



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

**REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE BALLAST WATER
MANAGEMENT CONVENTION**

**BOU ISMAIL, ALGERIA,
01 – 02 October 2013**

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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.

The National Seminar on the Ballast Water Management Convention, held in Bou Ismail, Algeria, between the 1 and 2 October 2013, aimed to promote awareness in Algeria on the BWMC and to support the creation of a national task force in order to develop a national strategy and the preparatory steps of implementation. This Seminar was organised by REMPEC, in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport of Algeria, funded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), and supported by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project.

The National Seminar discussed the issues associated with the implementation of the Convention and the respective roles of the Flag, Coastal and Port States. The question of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement was highlighted as well as the issue of sampling D-1 and D-2. The regional strategy and national examples provided 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. They defined four main actions to move ahead: 1- Identification of a coordinating agency (Maritime Affairs); 2- Preparation of meeting with various stakeholders as presented in the case study of Croatia; 3- Creation of a Ballast Water Reporting Form with the collaboration of several ports; 4- A public awareness programme or communication is considered by the representative of Ministry of Environment with probable use of the video "Invaders of the Sea".

1. Basics

Venue

The National Seminar on the Ballast Water Management Convention was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport of Algeria, funded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), and supported by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project.

It was held at the École Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM) in Bou Ismail between the 1 and 2 October 2013. The expert lecturers were accommodated at the Hotel Safir Mazafran, Zeralada, some twenty minutes (by car) away from the Seminar's venue. Lunches were provided on-site in the ENSM facilities. The Seminar was conducted in French.

Training Material and documentation

The training material that the GloBallast Partnerships Project Coordinating Unit sent to Algeria was blocked at the Customs and not available during the Seminar. In order to compensate this issue, ENSM printed copies of the Convention email before the Seminar by the lead expert lecturer. In addition, the GloBallast Project's flyer on biosecurity was provided to the participants. Also, a complete set of documents, including the presentations and the new elements concerning sampling, was provided on an IMO USB stick and distributed to all participants at the end of the Seminar.

Participants

Representatives from various Algerian Government entities as well as Ports and shipping companies attended the Seminar. The majority of them came from the Maritime Administration, Port Authorities and the Maritime Academy (ENSM). The Maritime Administration and REMPEC fulfilled their objectives to attract participants, which had never been trained on the topic. However, some key players were missing like research centres. Moreover, some important participants were not available during the second day (e.g: Health Department and University).

Expert Lecturers

The National Seminar was coordinated by Dr Raphael Baumler, a World Maritime University (WMU) expert lecturer. Dr Baumler was assisted by Mr Babacar Diop, an independent expert lecturer from Senegal. A short presentation of the Algerian situation with regard to aquatic alien species and ballast water was presented by Mr. El Matmati, Deputy Director at the Direction de la marine marchande et des Ports of the Ministry of Transport of Algeria.

A list containing details about the participants and expert lecturers is available in **Annex I**.

2. Introduction to the topic

Background

In 1988, the issue of the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens (HAOP) through Ballast Water was introduced to the IMO by Canada. 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 2014/2015. As the entry into force gets closer, the promotion of the Convention and its regulations is necessary to assist States in taking preparatory steps.

To support the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Mediterranean region, REMPEC organised two-day National Seminar in Algeria to promote the implementation of BWMC in the country. The experts shared their knowledge and experience with the participants from various Algerian Ministries and entities.

Aim of the Seminar

The main objective of the Seminar was to develop awareness, clarify issues by replying to questions, and support the creation of a national task force on the BWMC using the Mediterranean Regional Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management. 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 Seminar towards a large variety of topics and discussions related to the implementation of the BWMC in the context of Algeria. Although the Seminar's content was not fully pre-formatted and was adapted on site to reach the actual requirements of the Seminar and its participants, the Seminar's programme was based on the existing GloBallast Partnerships Project training modules to promote a common set of knowledge and skills. The new items introduced during the Seminar were integrated in the existing material. The Seminar's programme and time-table is attached as **Annex II** of the present report.

