

## Real Ballast Facts Bulletin

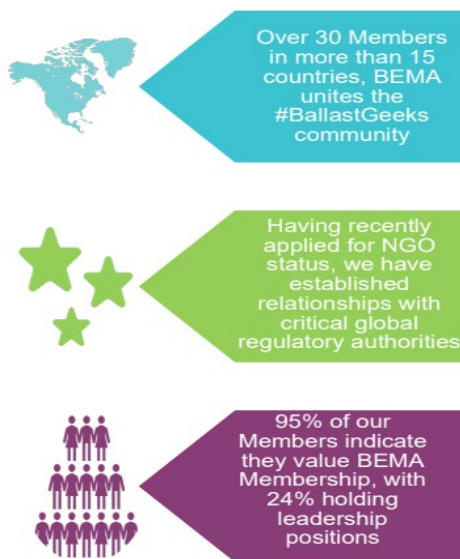
Issue #08, 01 September 2022

### Stay in touch with BEMA!

- Visit our website [www.BWEMA.org](http://www.BWEMA.org)
- Follow the #BallastGeeks on Twitter for the latest ballast water scuttlebutt, news, and regulatory updates [@BEMAssociation](https://twitter.com/BEMAssociation). Follow our LinkedIn Page: [Official BEMA LinkedIn Page](#)
- For any questions, ask the BEMA External Affairs Committee at [external-affairs@bwema.org](mailto:external-affairs@bwema.org)

## What is BEMA?

The Ballastwater Equipment Manufacturers' Association (BEMA) is the only international trade organization dedicated to the successful implementation of the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention. We are the global representatives of the treatment system providers, engineering firms, compliance tool manufacturers, testing organizations, component suppliers, and professionals that have dedicated themselves to the protection of the oceans from the threat of aquatic invasive species.



### Leadership Opportunities

As a trade association, BEMA continually affords opportunities for individuals interested in leadership positions.

The organization has several committees with differing focuses. The Executive, Planning, Finance, Membership, Technical, and External Affairs all have different priorities and require personnel of differing skill sets. One-year terms ensure positions are open to any Member interested in more active participation in the association.

### Why Join?

This is an opportunity to provide direct input to the stakeholders that govern our industry!

Substantial resources are required to develop relationships and to lobby for the ballast treatment perspective; this is often impossible or limited when each company must act on its own behalf.

Joining the #ballastgeeks community multiples your voice and your impact as well as ensures that you always stay abreast of the latest regulatory trends.

### Why not?!

And don't forget, we are FUN! Networking, social media, connectivity and marketing are all Member benefits. While events were of course limited during COVID times, simply being active in BEMA provides additional opportunities for self-promotion within this tight-knit industry.

There are many opportunities for co-branding and combined promotion between BEMA and its Members.

Never miss out on anything!

BEMA communicates important regulatory and ballast water news to Members through both quarterly Member newsletters and through the extremely popular #RealBallastFacts Bulletin, published by our own External Affairs Committee. But news at BEMA is not just reacting to what has happened, it is taking part in the shaping and writing of rules. Whether it is commenting on a national law-making effort, directly interfacing with IACS or participating at the International Maritime Organization, BEMA is your ticket to being the first to know everything you need to know about this dynamic industry.

Check out the [website!](#) Here you will be able to find our Mission and Purpose statements as well as documents issued by BEMA including our #RealBallastFacts publications!

The different Membership tiers are detailed for your consideration and please apply! Any questions can be submitted via the site as well!

And don't forget those Members-only documents and the library of key documents and guidance notes on the industry.

Can you afford not to join? [JOIN HERE](#)

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## Regulation Updates & Info

### ★ IMO UPDATES

#### MEPC 78 and BEMA

The 78th Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) was held remotely from Monday, June 6 to Friday, June 10, 2022. BEMA submitted document MEPC 78-4-3, *Proposed amendments to the Guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention (BWM.2/Circ.62)*. This document proposed amendments to update the Guidance on contingency measures to reflect implementation experience gained and to provide a mechanism to address the need for guidance related to ships operating at ports with challenging water quality (PCWQ). To facilitate normal and efficient ship operations in accordance with Article 12 of the BWM Convention, and to reduce uncertainty for shipowners and crew when such situations are encountered, clear guidance is needed urgently. Therefore, viewing the issue of PCWQ as being similar to any other scenario where a ship may have non-compliant ballast water, the proposed amendments provide an avenue to use the existing contingency measure guidance within BWM.2/Circ.62. The document is publicly available on the [IMO DOCS website](#).

