

Current technological requirements for prevention and control of marine pollution from ships



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Abstract

Shipping – sustained by over 50,000 merchant ships registered in over 150 nations – is the life blood of the global economy. Seaborne trade continues to expand, bringing benefits for consumers across the world. Estimated at 57 thousand billion tonne-miles in 2017, seaborne trade estimates have quadrupled, from just over 8 thousand billion tonne-miles in 1968 to over 32 thousand billion tonne-miles in 2008. However, expanding trade and increased traffic volumes come with attendant consequences.

This paper reviews the canvas of current technological requirements within the IMO regulatory framework addressing pollution prevention measures including those under the remit of SOLAS Convention, MARPOL Convention in particular EEDI and SEEMP under Annex VI, AFS Convention for control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships, and the BWM Convention for prevention of the potentially devastating effects of the spread of invasive harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water.

This paper is expected to serve as a useful reference for seafarers and academicians alike on technological measures adopted at the IMO to prevent pollution from international shipping.