Ballast Water News

Global **Ballast Water** Management Programme

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From the Editor

The drawing to an end of another year presents a time for reflection and re-focus, highlighting both the tremendous progress that has been made by the international community to date to address aquatic bio-invasions, and the monumental tasks still ahead before this global threat is resolved.

When IMO first formed its Ballast Water Working Group in 1989, only four member States participated. When the GloBallast Programme commenced activities in 2000, participation averaged around 14 countries. At MEPC 48 held in October 2002, there were over 120 participants in the Ballast Water Working Group, most of them engaging actively in the negotiations.

As conclusion of the Convention draws nearer, the ever-intensifying level of engagement and vigour of the debate at IMO must been seen as a positive indication of the interest, concern and commitment of stakeholders in relation to this issue. It also serves to highlight the all-important inclusiveness of the IMO consensus building process. This is reflected in the progress being made with the Convention, as reported on pages 4 and 5.

Under-scoring the global recognition of the need for a unified, international response to the transfer of harmful organisms in ships' ballast, is the continuing progress being made with cooperative, regional action plans under the GloBallast Programme. This is outlined by our Guest Speaker Captain Liu Gongchen, the Executive Director-General of the Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China, and an article on cooperative arrangements between the mighty maritime nations of East Asia.

Also in this issue we report on two initiatives towards regional cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea, one under the auspices of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, the other a creative brainstorming session by the region's peak scientific commission – CIESM. We also provide some recent results on technical testing of physical separation techniques for ballast water treatment, and present a review of control and eradication measures for established invasive species, courtesy of Dr Bella Galil.

Towards the end of this issue, our last for 2003, we report on the 4th Global Task Force meeting held in Beijing at the end of October, including the outcomes of the independent, external Mid Term Evaluation of the Programme. We conclude with an announcement of the 2nd International Ballast Water Treatment R&D Symposium, which we are most pleased to present under a new alliance with The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). As usual, we also highlight a number of publications that have recently been released.

As I wrap up the year to take several weeks R&R, I would like to thank all who helped keep the momentum of GloBallast in 2002, and look forward to keeping this rolling in 2003.

Steve Raaymakers
Contributing Editor

From the Programme

The 48th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee was held during the last quarter, and was, as always, a major event with direct implications for the GloBallast Programme. The Committee continued its consideration of the draft International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.

After extensive deliberations, the Committee decided to further review the draft text during its 49th session in July 2003 and agreed to request the Council of IMO to approve the convening of the Diplomatic Conference on Ballast Water Management in early 2004, instead of the previous plan of October 2003, to allow six months for the circulation of the necessary documents.

The second major event during the reporting period was the 4th Global Project Task Force Meeting, which was held from 28 to 30 October 2002 in Beijing, China and included a briefing on the Mid Term Evaluation of the Programme. A thorough assessment of activities was conducted by an international team of independent evaluators who visited the Pilot Countries and held intensive consultations with organizations and individuals involved in GloBallast.

Although the overall delivery and success rate was considered impressive and Programme staff were given a warm "pat on the back" for their efforts, the evaluation revealed a number of aspects, which need to be reconsidered in light of the further delays with the draft Convention.

The original Project Document was developed under the assumption that the Convention would be adopted before participating countries could commence certain activities. The drafting of the new instrument has proved to be far more complex than anticipated and has required extensive negotiations among the Member States. This, in conjunction with the understandable reluctance of some countries to translate the IMO Guidelines into national legislation prior to finalising the Convention, has significantly delayed the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement component of the Programme. The independent evaluators recommended reviewing the requirements of this component along with training needs and reformulating activities and outputs.

The evaluators found that GloBallast has raised awareness to an exemplary and outstanding level, project management has been effective and remarkable, the countries have contributed significant and valuable support and the stakeholder participation has been impressive. It is believed that GloBallast has created a solid foundation of support for the new Convention and represents a unique and model example of GEF assistance during the development stages of an international instrument related to GEF's aims and objectives. It is also believed that the experience achieved will significantly reduce the time between adoption of the Convention and its entry-into-force.

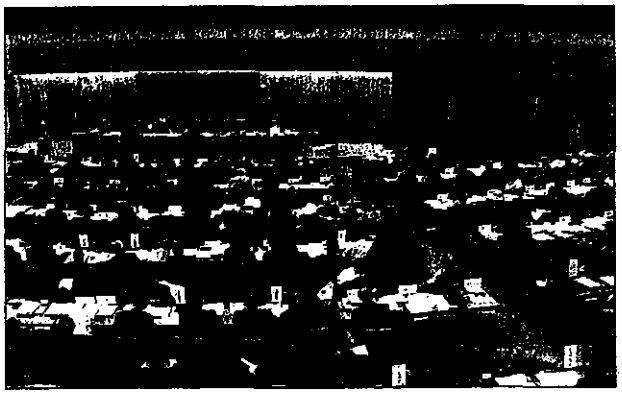
GloBallast would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers Season's Greetings and a Prosperous New Year.