BEMA was an active participant in the Ballast Water Review Group (BWRG) where extensive discussions on the fundamental aspects of PCWQ were discussed. The group deliberated on whether PCWQ should be addressed by a revision of the existing IMO guidance on contingency measures (BWM.2/Circ.62) or as an operational matter to be addressed under separate guidance. Furthermore, discussions took place about the use of ballast water exchange plus treatment (BWE+BWT) in certain situations and locations. As with MEPC 77, there were again divergent views expressed on these and other matters related to PCWQ and no final decisions were reached.

Due to the time allowed for the meeting, the BWRG outcome was an invitation by the Committee for submission of further proposals on the fundamental issues regarding PCWQ, aspects of BWE+BWT, and the overarching and related issues. BEMA will be an active participant in these further discussions. Look for more details coming up!

Despite the lack of progress on the critical issue of PCWQ, a few items were agreed upon during the session:

- The Committee agreed in principle to the development of a BWM Convention Review Plan (CRP) and establishment of a Correspondence Group that will draft the CRP and report to MEPC 80. BEMA has already expressed interest in taking part in this Correspondence Group. The Committee also agreed to a revised Experience Building Phase (EBP) timeline to MEPC 85 (Autumn, 2026).
- The Committee invited proposals on guidance related to the temporary storage of grey water and / or treated sewage in ballast tanks under the BWM Convention. It was also noted the MARPOL requirements of this practice should also be considered.
- The Committee approved the revisions to the G9 Methodology for re-evaluations in cases where modifications have been made to an approved BWMS as proposed by the GESAMP-BWWG in MEPC 78/4/2 to be issued as BWM.2/Circ.13/Rev.5 by the IMO.
- The Committee endorsed procedures in cases where the GESAMP-BWWG recommendation for G9 approval is challenged.
- Unified Interpretation of Appendix I of the Convention (Form of International Ballast Water Management Certificate) proposed by PPR 9 was accepted. The final UI of the certificate will be issued as BWM.2/Circ.66/Rev.3.
- The Committee invited proposals for amendments to the Ballast Water Record Book Form as suggested by India in MEPC 78/8/4.
- Committee approved the revised *Guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms for type approval of ballast water management systems* which was raised at PPR 9. The revised guidance will be circulated as BWM.2/Circ.61/Rev.1. Refer to document MEPC 78/9/1.
- The Committee endorsed the GESAMP-BWWG's recognition of amperometric TRO sensors.

### **Preparing for MEPC 79**

IMO will resume in-person meetings for the seventy-ninth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. It will be held from Monday, 12 December to Friday, 16 December 2022 at IMO Headquarters. BEMA will participate in December's meeting and is looking forward to meeting the ballast water community at IMO.

For additional details about these developments, check out the BEMA Member News Brief for IMO Sessions, located in the Members Only portion of the website. Not a member? Contact [membership@bwema.org](mailto:membership@bwema.org) to find out how you can get the latest information straight from BEMA leadership.

### **★ EPA UPDATES**

While not a new update, BEMA thought it would be helpful to be sure our readers are aware of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Water Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have been developed to address issues commonly raised to EPA regarding the 2013 Vessel General

Permit (VGP). The FAQs can be helpful in understanding implementation of the 2013 VGP and specific situations that may not be clear within the VGP. The FAQ's can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/commercial-vessel-discharge-standards-frequently-asked-questions>

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## Events and Meetings

### 18 May 2022: IMO - International Women's Day

We are so proud to have been invited by the [International Maritime Organization](https://www.imo.org/) to participate in their reception to celebrate International Women's Day! We are excited that the IMO celebrates the role of women in [@maritime](https://twitter.com/IMO) and we were pleased to help them celebrate this important day! Beginning with this day 2022, IMO's International Day for Women in Maritime will be observed on 18 May of every year.

