



International News

Next MEPC Meeting Schedule

IMO's 82nd Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is scheduled for 30 September to 4 October 2024. In 2025, there would normally be one MEPC meeting; however, to support furthering the work on greenhouse gas (GHG) topics, the IMO has indicated that an extra-ordinary session of MEPC will also be held, resulting in two MEPC sessions in 2025. The preliminary program notes that MEPC 83 is set to take place from 7 to 11 April 2025 and the extra MEPC session is tentatively scheduled for 13 to 17 October 2025.

Tokyo MoU Released Annual PSC Report

The [Annual Port State Control \(PSC\) Report for 2023](#) has been released by Tokyo MoU, with 2023 marking the 30th anniversary of since its establishment. During 2023 a total of 30,887 inspections were conducted on 18,298 individual ships. Ships are detained when the condition of the ship or crew are substantially misaligned with the international conventions applicable to that ship. Inspections during 2023 resulted in 1,334 detentions of ships registered under 71 flag States, yielding a detention rate of 4.32%.

IACS Published Recommendations on BWMS Commissioning Testing

In April 2024, IACS published [Recommendation No 180](#) containing guidance for conducting biological commissioning testing of a ballast water management system (BWMS) in accordance with IMO's circular BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1. The guidance document provides comprehensive information about biological commissioning testing, including indicative and detailed analysis methods.

IACS UR Become Mandatory July 2024

On 01 July 2024, [IACS Unified Requirements \(UR\) E26 and E27](#) will become mandatory, and all newbuild vessels after this date will need to comply. These UR's are intended to enhance the cyber resilience of ships, considering the increased digital connection and technology adaptation taking place in the shipping industry. Protection from cyber attacks that can compromise the safety, operations and data integrity is necessary and these two UR's have undergone extensive revisions to support these goals.

Posidonia 2024 is set to continue its legacy of excellence under the theme "Powering ahead."

Posidonia offers access to the Greek shipping community, providing invaluable networking and business opportunities. Access to the Posidonia Exhibition is free of charge. Visitors are encouraged to [register online](#) prior to their arrival at the venue, to assure quick entry to the exhibition. Click on the links navigate the exhibition halls and discover [exhibitors](#), view the [site plan](#) or see details on [conferences and seminars](#). Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect and collaborate with industry leaders at Posidonia 2024.



United States News

USCG Required to Provide Data Relevant to BWMS Testing During Type Approval to any US State or Territory

On 14 May 2024, through [H.R. 7659](#), the US House of Representatives enacted an amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 that requires the USCG to provide, upon request of any State or US Territory, all data relevant to testing of BWMS during type approval. This data includes biological organism concentrations in challenge water, challenge water quality parameters, and the associated data after treatment by the BWMS. The data will be included within the Type Approval Certificate issued by the USCG to a BWMS that has completed the type approval requirements. This development is the result of efforts over several years by various stakeholders who have requested relevant type approval testing data for BWMS from the USCG, which previously was not making this data publicly available. This will now get the USCG more aligned with Type Approval Certificates issued under the IMO's requirements, where testing data is already included. Availability of the data can support shipowners in selecting an appropriate BWMS for their ships and associated water quality conditions where their ships operate.

USCG and NCB Sign MoU on Safety of Hazardous Materials Shipments at Sea and Port

The USCG and the National Cargo Bureau (NCB) recently signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) focusing on the safety of hazardous materials shipments at sea and through ports. The MoU, which encourages port-level coordination between USCG and NCB relating to shared trend analysis and other information to support risk-based container investigation efforts, was signed on 8 May 2024.

USCG Published Guidance of USCG Role for OREI

On 12 April 2024, the USCG published [Change 1 to Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular \(NVIC\) 02-23](#) containing guidance on the USCG's roles and responsibilities for Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREI) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The update to NVIC 02-23 provides clarifications related to Navigation Safety Risk Assessments that are reviewed as part of the Construction and Operations Plan for OREI.

