



The members of Global TestNet, during their 10th Annual meeting in London 14th & 15th Feb 2019 have discussed the commissioning of ballast water management systems (BWMS) on ships and the approach recommended by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) through the guidance documents (IMO BWM.2/Circ.70 and the Code for approval of BWMS). Having tested BWMS for more than 10 years, the members see these documents as an important aspect of the implementation of the convention because this commissioning should provide ship owners with the certainty that the BWMS, after their installation, meet the D-2 ballast water performance standard of the convention. Yet, the group would like to add the following recommendations which should, if possible, be used:

1. The members of Global TestNet recommend the use of detailed sample analyses whenever possible to ensure high reliability and relevance of compliance data for the ship owner. The additional costs associated with detailed sample analyses is considered minor compared to the cost of representative sampling. Further, the time required for detailed sample analyses is comparable to that of indicative methods.
2. The members of Global TestNet have also raised concerns that the sampling of water during the intake of ballast water may not be possible because ships may not be fitted with sampling facilities on the intake lines and therefore a representative intake sample cannot be taken. Global TestNet recommends the installation of an intake sampling port enabling representative sampling.
3. The members of Global TestNet have raised further concerns regarding potential insufficient concentrations of organisms in the intake water to ensure that the commissioning test can confirm proper BWMS installation. Therefore, the organism concentration in the intake water should be higher than on discharge.