To support these broad presentations, national experiences 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 Seminar

Opening Remarks

Mr. Benyelles Abderrahim Lotfi, Director, Direction de la marine marchande et des Ports, Ministry of Transport of Algeria, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed the participants and the expert lecturers to the Seminar. Mr. Mohamed Haddidi, Director of the ENSM, welcomed all the participants to ENSM.

Dr. Raphaël Baumler, made opening remarks on behalf of IMO and REMPEC, during which he also acknowledged the joint support of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) and the Globallast Partnerships Project. He concluded his introduction by setting the objectives of the Seminar and stressing the importance of cooperation between different national entities when preparing for the ratification and implementation of the BWMC.

Following the opening remarks, the expert lecturers and the participants introduced themselves.

Day 1 – October 01st

- The Seminar commenced by the response rose. The purpose was to establish few ideas about the risks of invasive species and the need to implement regulations and ratify the Convention.
- Thereafter, the Seminar continued by the screening of the 60-minute video “Invaders from the Sea” followed by an intense discussion.
- After the break, Mr. El Matmati made a presentation on the maritime traffic in Algerian Ports and the Aliens Invasive Species already identified. This presentation was particularly useful to discuss the vulnerability of the Algerian ports as well as discussing the importance to implement adequate regulations to control an issue already prevailing in the country.
- The next presentation was delivered by Mr. Babacar Diop Who introduced the issue of management of ballast water and the issue of invasive species in the marine environment.
- Mr Babacar then delivered another presentation on the international response to the problem of invasive alien species which *inter alia* led to the BWMC. He presented the framework under which the Convention should be considered and described and explained its various provisions and regulations. The next presentation delivered by Dr Baumler focused on the ballast water management on ships with particular emphasis on the operational aspects. During his presentation, Dr. Baumler explained the aim of ballast water management and the different possibilities offered by the Convention before focusing on the Ballast Water Treatment Systems.

Day 2 –October 02nd

- The first presentation of the day by Dr. Baumler introduced the concept of Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement. The complexity of Port State Control (PSC) under the BWMC with particular attention to sampling and sampling analysis was explained. Moreover, the importance of domestic law enactment in terms of sanctions and penalties for violation was highlighted.
- Immediately after, Dr. Baumler delivered another presentation on the national experience. He focused his presentation on two countries: Croatia and Australia. The Croatian case study intended to detail and explains the process toward the ratification of the Convention, while the Australia case sought to show the practical details of the implementation within an integrated biosecurity policy. The importance of the Ballast Water Management Reporting Form was highlighted in both cases. The purpose of this focus was to demonstrate the advantages brought by the implementation of this simple and costless document to obtain and record data.
- After the lunch break, Mr. Diop delivered a presentation on the Globallast Project and on the importance to develop a national strategy. He described the strategies, layers and main stakeholders to involve in their development. 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.
- The later presentation was followed by a discussion. The discussion aimed to facilitate the establishment of a national task force and the preparation of an action plan.

- The discussion considered the following topics:
 - Coordination agency (to establish a task force)
 - Identification of stakeholders to include in a task force; nine Ministries to inform and work with were identified
 - Creation of subcommittee in charge of specific topics / each of them with specific agenda
 - Consideration of pre-arrival reporting form (BWMR) for learning, assessing and recording
 - Consider a biosecurity policy with Pre-arrival / on arrival / Post-arrival requirements
 - Identification of research agency and laboratories able to support the implementation
 - Public awareness and fishing sector awareness
 - Collection of data

- This discussion was successful because the participants showed interest in four decisions: 1- Identification of a coordinating agency (Maritime Affairs); 2- Preparation of meeting with various stakeholders as presented in the case study of Croatia (with working groups in charge of dedicated tasks); 3- Creation and introduction of a Ballast Water Reporting Form with the collaboration of several ports; 4- A public awareness programme or communication to be considered by the representative of Ministry of Environment with probable use of the video “Invaders of the Sea

4. Assessment and Seminar conclusion

At the end of the Seminar, nearly all participants completed an evaluation questionnaire. The participants expressed a high degree of interest in the topic and the content of the seminar. They appreciated the quality of the expert lecturers. They also expressed their view of the importance to address the issue as soon as possible and showed a great interest in the national case studies (Croatia and Australia), which show the practical implementation and enforcement regime. The participants' evaluation feedback summary is summarized in Annex III of the present report.

