



UNEP-PNUE

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP**



**EUROMED COOPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS  
(SAFEMED II)**

*EU-Funded MEDA Regional Project MED 2007/147-568*

**REPORT ON THE  
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT  
ACRE, ISRAEL  
18 - 19 OCTOBER 2012**

**REPORT  
SAFEMED II Project Task 5.8**

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## **SUMMARY**

The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWMC) which aims at preventing the risks arising from the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens (HAOP) through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, is expected to enter into force soon. Therefore, State Parties and their Administrations have to be prepared to meet the requirements and obligations of the Convention.

This National Seminar on Ships' Ballast Water Management aimed to promote awareness in Israel and to support the creation of a national task force in order to develop the preparatory steps for the implementation of the Convention. This Seminar was organized by REMPEC and funded by the EU-funded SafeMed II Project, and supported by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project.

The National Seminar discussed the issues associated with the implementation of the Convention and the respective roles of the Flag, Coastal and Port State. The question of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement was highlighted. The regional strategy and national examples gave a practical in-sight to the topic.

The two-day Seminar provided an effective platform for participants to exchange views and information on the various requirements of the implementation process of the Convention. The participants were satisfied with the Seminar's programme and expressed a positive opinion about the Seminar.

The outcome of the meeting showed a strong interest of the participants and the willingness to organise a follow up meeting with the participation of all concerned national stakeholders. In addition, the proposal to implement a national Ballast Water Reporting Form gathered large support.

## **1. Basics**

### ***Dates and Venue***

The National Seminar on Ships' Ballast Water Management was held on the 18-19 October 2012 at the Maritime Education Training Authority in Acre, Israel. All the local logistical arrangements for the Seminar were made by the Administration of Shipping and Ports of Israel. The lecturers were hosted in a nearby hotel. The training was conducted in English.

### ***Training Material and documentation***

REMPEC provided the participants with the IMO publication containing the text of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWMC) and related Guidelines. However, several GloBallast project monographs were not available at the time of the Seminar because these were not yet cleared through customs. No printed training manual was provided to the participants. However, a complete set of documents, including all the presentations, was provided to participants on a USB. The hard-copy publications were handed to the participants the week after the Seminar by the Administration of Shipping and Ports of Israel.

### ***Participants***

Representatives from Israel's Administration of Shipping and Ports, Ministry of Environment, shipping companies and commercial ports attended the Seminar. The vast majority of the participants came from the Administration of Shipping and Ports. The Israeli Maritime Administration and REMPEC fulfilled their objectives to attract participants which had never been trained on the topic.

### ***Lecturers and experts***

A representative from the Ministry of Environment delivered a presentation on invasive species in Israel during the second day. Expert lecturers from REMPEC, IMO and WMU delivered presentations and coordinated the delivery of the Seminar.

A list containing details about the participants and lecturers is available in Annex 1.

## **2. Introduction to the Topic**

### ***Background***

In 1988, the issue of the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organism and Pathogens (HAOP) through Ballast Water was presented to the IMO. After a long process of discussions and negotiations, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWMC) was adopted in 2004.

The primary aim of this Convention is to avoid the transfer of HAOP through adequate management of the Ballast Water contained on board ships. As for any international treaty, a certain number of conditions have to be met before it enters into force. Whereas the requirement regarding the number of ratifications is presently achieved (36 countries), the condition relating to the percentage of the world fleet is not yet reached (29.07%). However, the upcoming possible ratification by additional States within the next few months suggests an entry into force of the Convention by 2013/2014. As the entry into force gets closer, the promotion of the Convention is necessary to assist States in taking preparatory steps for its implementation.

To support the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Mediterranean region, within the framework of the EU-funded SafeMed II Project, REMPEC organised a two-day national awareness raising seminar in Israel in order to promote the implementation of BWMC in the country. This Seminar followed the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management in February 2012 and regional SafeMed activities aimed at enhancing regional competencies for effective management of ships' ballast water. The experts delivering the Seminar shared their knowledge and experience with the participants.

### ***Aim of the Training Course***

The main objective of the Seminar was to develop awareness and to support the creation of a national task force on the BWMC using the regional strategy in order to develop the preparatory steps for the implementation of the Convention. Other objectives were to highlight the importance of a consistent implementation of the Convention encompassing Flag, Coastal and Port State issues and to demonstrate the necessity of a trans-administration approach to the issue – i.e. transport, environment, health, communication, navy, scientific institutions, etc.

The expected diversity of the audience (including private sector) orientated the training towards a large variety of topics and discussions related to the implementation of the BWMC in the context of Israel.

Although the course's content was not fully pre-formatted and was adapted to reach the requirement of the Seminar, the Seminar's programme was based on the existing GloBallast Partnerships Project training modules to promote a common set of knowledge and skills. The Seminar's programme and time-table is attached as Annex 2 of the present report.

