

EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

STATUTORY ALERT: ROPME SEA AREA Ballast Water Management Regulation

Applicability: All Shipowners, Operators and Charterers

INFORMATION

In light of the Ballast Water Management Convention that replaced the voluntary guidelines and considering the specific provisions of the Convention, it is desired to take the necessary steps to mitigate the risk of introduction of harmful species and also to harmonize National and Regional policies to address the issue of Ballast Water in the RSA.

The ROPME Sea Area (RSA) is defined as extending between the following geographic latitudes and longitudes, respectively: 16°39'N, 53°3'30"E; 16°00'N, 53°25'E; 17°00'N, 56°30'E; 20°30'N, 60°00'E; 25°04'N, 61°25'E. It is the largest recipient of ships' ballast water. Annually, more than 50,000 vessels visit this area and discharge a large amount of ballast water. The RSA is a semi-enclosed water body with intensely hot summers and short cool winters, extensive air and water temperature fluctuation and relatively high salinity. It is also characterized by high turbidity and low exchange of water with open sea. Therefore, there is a need also to manage and control the spread of harmful aquatic species in ships' ballast water by implementing a set of measures such as ballast water exchange outside the ROPME Sea Area.

With effect from November 1, 2009, all ships, regardless of flag, will be required to exchange and treat all Ballast water taken up outside the ROPME Sea Area for the Protection of the Marine Environment. This comprises the states of K.Bahrain, IR.Iran, R.Iraq, S.Kuwait, S.Oman, S.Qatar, K.Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Taking into consideration the provisions of the regulation B-4 of the Ballast Water Management Convention, the following points should be observed:

- 1- Vessels arriving from outside the ROPME Sea Area should undertake ballast water exchange en route in water over 200 nautical miles from the nearest land and in water at least 200 metres depth.
- 2- If this is not possible for safety reasons, then vessels should be expected to make minor deviations to areas within the 200 nautical miles limit that can be identified as discharge area, so long as such areas are more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest land in waters at least 200 metres depth.
- 3- If this is not achievable, then the ship shall provide the respective authority with the reason why she has not done so, and further ballast water management measures may be required, consistent with the Ballast Water Management Convention and other international laws.

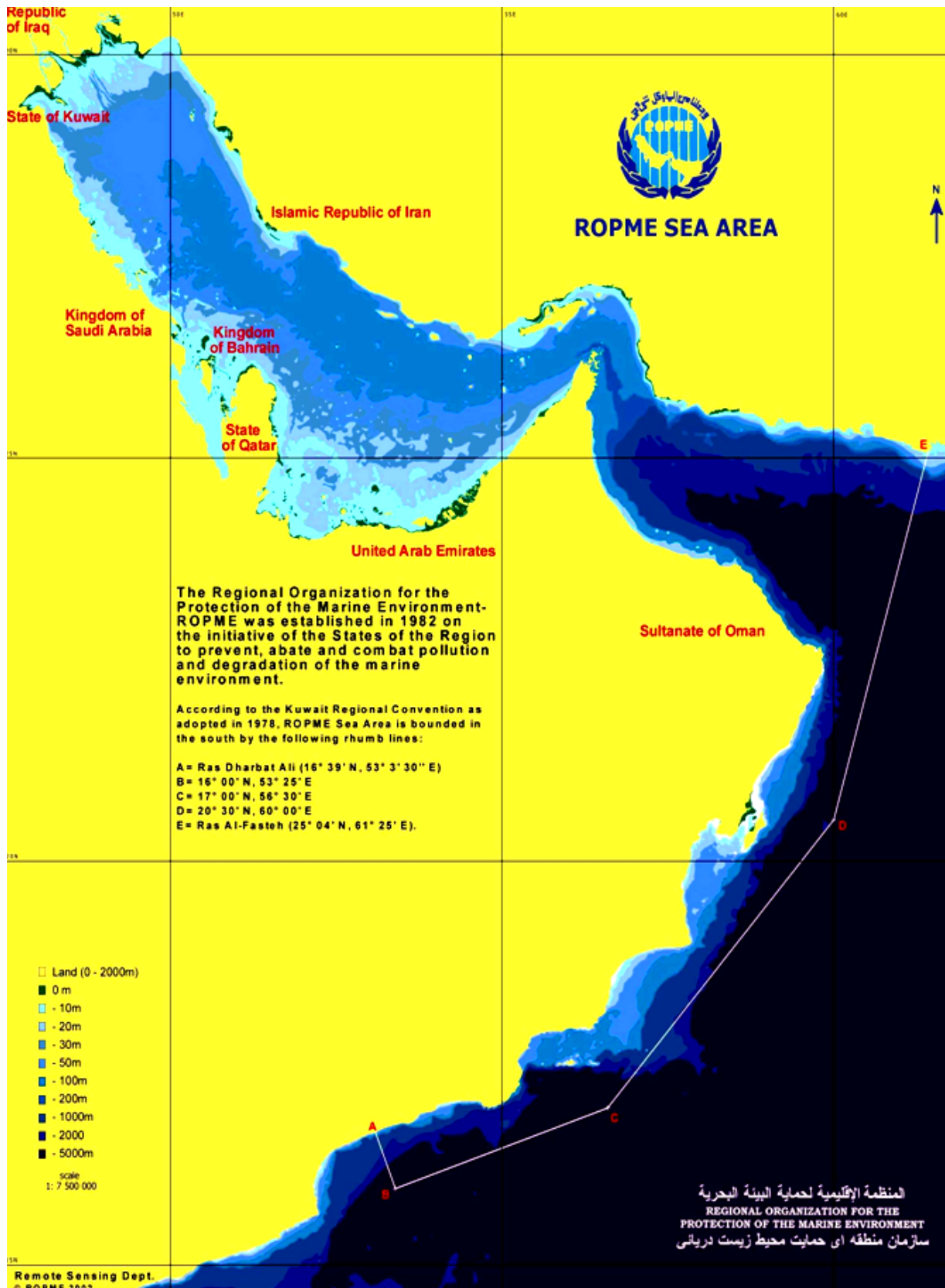
Ballast Water, which has been treated with a ballast water treatment system approved in accordance with IMO standards, does not need to be exchanged.

