



UNEP-PNUE



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

**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING SEMINAR
ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT**

**Tunis, Tunisia
25-26 June 2012**

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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 seminar aimed to promote awareness in Tunisia and to support the creation of a national task force in order to develop the preparatory steps of implementation. This seminar was organised by REMPEC, funded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), and supported by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project. Therefore, the presentation of the regional Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management formed an important part of the seminar.

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 approach 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.

1. Basics

Venue

The seminar took place at the Mövenpick Hotel in Gammarth, Tunis. The lecturers were hosted in this single location. Lunches were provided on-site whilst the training room was located in the basement of the Hotel. No simultaneous translation was provided. Despite minor technical issues, the training room was equipped with adequate video and audio systems.

Training Material and documentation

REMPEC provided the text of the Convention and Guidelines as well as several GloBallast monographs to the participants. No printed manual was provided to the participants. However, a complete set of documents, including the presentations, was provided on USB stick and collected by a member of the Tunisian maritime administration at the end of the seminar.

Participants

Representatives from various Tunisian Government entities attended the seminar. The majority of them came from the Maritime administration. The Tunisian maritime administration and REMPEC fulfilled their objectives to attract participants which had never been trained on the topic.

Lecturers and experts

A lecturer from University of Carthage delivered a presentation on invasive species in Tunisia. Experts from the World Maritime University (WMU) and the Arab Academy for Science Technology and Maritime Transport (AAST & MT) delivered presentations.

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, the condition relating to the percentage of the world fleet is not reached yet. 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.

To support the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Mediterranean region, REMPEC organised a two-day national awareness raising seminar in Tunisia in order to promote the implementation of BWMC in the country. This seminar took place on June 25-26, 2012 in Tunis. The experts shared their knowledge and experience with the participants from various ministries and entities.

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. 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, etc.

The expected diversity of the audience orientated the training towards a large variety of topics and discussions related to the implementation of the BWMC in the context of Tunisia. 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

Mr. Moncef Fraj, Director of the Fleet and Maritime Navigation at the general direction of Merchant Marine, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed the participants and the lecturers to the seminar, and recalled the importance of regional cooperation to address the issue of species introduction through shipping.

Dr. Raphaël Baumler, WMU Consultant, welcomed the audience on behalf of the Director of REMPEC which was responsible for the organisation of the seminar in close cooperation with Mr. Fraj's Office. He also acknowledged the joint support of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) and the Globallast Partnerships Project.

Thereafter, Capt. Al Moataz Bellah Farrag and Dr. Raphaël Baumler introduced the topic, the seminar programme, and the content of the two sessions. Afterwards, the participants presented themselves.

Day 1 – June 25th

- The seminar commenced by an introduction of the issue presented by Dr. Baumler. This introduction was made as a discussion to establish the main ideas about the risks of invasive species and the need to implement regulation and ratify the Convention.
- After the coffee break, the seminar continued by the screening of the 60-minute video "Invaders from the sea". Then, Prof. Mohamad Salah Romdhane presented the study made in Tunisia on Invasive Species in the coastal waters of the Gulf of Gabès and on the analysis of ballast water for ships calling in the ports of the area. The presentation detailed the extent of the issue in the area and in Tunisia.
- The next presentation was delivered by Dr. Raphaël Baumler from WMU .He presented the international response to the issue of invasive species in the marine environment. His presentation dealt with the set of international instruments relating to the Ballast Water Management Convention. He particularly described the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requirements. This presentation was an adjusted version of module 2 of the above mentioned GloBallast CME training package.
- After lunch, Dr. Raphaël Baumler focused on the BWMC itself. He described the structure and detailed the main features of the Convention. He 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. This presentation was an adjusted version of module 3 of the GloBallast CME training package.
- Thereafter, the next presentation focused on the ballast water management on ships with particular emphasis on the operational aspects. The first part of the presentation was delivered by Dr. Raphaël 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.
- Capt. Al Moataz Bellah Farrag delivered the second part of this presentation and focused on the exchange technique. He made a very practical description using original ship's documentation and describing the risks related to this method of management. He concluded his presentation by speaking on sediment management.

Day 2 – June 26th

- The first presentation on Day 2, delivered by Dr. Raphaël Baumler, presented the concept of Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement and, focused on Port State Control (PSC). He emphasized the complexity of PSC under the BWMC with particular attention to sampling and sampling analysis. Moreover, he recalled the importance of domestic law enactment in terms of sanctions and penalties for violation.
- After the coffee break, Capt. Al Moataz Bellah Farrag delivered a presentation on the regional experience and strategy in the Mediterranean. He described this strategy, layers and main stakeholders. His presentation dealt with the implementation strategy in the Mediterranean region. After a short reminder on the region's coordination process, he focused on the "Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management" adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- After lunch, Dr. Baumler delivered a presentation on the national experience. He focused his presentation on two countries: Australia and Croatia. Thereafter, he detailed the principles and practices of the Ballast Water Management Reporting Form. The purpose of this short presentation was to demonstrate the advantages brought by the implementation of this simple and costless document.
- Afterwards, Capt. Al Moataz Bellah Farrag delivered a presentation on the "development of a national strategic framework for BWM". The purpose 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. During the presentation comparisons were made between the data in the presentation and the Tunisian situation, thus initiating a response from the participants regarding the means by which a National BWM strategy could be developed in Tunisia.
- The day was concluded by the closing remarks and the delivery of the certificates of attendance.

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. Despite several problems with the room's equipment, the seminar satisfied the majority of the participants.

This participants' input is summarised in Annex 3 of the present report.

After the last presentation, Capt. Al Moataz Bellah Farrag and Dr. Raphaël Baumler concluded the seminar and thanked all participants for their valuable contribution to the success of the course. A certificate of attendance and the course material (including presentations) and background documents were distributed to all participants.

As an overall conclusion, the participants expressed strong interest in the topic, appreciated the presentations and support by REMPEC and IMO. A lot of discussion took place during the seminar initiated by numerous questions and remarks.

The bi-lingual (Arabic and French) seminar was highly appreciated but was quite complicated to manage for the lecturers without anybody translating from one language to the other. Therefore, it is suggested that, in future, such seminars should ideally be conducted in one language or be provided with simultaneous interpretation in cases when two languages are used.

The participants acknowledged the need to set up a national task force to draft an action plan and agreed that a governmental decision should first assign the duties of the various concerned national entities in this regard.

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 - PROGRAMME AND TIME TABLE

Day 1

Time

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome remarks
Introduction to the seminar

Introduction to Ballast Water Management

09:30 – 10:05 Introduction to the issue of BWM
Raphael Baumler

10:05 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:40 – 11:40 IMO-BBC Video “Invaders from the Sea”

11:40 – 12:45 Status of Invasive species in the Marine Environment of host country
Mohamad Salah Romdhane

12:45 – 13:30 The international response
Raphael Baumler

13:30 – 14:40 *Lunch Break*

14:40 – 16:10 IMO Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and operational aspects of the BWM - Part 1 (Focus on Treatment)
Raphael Baumler

16:10 – 17:10 Operational Aspects of BWM (ship-side issues and exchange)
Moataz Farrag

Day 2

Time

National perspectives

09:30 – 11:00	BWM by Port and Coastal States & Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement <i>Raphael Baumler</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:10	Regional Experience and strategy Moataz Farrag Discussion with participants
13:10 – 14:10	Lunch Break
14:10 – 15:10	National experiences <i>Raphael Baumler</i> Discussion with participants
15:10 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:20	GloBallast guidelines and tools for development of legal, policy and Institutional frameworks and Discussion: “Towards national strategy / Action plan on establishing a national task force” <i>Moataz Farrag</i>
16:20 – 17:00	Closing session, certificates and assessment

ANNEX 3 - RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION FORM

1. Did the Seminar meet your expectations?

Beyond your expectations	<input type="text" value="5"/>
More or less on par with your expectations	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Below your expectations	<input type="text" value="1"/>

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

Very good	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Quite good	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Good	<input type="text" value="6"/>	Not good enough	<input type="text"/>

3. Did you acquire new knowledge during this Seminar?

Very much	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Some	<input type="text" value="4"/>
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="10"/>
Enough	<input type="text" value="6"/>
No	<input type="text"/>

Other comments?

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

About right	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Too long	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Not long enough	<input type="text" value="4"/>

6. Did you have enough time for questions?

Yes	15
No	0

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

(Synthesis of all the comments)

- *Additional info on International conventions (1 comment)*
- *Additional info on advantages of conventions (1 comment)*

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

Yes	13
No	2

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

(Synthesis of all the comments)

All lectures were interesting.

Particularly:

- *Operational aspects (1 comment)*
- *CME (1 comment)*
- *National and regional experiences (2 comments)*
- *National strategy and Action plan (1 comment)*
- *Invasive species in Tunisia (3 comments)*

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	11
Satisfied	5
Unsatisfied	

12. Other comments

(Some of the comments)

- Some discussion out of the topic (*1 comment*)
- Additional trainings are expected (*2 comments*)
- Warm thanks to all

Main point of the feedback:

- **The seminar was very successful and deeply appreciated**
- **Additional sessions should be proposed**