

**Resolution 28/XXVII**  
**Ballast water exchange in the Convention Area**

Species	all
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	all

The Commission,

Affirming that CCAMLR was established to conserve the marine living resources of the Antarctic marine ecosystem,

Aware of the potential for invasive marine organisms to be transported into or moved between biologically distinct regions within the Convention Area by ships in their ballast water,

Recalling the requirements of Annex II to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty regarding conservation of Antarctic fauna and flora and in particular of the precautions taken to prevent the introduction of non-native species,

Conscious that the *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Waters and Sediments*, 2004 (IMO Ballast Water Management Convention), has yet to enter into force, but noting in particular its Article 13, which provides that in order to further the objectives of the Convention, Parties with common interests to protect the environment...in a given geographical area...shall endeavour...to enhance regional cooperation, including through the conclusion of regional agreements consistent with the Ballast Water Management Convention,

Recalling also Resolution 3(2006) adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, and Resolution MEPC.163(56) adopted by the International Maritime Organisation, which adopted *Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area*,

Desiring to extend the application of the above mentioned guidelines to the whole of the CAMLR Convention Area,

1. Urges all Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties cooperating with CCAMLR to take particular measures to apply the existing IMO *Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area*, and also the *Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the CAMLR Convention Area north of 60°S*, as set out in the annex to this resolution, as an interim measure to all ships engaged in harvesting and associated activities in the CAMLR Convention Area, before the Ballast Water Management Convention comes into force.
2. Furthermore, urges all Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties cooperating with CCAMLR to take action to develop effective treatment for ballast water.

**Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the  
CAMLR Convention Area North of 60°S<sup>1</sup>**

1. The application of these Guidelines should apply to those vessels covered by Article 3 of the IMO's International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (the Ballast Water Management Convention), taking into account the exceptions in Regulation A-3 of the Convention, which are engaged in harvesting and associated activities in the CAMLR Convention Area (as set out in Article II.3 of the Convention). These Guidelines do not replace the requirements of the Ballast Water Management Convention, but supplement the interim Ballast Water Regional Management Plan for Antarctica under Article 13(3), which has been adopted in ATCM Resolution 3(2006) and IMO Resolution MEPC.163(56).
2. If the safety of the ship is in any way jeopardised by a ballast exchange, it shall not take place. Additionally these guidelines shall not apply to the uptake or discharge of ballast water and sediments for ensuring the safety of the ship in emergency situations or saving life at sea in the CAMLR Convention Area.
3. A Ballast Water Management Plan should be prepared for each vessel with ballast tanks entering the Convention Area, specifically taking into account the problems of ballast water exchange in cold environments and in Antarctic conditions.
4. Each vessel entering the Convention Area should keep a record of ballast water operations.
5. Vessels are strongly encouraged to not discharge any ballast water in the Convention Area.
6. For vessels intending to discharge ballast water within the Convention Area, ballast water should first be exchanged before arrival in the Convention Area (preferably north of either the Antarctic Polar Frontal Zone or 60°S, whichever is the furthest north) and at least 200 n miles from the nearest land in water 200 m deep. (If this is not possible for operational reasons then such exchange should be undertaken in waters 50 n miles from the nearest land in waters of 200 m depth.)
7. Only those tanks that will be discharged in the Convention Area would need to undergo ballast water exchange following the procedure in paragraph 6. Ballast Water Exchange of all tanks is encouraged for all vessels that have the potential/capacity to load cargo in the Convention Area, as Antarctic voyages are renowned for their changes to planned routes and activities.
8. If a vessel has taken on ballast water in the Convention Area and is intending to discharge ballast water in Arctic, sub-Arctic, or sub-Antarctic waters, it is recommended that ballast water should be exchanged north of the Antarctic Polar Frontal Zone, and at least 200 n miles from the nearest land in water at least 200 m deep. (If this is not possible for operational reasons then such exchange should be undertaken in waters 50 n miles from the nearest land in waters of 200 m depth).

9. Release of sediments during the cleaning of ballast tanks should not take place in the Convention Area.
10. For vessels that have spent significant time in the Arctic, ballast water sediment should preferably be discharged and tanks cleaned before entering the Convention Area. If this cannot be done then sediment accumulation in ballast tanks should be monitored and sediment should be disposed of in accordance with the ship's Ballast Water Management Plan. If sediments are disposed of at sea, then they should be disposed of in waters greater than 200 n miles from the shoreline in waters 200 m deep.
11. CCAMLR Members are invited to exchange information on invasive marine species or anything that will change the perceived risk associated with ballast waters.

<sup>1</sup> ATCM Resolution 3(2006) and IMO Resolution MEPC.163(56) set out identical practical guidelines for all vessels operating in the Antarctic Treaty Area (i.e. south of 60°S).