Ships will be required to have on board an approved Ballast Water Management Plan in accordance with the IMO standards. Ships should also have and maintain a ballast water Record Book.

From the date specified above, all the ships passing Strait of Hormoz will be required to complete the Regional Ballast Water Reporting Form (RBWRF) herewith attached. The ships will be inspected by the Port State Control Officers to ensure these Regional requirements are fully implemented.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you are an owner or operator and require further assistance, please get in touch with your local Ship's Agent or respected Port Authority or MEMAC as the Regional Centre at memac@batelco.com.bh at the earliest opportunity and we will be happy to assist.

ROPME SEA AREA CHART



ROPME Sea Area Ballast Water Reporting Form

1 - BALLAST WATER REPORTING FORM

(To be completed for all vessels arriving in all ROPME Sea Area Ports)

1. VESSEL INFORMATION 2. BALLAST WATER

Vessel Name:	Type:	IMO Number:	Specify Units: m ³ , MT, LT, ST
Owner:	GT:	Call Sign:	Total Ballast Water on Board:
Flag:	Arrival Date:	Agent:	
Last Port and Country:		Arrival Port:	Total Ballast Water Capacity:
Next Port and Country:			

3. BALLAST WATER TANKS IS THERE A BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ON BOARD? YES _____ NO _____ HAS THIS BEEN IMPLEMENTED? YES _____ NO _____

TOTAL NO. OF TANKS ON BOARD _____ NO. OF TANKS IN BALLAST _____ IF NONE IN BALLAST GO TO NO. 5 YES _____ NO _____

NO. OF TANKS EXCHANGED _____ NO. OF TANKS NOT EXCHANGED _____

4. BALLAST WATER HISTORY: RECORD ALL TANKS THAT WILL BE DEBALLASTED IN PORT STATE OF ARRIVAL; IF NONE GO TO NO. 5													
Tanks/Holds (list multiple sources/tanks separately)	BW SOURCE				BW EXCHANGE : circle one: Empty/Refill or Flow Through					BW DISCHARGE			
	DATE ddmmyy	PORT or LAT. LONG	VOLUME (units)	TEMP (units)	DATE ddmmyy	ENDPOINT LAT. LONG.	VOLUME (units)	% Exch.	SEA Hgt. (m)	DATE ddmmyy	PORT or LAT. LONG.	VOLUME (units)	SALINITY (units)
Ballast Water Tank Codes: Forepeak=FP, Aftpeak=AP, Double Bottom=DB, Wing=WT, Topside=TS, Cargo Hold=CH, O=Other													

IF EXCHANGES WERE NOT CONDUCTED, STATE OTHER CONTROL ACTION(S) TAKEN:

IF NONE, STATE REASON WHY NOT:

5. IS THERE A BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN? YES _____ NO _____

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER'S NAME AND TITLE (PRINTED) AND SIGNATURE: