

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions

Eighth Meeting

Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 November 2017

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## Background

- Pilot port Las Palmas repeated JHP protocol exercise in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and become environmental monitoring task annually
- Plan set for extensive champagne for 10 ports major ports
  - To fulfill MFD requirement on invasive species, 2 hot spots per coastal district -there are 5 of them- will be studied
  - To be performed under the leadership of Ministry for the Environment, carried out by Spanish Institute of Oceanography IEO, and by Port Authorities support which will be coordinated by National Port Agency OPPE
  - Campaign will start in 2018 and last for one or two years
- Other ports (i.e. Cartagena) began getting familiarized with 'invasive species' indicator and properly included it as descriptor where biological status of port water bodies is being assessed
- At least two academic initiatives are successfully taking place at Basque Country and Asturias to finetune DNI methodology/practice
- No exemption has been received at IMO contact point for BWM issues Directorate for Merchant Marine DGMM; 'Plan B' is under scrutiny/consideration by ports of Gijón, Vigo and Las Palmas participating in an INTERREG project -together with Cork and leading Brest- aimed at testing containerized purification plant built by German company DAMEN and being certified in The Netherlands, for collecting ballast water from ships not properly equipped on due time

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.