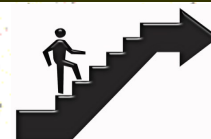


Aliens of Kamayca

A newsletter on non-indigenous species in Jamaica

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



The **Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention**, adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on February 13, 2004, recognises that ballast water carried by ships has led to the transfer of aquatic organisms beyond their natural ranges, causing damage to the environment, human health, property and resources. The BWM Convention, including its Regulations and Guidelines, is designed to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the risks of such negative impacts whilst avoiding unwanted side-effects by controlling and managing ballast water.

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BACKGROUND ON THE BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION

In 1988, the IMO received reports from Canada, regarding the threats posed to the Great Lakes via the transfer of harmful organisms through ballast water discharges. Subsequently the environmental hazards posed by organisms in the ships' ballast water and sediments were established. Due to the international nature of shipping, action required to address this issue needed to be taken at the global level despite the existence of various national regulations.

Based on current shipping practices, it would be impossible to eliminate all risk associated with such therefore, Regulation D-2 under the Convention (which sets limits on the number of viable organisms allowed in treated ballast water discharges) sets goals intended to achieve 'negligible risks'. In accordance with a risk-based management approach, the BWM Convention can be viewed as a set of barriers to fulfil two objectives.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BWM CONVENTION

To prevent, minimise and ultimately eliminate the risks emanating from the transfer of alien organisms and pathogens which can affect human and animal health, the environment and socio-economic activities.



To avoid unwanted side-effects from the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, i.e., ensure BWM practices will not cause greater harm than they prevent.

Aliens of Xamayca

The Convention contains twenty-two Articles and one Annex, which consists of twenty-four technical Regulations, classified in five sections:

- ◆ Section A: General Provisions
- ◆ Section B: Management and Control Requirements for Ships
- ◆ Section C: Special Requirements in Certain Areas
- ◆ Section D: Standards for Ballast Water Management
- ◆ Section E: Survey and Certification Requirements for Ballast Water Management

BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION (cont'd) - PROVISIONS TO ADDRESS BALLAST WATER THREATS



Shipping is one source of unwanted aquatic organisms (Figure 1). Ballast water acts as a vector for such organisms while, at the same time being absolutely essential to the safe and efficient operation of today's ships.