To support these broad presentations, the Regional approach and National experience were presented to provide practical information about the implementation of the BWMC.

Finally, the Seminar aimed at creating interactions to share knowledge and allow participants to benefit from each other's expertise and experience.

### **3. The Course**

#### ***Opening Remarks***

The Director of the Administration of Shipping and Ports of Israel was unfortunately unable to join the Seminar and a representative of the Administration welcomed the participants and expert lecturers and augured a successful Seminar.

Mr. A. Blonce from IMO's GloBallast Partnerships Programme, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed the participants and recalled the importance of regional cooperation to address the issue of species introduction through shipping. Thereafter, Mr. Jonathan Pace from REMPEC introduced the Seminar and explained its objectives to the participants. He also introduced Dr. Raphael Baumler from WMU and an expert lecturer. Afterwards, the participants presented themselves.

#### ***Day 1 – 18 October***

- The seminar commenced by the screening of the short version of the video "Invaders from the Sea". Thereafter, a short discussion on the topic by the participants and the expert lecturers followed.
- The first presentation was delivered by Mr. Pace from the REMPEC. He presented the issue of invasive species in the marine environment and the international response to the problem of harmful aquatic invasive species.
- Mr. Blonce followed with a presentation on the provisions of the BWMC. He described the structure and detailed the main features of the Convention also pointed out the various ballast water management requirements set out in the Convention. He completed his presentation by a short reminder on the duties of State Parties.
- Thereafter, the next presentation focused on the ballast water management on ships with particular emphasis on the operational aspects. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Baumler wherein he explained the aim of ballast water management and the different possibilities offered by the Convention before focusing on the Ballast Water Treatment Systems. He gave a practical demonstration using original ship's documentation and describing the risks related to the management techniques.
- Mr. Pace then presented the practical aspects of the implementation of the BWMC as well as the risks related to the issue and the concept of barriers. This presentation was supported by Dr. Baumler who continued the presentation by showing the implication for the State Party and particularly the Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement requirements of the Convention. This later part included aspects of port State control and related issues.

## **Day 2 – 19 October**

- The first presentation on Day 2, delivered by Mr Pace, dealt with the necessary legal steps toward the ratification of the BWMC and the preparation of a national legislation covering the issue of BWM. Moreover, he recalled the importance of domestic law provisions in terms of sanctions and penalties for violations.
- Afterwards, Dr. Baumler delivered a presentation on the national experience. He focused his presentation on two countries: Australia and Croatia. He also pointed out some examples of other countries and territories. Thereafter, he detailed the principles and practices of the Ballast Water Management Reporting Form (BWMRF). The purpose of this short presentation was to demonstrate the advantages brought by the implementation of this simple and costless document.
- A short presentation on the invasions of aquatic species along the Mediterranean coast of Israel was delivered by Dr. Gil Zeidner for the Ministry of Environment.
- Afterwards, Mr. Blonce delivered a presentation on the development of a national strategic framework for BWM. The purpose of this presentation was to give an overview of the step-by-step BWMC implementation process in the national context, taking into account the various players concerned. The importance of establishing a national task force, a national strategy, and adequate operational arrangements was demonstrated.
- An open discussion followed in which the participants discussed the next steps to be taken after the Seminar to prepare for the ratification of the BWMC. The implementation of the BWMRF was intensively discussed and participants expressed the view that this form was a simple but useful tool for the future implementation of the Convention and that it should be a requirement for ships calling in the main commercial ports of Israel. Participants were of the view that such a requirement could be introduced and enforced through a Shipping Notice issued by the Administration of Shipping and Ports. It was also informally agreed to organise a follow-up meeting with the participation of all concerned national stakeholders before the end of the year.
- The day was concluded by the closing remarks and the delivery of the certificates of attendance as well as the USB stick loaded with the Seminar's presentations and relevant documentation.

## **4. Assessment and Course Conclusion**

At the end of the Seminar, nearly all participants completed an evaluation questionnaire. The participants expressed a high degree of interest in the subject and the content of the Seminar. The participants' evaluation results are summarised in Annex 3 of the present report and the summary of the discussion is available in Annex 4.

As an overall conclusion, the participants expressed strong interest in the topic, appreciated the presentations and support by the SafeMed II Project, REMPEC and IMO. A lot of discussion took place during the Seminar initiated by numerous questions and remarks. The involvement of the private sector also provided interesting and valuable discussions.



