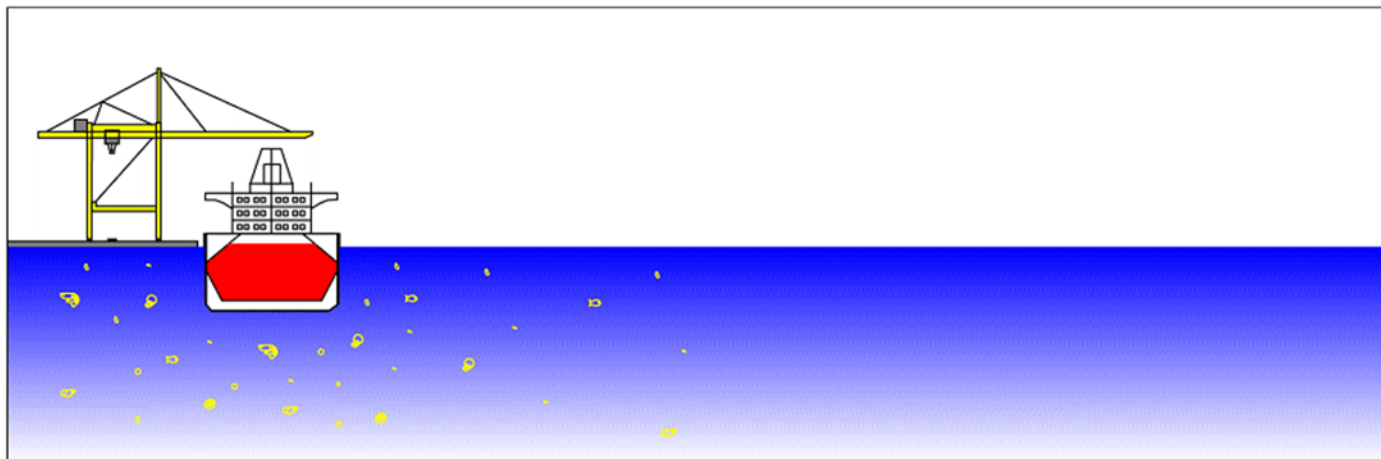


IPA cross-border project BALMAS (Ballast water management system for Adriatic sea protection)

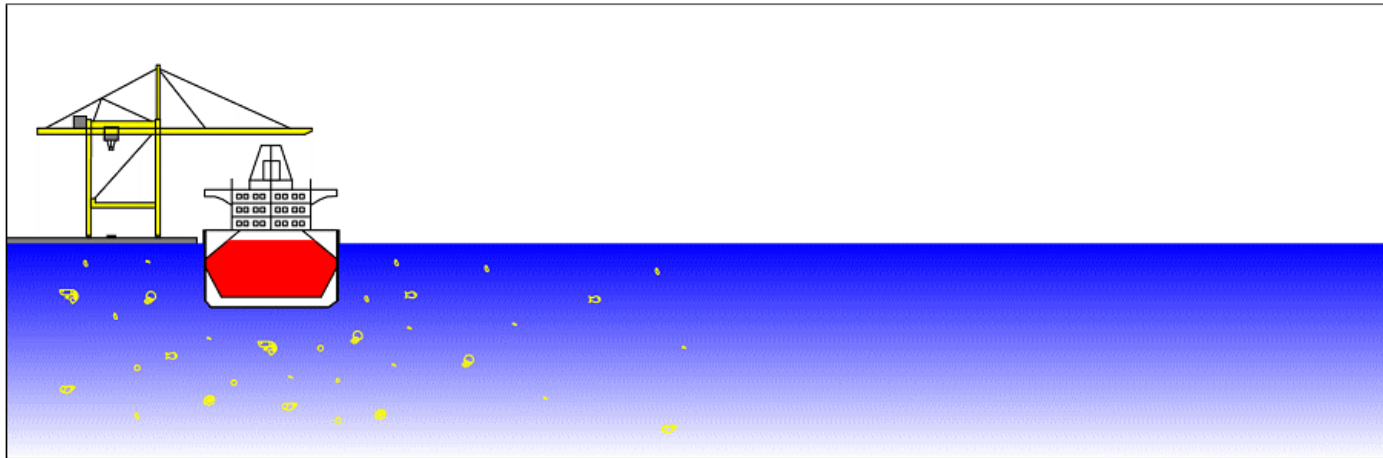
Gašper Zupančič,
Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

BlueMed meeting, Piran, 22.3.2017

What's wrong with ballast water?



What's wrong with ballast water?



Threat not only theoretical?

- Numerous examples worldwide (*mnemiopsis leidyi* in Black Sea, Zebra mussel in the Great Lakes...)
- Transfer of HAOP across natural barriers one of 4 greatest threats to world oceans (IMO) with BW recognised as an important vector
- BWM Convention (IMO 2004)
- In Europe the monetary impact of NIS estimated at 12 Billion € annually
- The Adriatic sea is a rich and sensitive ecosystem with recognised pressures:
 - One of the worlds busiest seas regarding maritime traffic
 - Over 10 million tons of BW discharged per year
 - BW originating from all over the world
 - HAOPs are present and negative impacts recorded
- BW has to be managed regionally!

BWM Convention

- The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
- Adopted at IMO in 2004
- Will enter into force on 8.9.2017
- Slovenia and Italy not ratified yet

- The leading principle in managing BW is:
 - Managing (treating) BW on vessels
 - Other possibilities available (BW exchange on open seas, BW treatment in ports etc.)