Dandu Pughiuc
Chief Technical Adviser

Ballast Water News is the quarterly newsletter of the GloBallast Programme

Convention Update

From 7 to 11 October 2002 the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held its 48th meeting in London, and through its Ballast Water Working Group, continued to make progress on finalising the text of the new International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.



The week before MEPC, the Working Group held an inter-sessional meeting, as agreed at MEPC 47, in order to progress technical details of the draft Convention prior to MEPC itself.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr Mike Hunter of the UK, the Working Group continued to give priority to finalising ballast water treatment standards and addressing all remaining outstanding issues in the text of the draft Convention.

In relation to standards, the Working Group agreed that there should be a standard for ballast water exchange, a short-term standard for ballast water treatment and a long-term standard for ballast water treatment. Draft, provisional text for such standards was proposed as outlined in Table One.

The Working Group was of the view that the final figures in the standards should have a solid scientific basis, which was missing from the concentration element and, therefore, submissions should be invited in this regard to MEPC 49 in July 2003. The Working Group was also of the view that the following elements should be considered for the short-term standard:

- it should offer an alternative to Ballast Water Exchange;
- it should be achievable at the time of entry into force of the Convention;
- there should be some confidence as to the effectiveness of the standard;
- it should lead technology towards the long-term standard.

The Working Group also gave consideration to the need for various guidelines in support of the Convention, and identified the following issues for guidelines in order of priority:

- guidelines for the design, construction and operation of ships that use Ballast Water Exchange. An outline and materials for these guidelines were available and the International Chamber of Shipping undertook to prepare a draft text for future consideration,
- guidelines for the assessment and approval of ballast water treatment systems (type testing),
- guidelines supporting coastal States when considering additional measures, and
- guidelines on ballast water sampling/inspections on board ships by port State Administrations.

The Chairman of the Working Group recommended that, as a next step, the Committee should invite Member Governments to submit supporting information and views on the various options contained in the draft convention, in particular for the standards under Regulation E-2. The Working Group also recommended a thorough legal review of the current text.

In conclusion, MEPC 48 agreed that the revised text of the draft Convention provided a sound framework but time was required to deliberate on its contents. It was agreed that:

- a second Intersessional Meeting of the Ballast Water Working Group would be convened at IMO Headquarters in the spring of 2003 to carry out specific tasks as outlined in a detailed terms of reference and report to MEPC 49 (14 to 18 July 2003);
- the deadline for submissions on ballast water issues to MEPC 49 would be relaxed until an appropriate date in May 2003;
- MEPC 49 would review and approve the draft Convention with the aim of circulating it as the basic document for consideration and adoption at a Diplomatic Conference; and
- the Diplomatic Conference should be held in the beginning of 2004 instead of October 2003 to meet the six-month notice period for the basic conference documents. This re-scheduling is regarded as a technical adjustment to the schedule for preparation of the draft text rather than as a postponement of the Diplomatic Conference.

Of particular interest towards the end of the meeting, was an intervention by the delegation of Japan, which informed the Committee that it had a project underway aimed at developing new ship designs, which need not carry ballast water, when sailing with limited or no cargo. Such designs would solve the problem arising from transfer of non-indigenous species through ballast water. The delegation would prepare a submission giving further information on this project to MEPC 49.

Table One : *Extract of text from Draft IMO Ballast Water Convention*

(NB : This is not approved text and is subject to change as part of Convention negotiations. Values inserted in options 1 and 2 are place holders only and are subject to technical review and ongoing discussion).

Regulation E-1 *Ballast Water Exchange Standard*

1 Ships performing ballast water exchange in accordance with this Regulation shall do so with an efficiency of 95 per cent volumetric exchange of Ballast Water.

2 The method used to establish that a ship meets the standard in paragraph shall be one of the accepted methods [contained in this Annex] [in the Code][approved by the Organization].

New ships shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the following requirements (to be listed).

Regulation E-2 *Short-term Ballast Water Management Standard*

Option 1:

1 Ships conducting Ballast Water Management in accordance with this Regulation shall achieve at least [95]% removal, rendering harmless, or inactivation of a defined set of taxa.

Option 2:

2 Ships conducting Ballast Water Management in accordance with this Regulation shall discharge no detectable quantities of viable organisms above [100]µm in size, and discharge no more than [25 viable individuals of zooplankton per litre, 200 viable cells of phytoplankton per ml'] smaller than [100]µm in size.

Regulation E-3 *Long-term Ballast Water Management Standard*

Ships conducting Ballast Water Management in accordance with this Regulation shall Discharge no detectable quantities of viable organisms above [y]µ in size, and discharge no other organisms above a concentration of [z].

Regulation E-4 *Additional criteria for ballast water treatment systems*

Ballast water treatment systems used to comply with this Convention must be:

.1 safe in terms of the ship and its crew;

.2 environmentally acceptable, i.e. not causing more or greater environmental impacts than it solves;

.3 practicable, i.e. compatible with ship design and operations;

.4 cost effective, i.e. economical; and

.5 biologically effective in terms of removing, or otherwise rendering inactive harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ballast water.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on Ballast Water and Waste Water Treatment

11-13 June 2003

The 12th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

9-12 June 2003