# ANNEX 1

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND LECTURERS

### 1- PARTICIPANTS

#### **Administration of Shipping and Ports**

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## ANNEX 2

### PROGRAMME AND TIME TABLE

#### Day 1

##### Time

08.30– 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Opening and introduction to the Seminar

##### Introduction to Ballast Water Management

09.30 – 10.00	IMO-BBC Video “Invaders from the Sea”
10.00 – 10.30	Discussion about the issue in the Israeli context
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Introduction to Ballast Water Management <i>Jonathan Pace</i>
11.30 – 12.30	IMO Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and Guidelines <i>Antoine Blonce</i>
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 15.30	Operational Aspects of BWM (ship-side issues including BWM technologies) <i>Raphael Baumler</i>
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00 – 17.30	BWM by Flag, Port and Coastal States & Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement <i>Jonathan Pace &amp; Raphael Baumler</i>

## Day 2

<b>Time</b>	<b>National Perspectives</b>
09.00 – 10.30	Implementing the BWM Convention / National experiences <i>Jonathan Pace/Raphael Baumler</i>  Short presentation of the Invasion in the Mediterranean coast of Israel <i>Gil Zeidner (Ministry of Environmental Protection)</i>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.00	Development of a National Strategic Framework for Ballast Water Management and related GloBallast Guidelines and Tools <i>Antoine Blonce</i>
12.00 – 13.00	Discussion: Implementation of the BWM Convention and initial steps for establishing a National Task Force and developing a National Strategy
13.00 – 13.30	<b>Closure of Seminar</b>

## ANNEX 3

### Results of the Participants' Evaluation Form

**1. Did the Seminar meet your expectations?**

Beyond your expectations	<input type="text" value="12"/>
More or less on par with your expectations	<input type="text" value="14"/>
Below your expectations	<input type="text"/>

**2. Generally speaking, how do you judge the content and quality of the lectures/presentations?**

Very good	<input type="text" value="18"/>	Quite good	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Good	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Not good enough	<input type="text"/>

**3. Did you acquire new knowledge during this Seminar?**

Very much	<input type="text" value="16"/>
Some	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Not enough	<input type="text"/>

**4. Will the knowledge acquired during this Seminar help you in your current work?**

Very much	<input type="text" value="14"/>
Enough	<input type="text" value="12"/>
No	<input type="text"/>

**Other comments?**

- The seminar highlighted the most important elements and simplified the approach to start a legislation process by multigovernmental agencies discussions
- Short but fruitful course
- Raise awareness on the topic
- Missing the oceanographic institute and head of IMOT
- Academy and institute were missing

5. Do you think that the duration of the lectures/presentations was adequate?

About right

Too long

Not long enough

6. Did you have enough time for questions?

Yes

No

7. In your opinion, are there any other issues or topics which the Course should have covered?

*(Synthesis of all the comments)*

- *Elaborate more the technical procedures to implement the Convention (2)*
- *Additional details on new technologies*
- *For the time allocate it covers a lot.*
- *More info on the biological aspect and example from around the world*
- *Additional details on the approval process of BWM Systems*

8. Do you think that it was useful to meet other officials?

Yes

No

9. Which lectures/presentations did you find most interesting?

*(Synthesis of all the comments)*

*All lectures were interesting.*

*Particularly:*

- *All three were articulated & pro & fluent & excellent (many)*
- *BWM by flag, port and coastal state (3)*
- *The implementation of the Convention*
- *The Convention and its guidelines*
- *Dr.Gil*
- *Raphaël Baumler (2)*
- *The technical parts*
- *Biological approach*
- *Video*

10. Which lectures/presentations did you find least interesting?

*(Synthesis of all the comments)*

*None*

**11. Generally speaking, are you satisfied with the Seminar?**

Very satisfied	22
Satisfied	4
Unsatisfied	

**12. Other comments**

*(Some of the comments)*

- Thanks to REMPEC and IMO to assist Israeli administration
- Very good seminar and presentations
- Additional session should be done with higher rank administrators after the data provided is assimilated
- Well balanced seminar, leaving the participants tasks to follow-up with
- Should be organized more frequently
- Make sure more national authorities participate
- The place and hospitality was good
- Missing high level decision-makers
- Additional stakeholders like: Health Department, Navy, academy, engineers...

**Main point of the feedback:**

- **The seminar was deeply appreciated**
- **Additional and follow-up sessions should be proposed**

## **ANNEX 4**

### **Outcome of the discussion and planned actions towards the establishment of a National Task Force and National Strategy in Israel**

- Data collection through ballast water management form
- Enforcement through shipping notice issued by shipping and port administration
- Quantity and origin analysis
- Raising awareness to shore people by collecting the data and crew by sending to the ship
- Submit data to limnological institute
- Minimum ballast can be considered by the ballast water reporting form or arrival requirement
- Meeting to assess or to plan the assessment of the ballast water reporting form
- Learning from neighboring countries
- Sharing the knowledge of the oceanographic institute and the ministry of environment with other stakeholders (ministry of transport)
- All key agencies based in Haifa: define a Lead Agency