- The responsibility of countries to implement the convention (develop a system, maintain it, check for compliance etc.)

The strategic project BALMAS

BALMAS = Ballast water management system for Adriatic sea protection

Specifics:

- IPA Adriatic Cross border cooperation programme 2007-2013
- 16 beneficiaries + 7 associates, led by IWRS in cooperation with external scientific advisors (Matej David and Stephan Gollasch)
- Organizations dealing in environmental protection, marine biology, maritime traffic and national authorities (environment and transport).
- 6 Adriatic countries
- Project duration: 1.11.2013 – 30.9.2016 (35 months)
- budget: 6,7 mio. EUR



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY



The project is co-funded by the European Union
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

Project consortium

17 beneficiaries from 6 Adriatic countries:

- LB: Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia)
- FB1: National institute of Biology – Marine Biology Station (Slovenia)
- FB2: Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport – Coast Guard Headquarters (Italy)
- FB3: Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy)
- FB4: Marine Research Centre Foundation (Italy)
- FB5: National Research Council (CNR) - Institute of Marine Sciences (ISMAR) (Italy)
- FB6: OGS National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (Italy)
- FB7: Scientific and Technological Park of Molise – Moliseinnovazione (PSTMOL) (Italy, retreated from the project)
- FB8: Ministry of the Maritime affairs, Transport and Infrastructure (Croatia)
- FB9: University of Dubrovnik (Croatia)
- FB10: Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Croatia)
- FB11: Rudjer Boškovic Institute – Center for Marine Research (Croatia)
- FB12: MARE NOSTRUM- Association of Croatian employers - shipowners in International trade (Croatia)
- FB13: Faculty of Civil Engineering University of Mostar (Bosnia and Hercegovina)
- FB14: Maritime Safety Department (Montenegro)
- FB15: University of Montenegro (Montenegro)
- FB16: Agriculture University of Tirana (Albania)

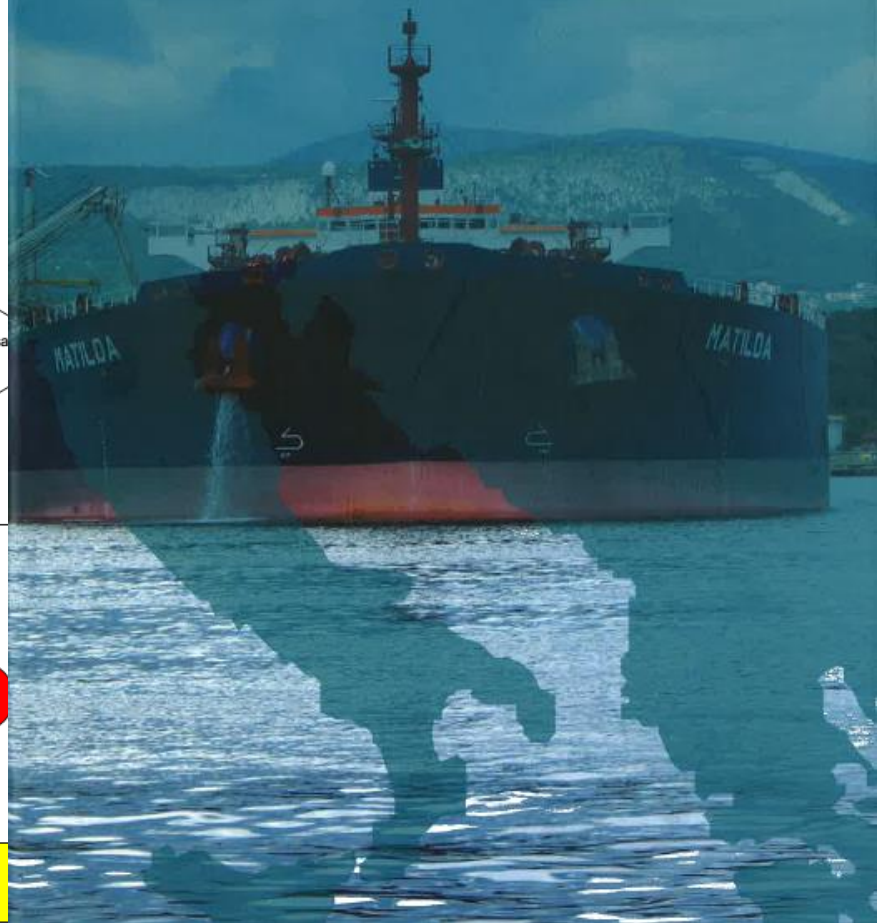
Project goal

- Set up a cross-border BWM system according to the BWM Convention linking Adriatic research institutions, experts and national authorities.
 - Provide strategic documents for a long-term implementation of the proposed BALMAS BWM system.
- ⇒ Thus minimize risks to the environment, human health, property and resources due to transfer of HAOP with BW and sediments.

Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Adriatic



Integrated Operational Plan for Ballast Water Management in the Adriatic



Project BALMAS

- Project ended in september 2016
- More on the project (including final reports, developed applications) accessible at:

www.balmas.eu

Concluding remarks

- With BALMAS, the Adriatic region can be considered as one of the best prepared international sea areas with regard to BW management.
 - Precious data, knowledge and experience gained
 - A BWM system developed
 - Strategic documents prepared
- How to go on?
 - Ratification of the BWM Convention (Italy and Slovenia)
 - Establishment of the proposed regional BW management system in Adriatic countries
 - ⇒ Political decision on an international level

Thank you!

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