

# Developments in the Intersessional Period

## 4.7.2 ICES IOC IMO Working Group on Ballast Water and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)

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Science for sustainable seas

# ICES IOC IMO Working Group on Ballast Water and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)



WGBOSV provides scientific support to the development of international measures aimed at reducing the risk of transporting non-native species via shipping activities.

As a joint working group, WGBOSV follows and supports the work of its three umbrella organizations: the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and ICES. Topics addressed by the group include: reviews of shipping vectors and progress in ballast water research, risk assessment methods and testing of ballast water treatment techniques, recommendations on port ballast water sampling programmes and considerations of discharge standards for organisms in ballast water. Investigate and evaluate climate change impacts on the establishment and spread of ship-mediated NIS, particularly with respect to the Arctic

- Chair- Okko Outinen (Finland) 2025 -2027



# WGBOSV and IOC IPHAB

## Relevant WGBOSV Terms of Reference



Term of Reference	IPHAB Task Team or Operation
a.) Conduct strategic planning to advance research and address knowledge gaps by reviewing national activities and responding to new requests for advice requests.	Task Team on HAIS /GHSR Task Team on Early Warning Systems
b). Provide support to the review of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention, currently ongoing under the Experience Building Phase (EBP) by providing data and input on compliance monitoring and commission testing of ballast water management systems	Task Team on Early Warning Systems Global HAB Subcommittee on Best Practices HAB Solutions A UN Ocean Decade Project
c.) Investigate and evaluate the potential effects of shipping on the biodiversity in a world transformed by climate change.	Task Team on Algal Taxonomy Task Team on Biotoxins Task Team on HAIS/GHSR

# Workshop on Ballast Water Sampling and Compliance Monitoring by Port Sampling Control (PSC) Day 2



Joint Meeting between WGBOSV and Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre (SERC)  
Part one of workshop during WGBOSV March meeting, Part two at SERC April 2025.

- Aims of Workshop WGBOSV

- Provide information to IMO and IOC on PSC inspections related to improving efficiency of inspections and control of ships. Initial and detailed inspections (record keeping, common cause for system failure, maintenance items for inspections); Sampling and analysis of ships ballast water –in line sampling; and violations and control of ships (compliance and penalisation)

- Aims of Workshop SERC

- Collect information and generate knowledge on ballast water sampling and analysis methods, particularly frequency, benefits, and drawbacks of each method (discharge, and or uptake, in tank and in-line sampling, detailed counts and indicative analyses) in relation to compliance monitoring and detection of organism viability.

## Outcomes of Workshop WGBOSV

- A summary document on successful practices and identified challenges to harmonized inspection procedures and improve ballast water compliance monitoring, to be submitted as a document to a relevant MEPC meeting or inform ICES positions to contribute to the Correspondence Group on Review of BWM Convention

## Outcomes of Workshop SERC

- Strategies to coordinate, collaborate, and compare biological data on performance of BWMS across research groups and countries.
- Discussion on coordinated approaches and opportunities to join efforts across countries, to enhance scale (samples size and geographic scope) of existing data on BWMS testing.

# Working Group on Ballast Water and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV) IOC IMO ICES



Additional Terms of Reference (2025-2027)

Term of Reference	Relevance to IOC IPHAB and IOC Broadly
d.) Provide support for the implementation of the IMO Guidelines of the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling (2023) through investigating and evaluating understudied aspects of vessel biofouling, such as risk of non-native species introductions associated with various levels of biofouling, and release of organisms, and waste materials from ships and recreational vessels during voyages and cleaning operations, such as in-water cleaning.	
e). Evaluating the development of DNA and RNA based molecular tools for surveillance and monitoring of ship-borne non-native species. ICES Viewpoint in development.	



# ICES IOC IMO WGBOS March 5-7, 2025

## College Park, Maryland, USA

