



MONITORING FOR BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT – FROM PROS TO CONS TO YES OR NO?

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ABSTRACT

Transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens (HAOP), including invasive aquatic species (IAS), across natural barriers is recognized as one of greatest pressures to the sea realm, imposing threat to the environment, human health and economy. A prominent vector of such species are proven to be ballast waters (BW), which are transferred by vessels engaged in the international shipping of goods. International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) includes implementation of monitoring as a vital part of an early detection of introduction of HAOP/IAS in the ports in order to enable rapid response with available methods of eradication, control or containment for an identified HAOP/IAS species. What are basic requirements of such a specific monitoring in ports? What are possibilities of rapid responses and available methods? A presentation on pros and cons should lead us a step closer towards understanding of this issue and to give us the answer, yes or no.

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