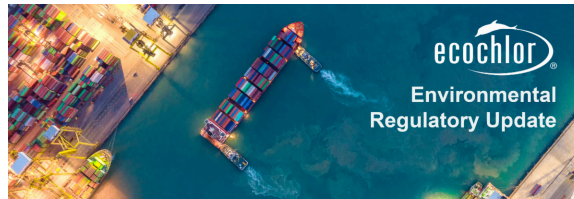


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International News

MEPC81 Summary

The 81st session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) was held 18 – 22 March 2024.

A few key developments related to ballast water are:

1. The *Interim guidance on the application of the BWM Convention to ships operating in challenging water quality conditions* was finalized and adopted;
2. The *Guidance for the temporary storage of treated sewage and/or grey water in ballast tanks* was approved and will be published as BWM.2/Circ.82;
3. Amendments to the BWM Convention regarding use of electronic record books were confirmed and agreed by the Committee, with an entry-into-force date of 1 October 2025; and
4. The list of provisions for revision and/or development associated with the BWM Convention Review was endorsed by the Committee, and the Correspondence Group was re-established to continue its work toward preparing a package of proposed amendments to the BWM Convention. This CG report will be submitted to MEPC 83 (early 2025).

IMO Agrees to Possible Outline for Maritime Net-Zero Framework

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has agreed on the next steps to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping. These include finalizing a comprehensive impact assessment of proposed mid-term measures, holding expert workshops and working group meetings to discuss the assessment findings, and developing draft terms of reference for a Fifth IMO GHG Study. Additionally, IMO will establish a GESAMP Working Group to assess issues related to the life cycle GHG intensity of marine fuels and set up correspondence groups to develop a regulatory framework for onboard carbon capture systems and investigate social and economic sustainability aspects of marine fuels.

Read the full MEPC 81 summary from IMO [HERE](#)

10th Secretary-General Takes Office

The newest and 10th Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez (Panama), took office on 1 January 2024. On 8 January, he named his Senior Management Committee Members, and he has shared a New Year's message containing his vision and goals for the IMO's work during his term. [READ MORE](#) and [WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)

IMO 11th PPR Meeting

The Sub-Committee discussed the environmental risks of transporting plastic pellets by sea and agreed on draft recommendations for their carriage in freight containers. These include using strong packaging to prevent loss, clearly identifying containers with plastic pellets, and properly stowing them under deck or in sheltered areas. The Sub-Committee also agreed on draft guidelines for cleaning up plastic pellet spills from ships. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Revised PSC Procedures

The IMO's revised Port State Control (PSC) Procedures entered into force on 01 January 2024. Details can be found [HERE](#).

Class NK FAQ EU-ETS Update

Class NK has published a document on the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for the EU-ETS for Shipping 2nd Edition](#). The document is intended to help maritime stakeholders understand the European Union's (EU) Emissions Trading System (ETS) and to support making the necessary preparations for compliance with the program.

United States News

ABS and AAPA Published a Report "Port Decarbonization Survey: Trends and Lessons Learned" ABS and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) published a joint survey report titled "[Port Decarbonization Survey: Trends and Lessons Learned](#)". The report provides insights to help ports and other stakeholders work together to achieve decarbonization goals. Based on feedback from AAPA members and an advisory group, it covers current trends, grant funding opportunities, and policy recommendations to help reach near-term decarbonization targets quickly.

2023 USCG PSC Annual Report

The USCG has published its [2023 Port State Control Annual Report](#). The overall rate of detentions during 2023 increased from 0.89% to 1.22%, also with an increase in the number of recognized organizations associated with the detentions increasing from 9 (2022) to 15 (2023). With respect to ballast water, the USCG report indicates that 29% fewer deficiencies were issued during 2023 over the prior year, and the majority of the 2023 deficiencies were related to vessels with inoperable BWMS and/or failure of vessels to report an inoperable BWMS to the local COTP.

Updates to the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for updates to the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program (MCP) was published in the Federal Register on 15 March 2024. Proposed changes will impact the submission of information, fee payments and other technical updates to the MCP. The USCG is welcoming comments on the proposed updates through 13 May 2024. More information [HERE](#)

USCG BWMS Type Approvals

Ballast Water Management System Type Approvals – the USCG has not issued new type approvals since October 2023. There are currently four (4) applications under review for amendments to existing type approvals. The USCG maintains a [list of approved systems and those under review](#) for type approval. Type Approval Certificates for all USCG approved BWMS are available [HERE](#).

Please contact Ecochlor at sales@ecochlor.com to learn how the Ecochlor® BWMS can help your vessels achieve and maintain compliance with international ballast water regulations.

This information is provided by Ecochlor as a courtesy and all regulatory requirements must be verified by the vessel

Armada Technologies

Armada Technologies has partnered with Cool Company Ltd (CoolCo), a top LNG carrier company, to advance sustainability in the industry. Armada will implement its innovative air lubrication system on a CoolCo vessel in September 2024. Under this partnership, Armada will design, engineer, procure, and provide support for the installation and commissioning of its innovative air lubrication system on a CoolCo vessel scheduled to dry dock in 2024. Once commissioned, CoolCo will conduct sea trials and provide documentation to Armada, following ISO or ITTC guidance, to measure the system's performance. Learn more [HERE](#).

Sinotech

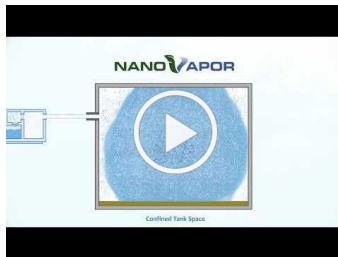
In January 2024, Sinotech completed, the first installation on a 95k DWT bulk carrier, the *Alkimos*, owned by Victoria Steamship. In addition, Ecochlor and Sinotech have entered a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Greek shipowner, Diana Shipping. Under the LOI, plans are underway to equip Diana Shipping's capesize dry bulk carrier, the *MV G.P. Zafirakis*, with Sinotech's scrubber and CCS technology. The system promises to capture and liquefy up to 25% of CO₂ emissions! Learn more about the [Victoria Steamship](#) installation and the [Diana Shipping Letter of Intent](#).

EcoOne Filterless BWMS

Ecochlor has almost 400 BWMS installed or on order and more than 23 years of experience in operations. In 2021, our company introduced the EcoOne[®], which has redefined the ballast water management model by offering a filterless system that is both exceedingly efficient and remarkably simple to operate and has the added advantage of very low power. With our responsive global service support, the EcoOne[®] provides shipowners not just with a compliance solution but an eco-friendly, economical, and crew-friendly technology that stands out in the BWMS field. Learn more [HERE](#).

NanoVapor

Gas-freeing tank technology. Watch the video below to learn more.



Armada Technologies, Sinotech and NanoVapor are affiliates of the Ecochlor "Green Marine" Technologies' portfolio in energy efficient, innovative, environmentally-friendly maritime technologies.

Upcoming Webinars, Exhibits and Conferences

Posidonia Masterclass in Shipping

Leading shipping professionals share their industry experience Find out more!

Posidonia

Athens, Greece
Exhibition Stand # 4.203
Exhibition Dates: 3 - 7 June 2024
To schedule a meeting contact our Greek representative contact:
Panos Smyroglou: panos.smyroglou@ecochlor.com

Ecochlor will be hosting workshops at Posidonia on *Reaching Your Decarbonization Goals, Carbon Capture and Storage, Hull Air Lubrication and Energy Efficient Technologies in Shipping*. A complete schedule will be released soon.

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