USCG BWMS Type Approvals

Ballast Water Treatment 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.



Visit our Exhibition Stand Hall 4 #203 at Posidonia to talk to an Ecochlor, Armada Technologies, Sinotech or NanoVapor representative. [Armada Technologies](#), [Sinotech](#) and [NanoVapor](#) are affiliates of the [Ecochlor Technologies](#) Group offering maritime sustainability through energy-efficient, effective, eco-friendly maritime technologies.

EcoOne Technology Group

Armada Technologies

Armada Technologies has successfully secured \$3.2 million in seed funding to advance its second-generation Passive Air Lubrication System (PALS), designed to help shipowners meet decarbonization goals. The funding round attracted contributions from strategic partners, including Cool Company Management Ltd., and investors focused on maritime decarbonization like Future Planet Capital and Founders Factory. This investment marks a significant milestone for Armada, demonstrating industry confidence in their innovative hull lubrication technology, which enhances efficiency by adapting bubble production to various ship types and operating conditions. CEO Alex Routledge expressed his enthusiasm, highlighting the validation of their vision and technology quality, and the support of their investors. Read the full article [HERE](#).

Sinotech Installed First CCS on Bulk Carrier

Sinotech's CCS was installed on Victoria Steamship's bulk carrier, ALKIMOS, within three months, demonstrating flexible and responsive capabilities. Victoria Steamship sought significant emission reductions to comply with MARPOL VI 2030 standards. ALKIMOS's large engine setup required an advanced solution, which Sinotech provided using an energy-efficient amine-based absorption process to capture up to 95% of CO2 emissions, typically achieving 25-35% capture rates. The ALKIMOS CCS package included an open-loop scrubber for SOx reduction, a CO2 absorption tower, and two 10 kW rotor sail wind turbines for sustainable electricity. This system allows the vessel to utilize cheaper HFO instead of low sulfur fuels and achieve a 15% CO2 capture rate, with storage for 40 days of cruising. With global CO2 offloading infrastructure expected to grow, Sinotech currently arranges offloading via their partner facilities in Chinese ports until then. Learn more [HERE](#).

EcoOne® Filterless BWMS

Ecochlor, with nearly 400 BWMS installed or on order and over 23 years of operational experience, introduced the groundbreaking EcoOne® in 2021. This filterless system sets a new standard in ballast water management for its exceptional efficiency, user-friendly operation, and minimal power consumption. Supported by our worldwide service network, EcoOne® offers shipowners a compliance solution that is eco-conscious, cost-effective, and crew-friendly, distinguishing it in the BWMS industry. Learn more [HERE](#).

NanoVapor

Managing explosive, toxic, and environmentally harmful vapors from oil or petrochemicals in confined spaces is a constant challenge for marine transportation. Inland-marine and ocean-going vessels often require extensive hours or days to safely drain, purge, and gas free fuel oil or cargo tanks for repairs, maintenance, or inspections. This process can be especially disruptive for unscheduled repairs. In the marine transportation industry, balancing safety and efficiency is critical. Operators aim to minimize vessel downtime related to both scheduled and unscheduled tank maintenance, repairs, and inspections. Discover how NanoVapor enhances crew safety, saves time, and reduces costs. Learn more [HERE](#).

Upcoming Webinars, Exhibits and Conferences



Please visit our Posidonia Exhibition Stand #4.203

Athens, Greece

Exhibition Dates: 3 - 7 June 2024

The following representatives will be there, contact them directly to set up a meeting to discuss our ballast water management system options or our "green marine" technology portfolio.

- Andrew Marshall, CEO: andrew.marshall@ecochlor.com
- Panos Smyroglou, VP Sales & Marketing: panos.smyroglou@ecochlor.com
- Michael Madely, VP Global Service: michael.madely@ecochlor.com
- David Swindells, Director of Sales & Marketing: david.swindells@ecochlor.com

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