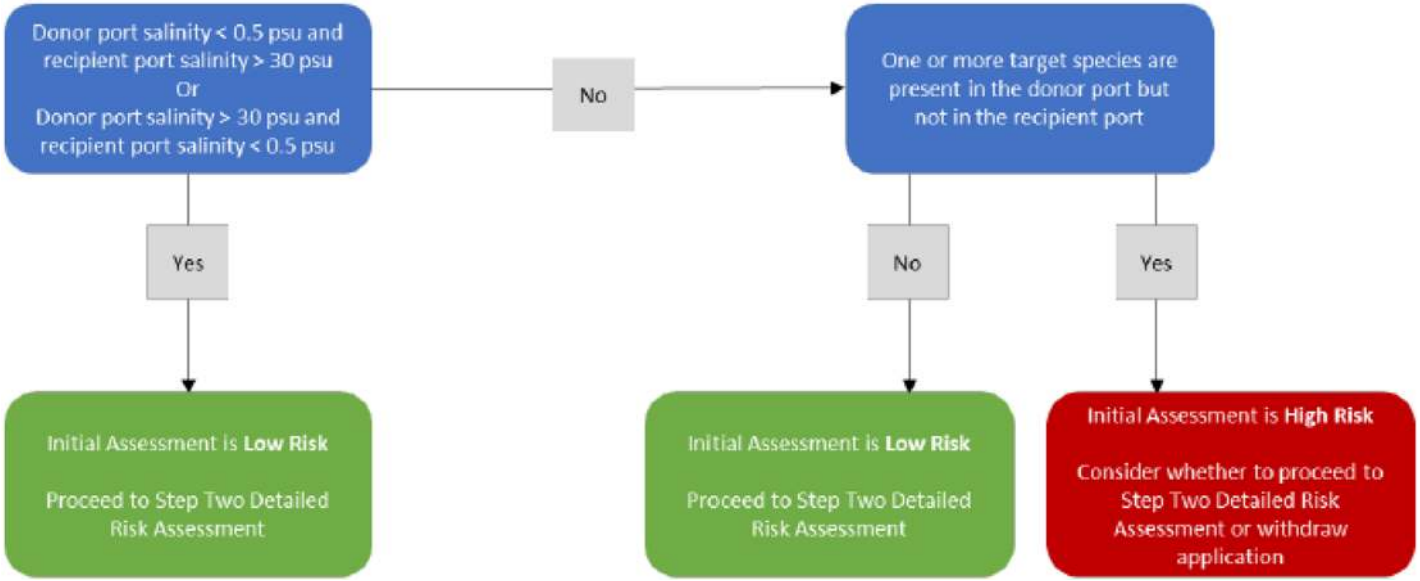
- Guidelines for Risk Assessment under Regulation A-4 (G7) key principles of RA
- A two-step risk assessment:
  - **Step One**: Based on **salinity and target species** to give an early **indication of** the **risk** assessment outcome, should be undertaken
  - **Step Two**: Detailed risk assessment in **combination of environmental matching and species-specific risk assessment**, supported by information on **shipping activities**

Harmonised Procedure: Regulation A-4 Exemptions

Risk assessment and data needs

Step One: Salinity and Target Species risk assessment algorithm

- Difference in water salinity between the donor and recipient ports
- Presence of target species in donor and recipient ports



- Use data from the Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database (MAMIAS) or
- conduct Port Surveys (protocol)
- define Target Species (protocol)

LOW RISK – go to step two

HIGH RISK – withdraw or got to step two

UNEP/MED 2023

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Risk assessment and data needs

Step Two: Detailed Risk Assessment

- Target species additional information
- Species-specifics (e.g., dispersal capacity), natural dispersal, and
- Pressures (e.g., volume of ballast water, location of discharge and uptake)
- Data needs
    - Data should be verified/reliable, and may be obtained from existing port monitoring or may require port survey using the ***Port Survey Protocol***
    - Target Species to be defined using the ***Protocol for Identifying Target Species***
- Risk Assessment report
- Decision making
- Records and communication – applicant to the port Authorities

Protocol for Identifying Target Species

- G7 Guidelines include methods to determine target species
- based on HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure
- essentially **Target species can be transported via ballast water** and **have the ability to invade** and **become harmful**

Selection process:

- an **initial target species list** should be developed based on **existing scientific data** if available
- **if** verified and validated data is **not available**, expert judgement may be used:
  - **potential** for the **species to be** primarily **introduced**, or **secondarily spread**, via **ballast water or sediments**?
  - **species presence** only in part(s) of the region but **not the entire region**?
  - if the **answer to one of these is NO**, then **NOT** to be considered as **Target species**

Risk assessment and data needs

Protocol for Identifying Target Species (continues)

Selection process (continues):

- If the **answer to the above first two questions is YES**, then the following questions should be considered:
  - Has it been demonstrated that the species has a **negative impact on human health**?
  - Has it been demonstrated that the species has a **negative impact on the environment** (e.g., native communities, habitats and/or ecosystem functioning, strength, and type of ecological interactions)?
  - Has it been demonstrated that the species has a **negative impact on the economy**?
  - If the **answer to any of these questions is YES**, or uncertain, the then **IS** to be considered as **Target species**

- **Target species list** should be a **living document** that is regularly updated as additional data becomes available

Harmonised Procedure: Regulation A-4 Exemptions

Risk assessment and data needs

Port Survey Protocol

Dr. Romina Kraus

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Sediment Reception Facilities

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Sediment Reception Facilities

