

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

Ninth Meeting

Gothenburg, Sweden, 13-14 December 2018

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Agenda Item	2 - Feedback from Relevant Bodies
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Background

The 72nd session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) was held on 9-13 April 2018 in London. The 73rd session of MEPC was held on 22-26 October 2018, also in London.

This document provides a summary of the issues discussed under Agenda Item 4 on Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water, which are of relevance to TG Ballast.

This information is based on the report of the MEPC 72 and the draft report of the MEPC 73. The draft report of the MEPC 73 is as at its date of issue (26.10.2018), in whole or in part, subject to consideration by the MEPC. Accordingly, its contents are subject to approval and amendment of a substantive and drafting nature, which may be agreed after that date.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Update on MEPC outcomes

Both MEPC 72 and MEPC 73 considered Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water under Agenda Item 4. Please note that the final report of MEPC 73 has not yet been published. While the information from MEPC 73 is based on the draft report, no substantial changes are expected.

This is a summary of the issues with most relevance for TG Ballast

- MEPC 72:
 - Recalled that MEPC 71 adopted resolution MEPC.290(71) on *The experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention*.
 - Approved the BWM.2 circular on *Data gathering and analysis plan for the experience-building phase*, set out in annex 2 of the Group's report, and requested the Secretariat to issue it as [BWM.2/Circ.67](#).
 - Approved BWM.2/Circ.33/Rev.1 on revised *Guidance on scaling of ballast water management systems*.
 - Approved BWM.2/Circ.43/Rev.1 on revised *Guidance for Administrations on the type approval process for ballast water management systems*.

- MEPC 73:
 - The Secretariat had initiated the preparations for a module in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) to accommodate the experience-building phase, structured in accordance with the interfaces in the approved data gathering and analysis plan (BWM.2/Circ.67), and that the module was expected to be available by the end of 2018, allowing Member States to start providing data from the beginning of 2019.
 - The Committee encouraged Member States to use the GISIS module once it was available to provide information in accordance with the approved data gathering and analysis plan for the experience-building phase (BWM.2/Circ.67).
 - Approved the draft BWM.2 circular on *Guidance on System Design Limitations of ballast water management systems and their monitoring*.
 - Approved the draft BWM.2 circular on *Guidance for the commissioning testing of ballast water management systems* (paragraph 16 and annex 2).
 - Adopted the draft MEPC resolution on amendments to the *Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4)*.
 - Approved new outputs for the MEPC agenda to develop training provisions for seafarers related to the BWM Convention and to review the BWM Convention based on data gathered in the experience-building phase.
 - MEPC 73: noted the information contained in document MEPC 73/INF.21 (Denmark) on activities related to exemptions and the application of the Same Risk Area concept.

Please note that the Ballast Water Management module in GISIS is available [here](#), and that it already contains a tab to report on “Exemptions granted to ships” as well as a list of “Contact point for receipt of applications for exemptions in accordance with regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention”, which only contains data from Sweden, of the countries from the HELCOM-OSPAR area.