This year's first International Day for Women in Maritime focused on the theme: "Training-Visibility-Recognition: Supporting a barrier-free working environment". The symposium highlighted the need for women to be more visible throughout the sector as a whole; more widely represented at decision-making levels; and better supported through appropriate skills development.



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/imo-un/albums/72177720299053454>

### Posidonia 2022 - Meet & Greet

With the return of in-person events, the #BallastGeeks took full advantage of having a Meet & Greet at Posidonia 2022. There is no doubt that when we get together we like to PARTY!! As you can see from the pictures below a good time was had by all!



Charter and Associate members had a great time, discussing MEPC 78 matters, our work, explaining to potential new members the importance of joining us and of course how they had enjoyed the Posidonia Fair and Greece. Thank you [ERMA FIRST ESK Engineering Solutions S.A.](#) For such a great Reception at your booth.

Make sure you join our next Meet & Greet event at the **SMM Hamburg Exhibition** scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 September at 15.00 - 16:30 at Stand A1.327**. Thank you [Ecochlor](#) for sponsoring this opportunity!

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#### **Forthcoming Industry Events:**

- [SMM Hamburg](#) - Hamburg, Germany - September 6 - 9, 2022
  - [2nd GloFouling Partnerships R&D Forum and Exhibition on Biofouling Prevention and Management for Maritime Industries](#) - London, UK - October 11 - 14 2022
  - [MEPSEAS-Technology Conference](#) - Singapore - November 15 - 17, 2022
  - [International BWT Forum](#) - Shanghai, China - November 16, 2022
  - [International WorkBoat Show](#) - New Orleans, USA - November 30 - December 2, 2022
  - [Marintec](#) - Shanghai, China - December 7 - 10, 2022
  - MEPC 79 - London, United Kingdom - December 12 - 16, 2022
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## IMO 2022 Theme: New Technologies for Greener Shipping



New technologies for greener shipping has been chosen as the World Maritime theme for 2022, reflecting the need to support a green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future, while leaving no one behind.

This theme provides an opportunity to focus on the importance of a sustainable maritime sector and the need to build back better and greener in a post pandemic world.

The IMO Council, meeting for its 125th session (28 June-2 July), endorsed the theme following a proposal by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim.

Mr. Lim said the theme would provide an opportunity to focus on the importance of a sustainable maritime sector and the need to build back better and greener in a post pandemic world.

"IMO actively supports a greener transition of the shipping sector into a sustainable future, and showcases maritime innovation, research and development, and the demonstration and deployment of new technologies," Mr. Lim said.

"In order to achieve these objectives, partnerships are key, as they allow all parties involved to share and distribute information on best practices and to access resources and general know-how in support of the transition of the maritime sector into a greener and more sustainable future. This theme will allow for a coordinated outreach and communications campaign by all stakeholders to highlight IMO initiatives to make shipping greener", Mr. Lim said.

The theme will allow for a range of activities to delve into specific topics related to promotion of inclusive innovation and uptake of new technologies to support the needs for a greener transition of the maritime sector, especially in the context of developing countries, and in particular the small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs).

The theme is linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 13 and 14 on climate action and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources; SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; and SDG 17, which highlights the importance of partnerships and implementation to achieve these goals.

IMO's Department of Partnerships and Projects (DPP) was established in 2020 to serve as the gateway for developing partnership opportunities with a wide range of external partners, including IMO Member States, UN agencies, financial institutions, NGOs, IGOs and the private sector.

Decarbonization, marine plastic litter and biofouling are among the topic areas already being addressed by the major projects of IMO, including [GMN](#), [GloFouling Partnerships](#), [GreenVoyage2050](#) and [GloLitter Partnerships](#). All of these projects aim to support and promote innovation and green technologies.

BEMA is proud to promote and contribute to the IMO's World Maritime Theme for 2022!

For more information take a look here:

<https://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/Pages/World-Maritime-Theme-2022.aspx>

Follow BEMA on social media to get the latest information, news and #RealBallastFacts directly from the #BallastGeeks themselves. Twitter: [@BEMAAssociation](#) LinkedIn: [Official BEMA LinkedIn Page](#)

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