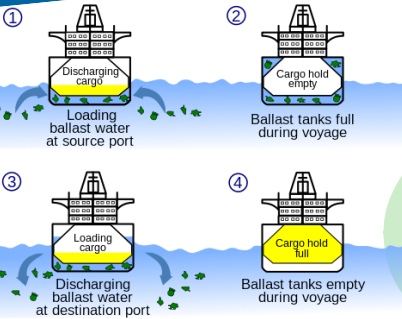


BALLAST WATER



The Australian Government regulates all international vessels carrying ballast water under the Biosecurity Act 2015

WHAT IS BALLAST WATER ?

Vessels balance the differences of weight of the cargo and the buoyancy of the ship with ballast water (sea water). A vessel with no cargo will need more ballast water to balance the buoyancy.

WHAT IS THE RISK ?

Ballast water can contain thousands of aquatic microbes, plants and animals.

Unmanaged ballast water released in Australian ports from foreign waters or ports could potentially introduce a range of invasive marine species.

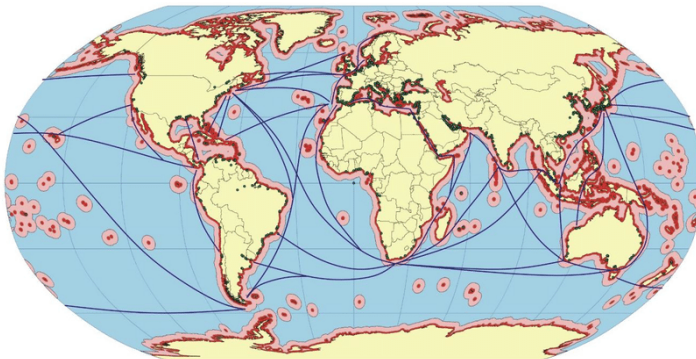
BALLAST WATER EXPLAINED

Exchange generally occurs in water >200m deep, with a number of different methods that allow the ships stability be maintained. This ensures that high risk ballast water is fully replaced with water sourced from the deep ocean.

HOW IS IT CONTROLLED ?

All international vessels must undertake, record and prove that ballast water is low risk. This is usually by undertaking a deep water exchange prior to entering the Great Barrier Reef or Torres Strait, or through use of an approved ballast water treatment system.

Bio-security officers audit vessels ballast water record systems that record the management of all ballast water taken up and discharged within Australian waters.



World map indicating the main intercontinental shipping routes (blue lines) and BWE areas according to the BWM Convention (red shading = 50 NM and pink shading = 200 NM limit to nearest land and > 200 m water depth)