

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
78th session  
Agenda item 4

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## HARMFUL AQUATIC ORGANISMS IN BALLAST WATER

### Additional information to support the experience-building phase associated with the Ballast Water Management Convention

Submitted by Global TestNet

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document summarizes information the Global TestNet members have produced over the last five years that may be useful in evaluating the data gathered during the experience-building phase. All information is publicly available.

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 1

*Output:* 1.21

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 5

*Related documents:* MEPC 66/INF.27; PPR 4/7; resolutions MEPC.169(57), MEPC.174(58), MEPC.290(71), MEPC.300(72) and BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1

#### Introduction

1 Global TestNet is an organization of test facilities created in 2010 under the umbrella of the GloBallast Project. Global TestNet members promote comparable and accurate test results on the performance evaluation of technologies and methodologies to control the risk of bio-invasion and harmful species introductions by shipping, through an open exchange of information, transparency in methodologies and advancing the science of testing. The Council, at its thirty-fourth extraordinary session (8 to 12 November 2021), granted consultative status to Global TestNet.

2 The Global TestNet members have been involved for more than a decade in testing ballast water management systems (BWMS) in view of basic and final approval (resolution MEPC.169(57)) and type approval (resolutions MEPC.174(58) and MEPC.300(72)), in the testing of ballast water discharges from ships to verify that installations are functional (BWM.2/Circ.70, as revised) and that ballast water management practices on board allow to continuously deliver the protection of the environment expected by the BWM Convention (compliance monitoring against the D-2 performance standard).

3 The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), at its seventy-first session (3 to 7 July 2017), adopted resolution MEPC.290(71), establishing the experience-building phase (EBP) associated with the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, to allow MEPC to monitor and improve the Convention. Members of Global TestNet have shared information pertaining to their testing experience with the World Maritime University (WMU) to support the information gathering of this exercise. The submission from Global TestNet members to WMU is publicly available on the Global TestNet website<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Additional information gathered by Global TestNet**

4 Apart from the submission to WMU, there is additional and more detailed information that may be useful to the Committee in the evaluation and understanding of testing results submitted to the EBP. Specifically, Global TestNet has:

- .1 established an inter-comparison chart for the testing approaches used in the different testing organizations of the membership (past and present). This also includes recommendations on how to measure organisms<sup>2</sup>;
- .2 shared procedures for the sampling and analysis of viable organisms using multiple methods through the support and submissions of Member States prior to the granting of consultative status at the IMO (PPR 4/7; MEPC 66/INF.27);
- .3 acknowledged the need for regular compliance monitoring by testing of ballast water discharges to ensure that ballast water management is properly working<sup>3</sup>; and
- .4 supported the use of detailed analysis as far as practicable. This is because the additional costs associated with detailed sample analyses are considered minor compared to the cost of representative sampling, and the time required for detailed sample analyses is comparable to that of indicative analysis<sup>4</sup>. Importantly, detailed analysis typically provides more precise results than indicative analysis. In most cases, when a sample is shown to be non-compliant with indicative analysis and is subsequently analysed following detailed methods, the detailed analysis determines the sample to be compliant.

#### **Action requested of the Committee**

5 The Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.globaltestnet.org/getmedia/998ff2ac-2c78-4c14-8c92-9887827f67a9/EBP\\_submission\\_from\\_Global\\_TestNet-LAST.pdf](https://www.globaltestnet.org/getmedia/998ff2ac-2c78-4c14-8c92-9887827f67a9/EBP_submission_from_Global_TestNet-LAST.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.globaltestnet.org/getattachment/Discussions/Global\\_TestNet\\_Istanbul\\_Changes\\_clean\\_Rev\\_1.pdf](https://www.globaltestnet.org/getattachment/Discussions/Global_TestNet_Istanbul_Changes_clean_Rev_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.globaltestnet.org/getmedia/e536724d-a95f-4732-83c8-91029b905c1e/Acknowledging\\_the\\_need\\_for\\_testing\\_for\\_compliance\\_May\\_2021-Rev01b.pdf](https://www.globaltestnet.org/getmedia/e536724d-a95f-4732-83c8-91029b905c1e/Acknowledging_the_need_for_testing_for_compliance_May_2021-Rev01b.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.globaltestnet.org/getattachment/Discussions/GloBal\\_TestNet\\_Position\\_Statement\\_BWMS\\_Commissioning\\_Feb\\_2019.pdf](https://www.globaltestnet.org/getattachment/Discussions/GloBal_TestNet_Position_Statement_BWMS_Commissioning_Feb_2019.pdf)