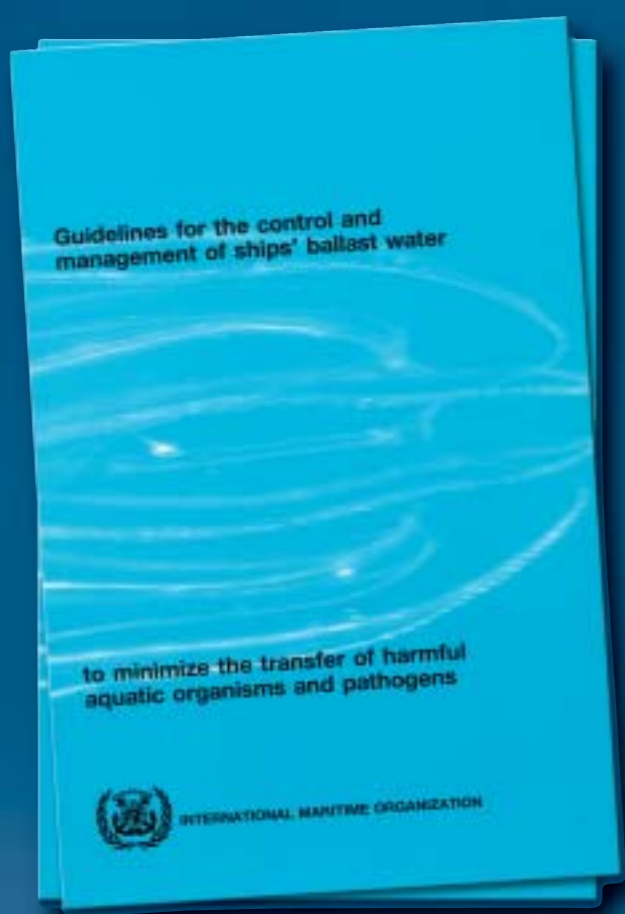


The GloBallast Programme

Stopping the ballast water stowaways!



The Problem

Marine species are being carried around the world in ships' ballast water. When discharged into new environments they may become invasive and severely disrupt the native ecology.

Invasive marine species are one of the greatest threats to our oceans.

The Progress

Guidelines The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has developed voluntary guidelines for the control and management of ships' ballast water, to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.

Regulation IMO member countries are also developing an international legal instrument to provide a regulatory regime for the management of ballast water. It is hoped that this will be agreed sometime after 2001.

Assistance In addition, IMO has joined forces with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to assist developing countries to reduce the transfer of invasive marine species in ballast water.

The Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) is working through six initial demonstration sites, to implement the existing IMO guidelines and prepare for the new international regulatory regime.

Activities

Technical assistance activities being carried out under GloBallast include:

- Education and awareness
- Ballast water risk assessments
- Port baseline surveys
- Ballast water sampling
- Training of port and shipping personnel
- Assistance with laws and regulations
- Self financing mechanisms

The initial demonstration sites will be replicated in each region as the programme develops.



Further information:
 Global Ballast Water Management Programme
 International Maritime Organization, London
 Fax +44 (0)20 7587 3261
 Email sraaymak@imo.org
 Web <http://globallast.imo.org>

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