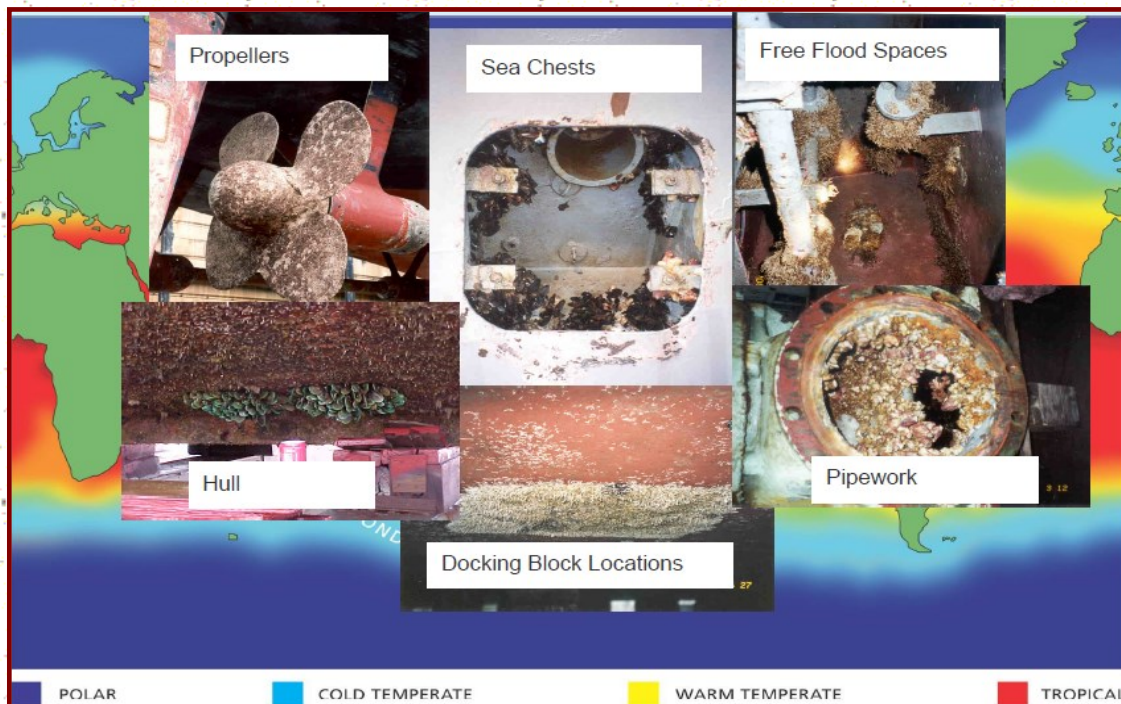


Figure 1: Pictures depicting organisms attached to various parts of the ship. This is a recognised pathway for the transfer of alien species which can become invasive outside their native ranges. Source: IMO, 2016

The exchange of ballast water is permitted in accordance with two conditions as stipulated in (Regulation B-4) of the Convention viz.:

- ◆ **Distance of 200 nautical miles** from the shore to replace coastal waters by open-ocean waters and thus to remove coastal organisms
- ◆ **Water depth of 200 meters** i.e. the depth to which water movement is restricted between the surface and the seafloor, depriving some species of the habitat they need

Extracted from : GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme and WMU, 2013. Identifying and Managing Risks from Organisms Carried in Ships' Ballast Water. GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships, London, UK and WMU, Malmo, Sweden.

**BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION (cont'd) -
STATUS UPDATE ON THE BALLAST WATER BILL**

Globally, it is estimated that 10 billion tonnes of ballast water are transferred on an annual basis and approximately 10,000 species, including invasive aquatic species, is carried each day in the ballast tanks of ships. It is documented that invasive aquatic species transferred in ballast water have led to the collapse of fisheries, and the increased spread of diseases such as cholera. Notably, in Jamaica, the introduction of Asian green mussels found in the Kingston Harbour has been identified by the University of the West Indies as having been introduced into Jamaican waters via ballast water. It is envisioned that the risk of invasion of foreign aquatic species may increase due to activities of the large foreign flagged vessels currently transiting the country's territorial waters. This is as a result of the widening of the Panama Canal and the opening various ports.

Jamaica is signatory to the Ballast Water Management Convention and therefore, in keeping with obligations under the Convention, the House of Representatives on July 10, 2018, passed the Ballast Water Bill. The legislation seeks to implement measures to prevent ships entering Jamaica's waters from introducing foreign aquatic species and diseases into the country. The legislation will regulate how ships discard their ballast water, and will also ensure compliance with international standards. It is to be administered by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica.

NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION

Ships are required to carry onboard a :

- ◆ Ballast Water Management Plan; and
- ◆ Ballast Water Record Book.

Based on their date of construction and the size of their ballast water tanks, ships are required to:

- ◆ exchange their ballast water in accordance with the legislation; and
- ◆ install ballast water treatment systems.

Failure to comply with the legislation could result in fines of up to JMD \$30 million dollars!

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Reference

Linton L. 2018. House passes Bill to manage Ballast Water carried by ships. Retrieved from <https://jis.gov.jm/house-passes-bill-to-manage-ballast-water-carried-by-ships/>

Children's Corner

SEARCH FOR WORDS AND CULTURAL ITEMS



Mongoose
 White-tailed Deer
 Strawberry Guava
 Wild Hog
 Ackee
 Breadfruit
 Chicken
 Sorrel
 Dog
 Cat
 Rat
 Eucalyptus
 Pig
 Goat
 Ginger Lily
 Cattle Egret
 Neem
 Mango
 Apple
 Jackfruit
 Cotton
 Logwood

The opposite picture is of a slave plantation. There are **10** items hidden in this picture.

Try to find the items listed below:

- The Abeng
- Drum
- Hoghead (Barrel)
- Cat-O-Nine (Whip)
- Ship
- Wig
- Anancy
- Dutch Pot
- Bead Necklace
- Shackles