After the last presentation, the expert lecturers concluded the Seminar and thanked all participants for their valuable contribution to the success of the event. It was reminded that regional and international organizations could always support their implementation process as it was highlighted in the case study. A certificate of attendance and a USB stick containing 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. They understood the vulnerability of their country (particularly the largest port) and the on-going threat with its disastrous potential consequences. The participants appreciated the presentations. A lot of discussion took place during the Seminar initiated by numerous questions and remarks. Annex IV of the present document presents the outcome of the discussions and the main follow-up decisions.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND LECTURERS

PARTICIPANTS

N°	Noms et Prénoms		Poste occupé	Département Institution	Adresse Postal	Ville	Téléphone	Email
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							06 67 33 94 29	

N°	Noms et Prénoms	Poste occupé	Département Institution	Adresse Postal	Ville	Téléphone	Email
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LECTURERS

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ANNEX II
PROGRAMME

Day 1

Time

08.30– 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome remarks Introduction to the Seminar

Introduction to Ballast Water Management

09.30 – 10.00	IMO-BBC Video “Invaders from the Sea”
10.00 – 10.30	Status of Invasive species in the Marine Environment of Algeria/Ship traffic and ballast water movement in the major ports <i>Presentation by host country representative</i>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Introduction to Ballast Water Management <i>Babacar Diop</i> The IMO Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and Guidelines <i>Babacar Diop</i>
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 15.30	Operational Aspects of BWM (ship-side issues including BWM technologies) <i>Raphael Baumler</i>
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	BWM by Port and Coastal States & Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement <i>Raphael Baumler</i>

Day 2

Time

National perspectives

09.00 – 09.45	Implementing the BWM Convention – Global, regional and national experiences <i>Raphael Baumler</i>
09.45 – 10.30	Development of a National Strategic Framework for Ballast Water Management and related GloBallast Guidelines and Tools <i>Babacar Diop</i>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.30	Discussion: Implementation of the BWM Convention and initial steps for establishing a National Task Force and developing a National Strategy <i>Babakar Diop/Raphael Baumler</i>
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00 – 15.30	Conclusion: Towards a National Strategy /Action Plan on BWM – establishing a National Task Force and developing a road map <i>Babakar Diop/Raphael Baumler/Algerian representative</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Closure of Seminar

ANNEX III

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Arrangements prior to the activity

1	Was the invitation received in good time?	Yes	18	No	2
2	Did you receive the information listed below about the event before your participation				
	• on its objective and scope	Yes	15	No	5
	• subject areas and programme	Yes	11	No	9
3	Were the instructions on the following clear and easy to understand?				
	• profile required of participant	Yes	15	No	1
	• completion and submission of the nomination form	Yes	14	No	2
4	Did you receive logistical information on				
	• venue	Yes	15	No	2
	• travel arrangements	Yes	10	No	2 N/A 6
	• DSA payments	Yes	7	No	2 N/A 7
	• Accommodation	Yes	7	No	2 N/A 7
5	If you were given any pre-event assignment, was it useful?	Yes	8	No	8 N/A 2

During the activity

6	To cover the topics fully, was the event (<i>please check the appropriate box</i>)					
	(1) too long	3	(2) just right	6	(3) too short	10
7	How do you rate the event with regard to the following? (<i>tick one box in each case</i>)					
		Excellent	good	satisfactory	poor	
	Venue	12	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Facilities	7	9	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Equipment	6	9	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	How do you rate the following aspects of the materials? (<i>tick one box in each case</i>)					
		Excellent	good	satisfactory	poor	
	Presentation	10	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Clarity	10	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Technical content	10	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Comprehensiveness	9	7	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Quantity	6	8	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	How would you rate the following aspects of the presentations? (<i>tick one box in each case</i>)					
		Excellent	good	satisfactory	poor	
	Design and structure	9	9	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Clarity	10	7	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Technical contents	9	6	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Comprehensiveness	9	8	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	

