

Regional harmonised procedures for uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea

The IMO has issued circular BWM.3/Circ.4 advising Flag States and Industry that it has been advised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) that the Twenty-third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye, and the European Union) have adopted harmonised ballast water management procedures in the Mediterranean Sea.

The document is lengthy and contains the same text in Arabic, English, French and Spanish but for ease of reference the English version has been extracted and is [attached](#).

The decision by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to adopt regional harmonised procedures for the uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention in the Mediterranean Sea is summarised below.

The Contracting Parties agree to:

- 1) Adopt the regional harmonised procedures for the uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea, hereinafter referred to as “the regional BWM harmonised procedures”, set out in the attached.
- 2) Reaffirm the importance of harmonising BWM procedures to ensure the uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean region.
- 3) Take effective measures to implement the regional BWM harmonised procedures, thus enhancing the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea as well as of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, and contributing to the implementation of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) as well as the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).
- 4) Urge Contracting Parties, which have not yet done so, to ratify the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, in order to achieve universally the objectives of the Protocols in the Mediterranean region.
- 5) Urge Contracting Parties, which have not yet done so, to effectively implement the Ballast Water Management Convention, as soon as possible.

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Members attention is drawn to key points highlighted in the document which include harmonised procedures for:

- 1) Ballast Water Exchange Areas in the Mediterranean Sea
- 2) Granting Regulation A-4 Exemptions in the Mediterranean Sea
- 3) Sediment Reception Facilities in the Mediterranean Sea
- 4) Contingency Measures in the Mediterranean Sea
- 5) Developing Additional Measures in the Mediterranean Sea
- 6) Issuing Warnings in the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition, Appendix A contains a Protocol for identifying target species and Appendix B contains a Port Survey Protocol.

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Related Guidance

- ◆ [IMO continues work on the Ballast Water Management Convention at MEPC 80](#)
- ◆ [Regional Harmonised Procedures for the Uniform Implementation of the Ballast Water](#)