- No discharge of sediments in Mediterranean inside 200 NM/200m
- To be discharged to appropriate Sediment Reception Facilities where sediment removal is conducted

To be considered when establishing of a sediment reception facility in the Mediterranean Sea:

- the **cleaning or repair of ballast tanks occurs** in ports or terminals within their jurisdiction
- sediment reception facilities **are available at those ports or terminals**
- sediment reception facilities are available **within the local region**, so that **disposal** of sediments can be undertaken by ships **without undue delay**
- sediment reception facilities are **registered on GISIS**

- Introduce best management practices as per Guidelines for Sediments Reception Facilities (G1)

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Contingency Measures

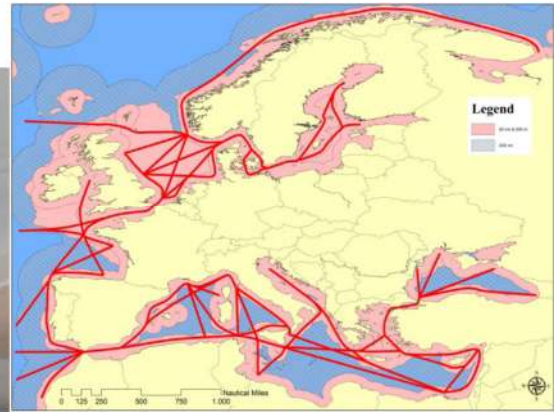
Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Contingency Measures

In the case of potentially non-compliant ballast water

- follow Guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention (BWM.2/Circ.62)
- Implementation of contingency measures, e.g.:
  - **predetermined** in the **BWM Plan** of the ship
  - **discharging ballast water to another ship** or to an appropriate shipboard or **land-based reception facility**
  - **managing** the ballast water or a portion of it in accordance with a **method acceptable to the port State**
  - **ballast water exchange** carried in a designated ballast water exchange area

https://www.bawat.com/bawat-baas/ballast-as-a-service/



David M et al. 2015

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Contingency Measures

In the case of potentially non-compliant ballast water

- **Communication** should include:
  - ship to company: report the **potentially non-compliant** ballast water and the cause
  - company to flag State: report the **cause**, and if relevant BWMS failure to class
  - based on feedback the company should **agree** on a **plan to resolve the cause** of the potentially non-compliant ballast water including, if needed, a BWMS repair plan
  - company to port State: should submit a **request to utilise a contingency measure**
  - company to ship: **confirm** which **contingency measure** is to be undertaken and provide any additional guidance or instructions necessary to fulfil the requirements of the port State, flag State or classification society, as necessary
- **Example Ballast Water Contingency Measure Request Form** is available

Harmonised Procedure: Additional Measures

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Additional Measures

- Regulation C-1 and Guidelines for Additional Measures including Emergency Situations (G13)

Harmonised procedure for developing additional measures in the Mediterranean Sea

- Process in line with G13:
  - Step 1: Assessment of the need (Section 6.2.1)
  - Step 2: Identification of additional measures (Section 6.2.2)
  - Step 3: Effects and consequences of introduced measures (Section 6.2.3)
  - Step 4: Consultation (Section 6.2.4)
  - Step 5: Submission for approval or notification (Section 6.2.5)
  - Step 6: Communication of information to relevant States, shipping industry and IMO (Section 6.2.6)

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Harmonised Procedure: Warnings

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

Harmonised Procedure: Warnings

- Regulation C-2 *Warnings Concerning Ballast Water Uptake in Certain Areas and Related Flag State Measures*

Harmonised procedure for issuing warnings in the Mediterranean Sea

- Port State Authorities should **notify mariners** where ships should not uptake ballast water due to known conditions. The **notification** should include:
  - **coordinates of the area(s)** and, where possible, the location of any **alternative area(s) for the uptake** of ballast water
  - advice to ships needing to uptake ballast water in the area, describing **arrangements for alternative supplies**;
  - the time **period** the **warning** is likely to be in **effect**
- Port State Authorities should also provide **notice** to mariners, the IMO and relevant coastal States when the **warning is no longer applicable**

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

References

- David M, Gollasch S, Elliott B, Wiley C. (2015) Ballast Water Management Under the Ballast Water Management Convention. pp. 89-108. In: David, M., Gollasch, S. (Eds.) Global Maritime Transport and Ballast Water Management – Issues and Solutions. Invading Nature. Springer Series in Invasion Ecology 8, Springer Science + Business Media, Dordrecht, The Netherlands. p 306.
- IMO 2004. International convention for the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, 2004. International Maritime Organization, London, & related Guidelines
- REMPEC 2012. Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027). Decision 25/17. pp 44
- UNEP/MED 2023. Regional Harmonised Procedures for the Uniform Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea. Decision IG.26/11, UNEP/MED IG.26/22. pp 62

More about BWM:

- David, M., Gollasch, S. (Eds.) **2015**. **Global Maritime Transport and Ballast Water Management – Issues and Solutions**. Invading Nature. Springer Series in Invasion Ecology 8, Springer Science + Business Media, Dordrecht, The Netherlands. p. 306. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9367-4
- David, M., Gollasch, S. (Eds.) **2024**. **Global Maritime Transport and Ballast Water Management – Issues and Solutions, Second Edition**. Invading Nature. Springer Series in Invasion Ecology 8, Springer Science + Business Media, Dordrecht, The Netherlands. p. 306. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-48193-2

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures

THANK YOU

UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | REMPEC | IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Regional BWM harmonised procedures