10	How would you rate the use of the following? (<i>tick one box in each case</i>)				
		excellent	good	satisfactory	poor
	Course materials	5	8	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
	IMO reference materials	7	6	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other resource materials	1	8	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Group and practical activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	1	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 3
	Field trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 10

At the end of the activity

11 Please rate each lecturer with regard to the following (*check one box in each case*)

	Name of lecturer (to be inserted)	excellent	good	satisfactory	poor
.1	__Babacar DIOP__				
	content of lecture	12	7	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	delivery of presentation	12	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ability to transfer knowledge	12	7	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	effectiveness in:				
	• answering questions	9	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• suggesting solutions to issues	10	7	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Name of lecturer (to be inserted)	excellent	good	satisfactory	poor
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.2	__Raphael BAUMLER__				
	content of lecture	14	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	delivery of presentation	16	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ability to transfer knowledge	14	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	effectiveness in:				
	• answering questions	9	9	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• suggesting solutions to issues	9	8	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Name of lecturer (to be inserted)	excellent	good	satisfactory	poor
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.3	_____				
	content of lecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	delivery of presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ability to transfer knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	effectiveness in:				
	• answering questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• suggesting solutions to issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please use additional sheets if the number of lecturers exceeds 3).

12 What topics were of most interest and relevance to you?

- All the seminar
- IMO instruments to address the issue
- The description of the BWMC (2)
- Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (2) & the movie to understand the impact of IAS
- Ballast Water Management techniques – D-1 & D-2 (7)

- PSC and Flag State control regimes (5)
- Case Study (5)
- National Strategy (4)
- Implementation of the convention (4)

13 Are there any topics which should be added? Yes 12 No 5
If yes, please list them:

- Additional case study
- Methods to detect and identify IAS
- Scientific approach in other countries
- Group work and continuous assessment for improvement
- Example of Ballast Water Management Systems
- Role of Port Authorities
- More details

14 Do you consider that the objective of the event was met? Yes 20 No

15 Are you likely to use the information you gained on the course when you return to work? Yes 20 No

16 Will you have the opportunity to transfer the knowledge gained to your colleagues at work? Yes 20 No

Comments:

- Thanks for the excellent presentations (5)
- Excellent and knowledgeable experts on the topic (4)
- Useful seminar, awareness should be intensified
- Hope to have additional seminars on the risks related to shipping
- Seminar useful to learn about the convention
- Good support to assist PSC officers
- Information relevant for the preparatory stages before ratification
- Difficult to implement the convention
- Financial constraints seem to impede the implementation
- Maturity of the convention expected
- Unfortunately several key administrations and ministers were not represented
- Request additional seminar by IMO & REMPEC
- The seminar should be longer

We greatly appreciate your time in completing this evaluation questionnaire. It contains important information that will assist IMO in determining the success and impact of the activity. Thank you.

ANNEX IV

Outcome of the discussion and planned decisions

- Recognition of the importance of the issue and to address it without delay
- Identification of a coordinating agency - Direction de la marine marchande et des Ports of the Ministry of Transport of Algeria
- Learn from the case study provided (Croatia) in order to initiate and create a National Task Force with dedicated workshops
- Implementation of Ballast Water Reporting Form in selected Algerian ports to collect data and learn
- Information and training of Port State Control Officers
- Identification of the research institutes in charge of studying the issue of Invasive Alien Species and baseline survey
- Consider the issue of sampling and its difficulties
- Spread the knowledge acquire to other administrations
- Raising awareness to the public and politicians by developing an adequate communication strategy; use of the "Invaders of the Seas" video