Meriturvallisuuden ja -liikenteen tutkimuskeskus
Kotka Maritime Research Centre

# BallastRISK

## Managing the invasive alien species risks at the Baltic Sea: novel tools to support the ratification of the Ballast Water Management Convention

Main project developed by **IRIS Seed Money project S64**

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EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
SEED MONEY FACILITY

*Part-financed by the European Union*

# BallastRISK

- *EUSBSR policy area/horizontal action*:
  - PA Ship, contributing to ”Save the Sea”, sub-objective ”Clean and safe shipping” as well as ”Rich and healthy wildlife”
- *Lead partner*: Kotka Maritime Research Association (FI)
- *Other confirmed partners*:
  - University of Helsinki (FI)
  - Finnish Environment Institute (FI)
  - Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences (FI)
  - Environmental Development Association (LV)
  - Chalmers University of Technology (SE)
  - University of Vilnius (LI)
- *Estimated duration*: 36 months
- *Estimated budget*: 2,6 million €
- Concept note submitted to Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme 1st call: not approved to the 2nd round

# Background

- Prevention of the introductions of invasive alien species (IAS)
  - Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
  - EU Habitat Directive implements the CBD at European level
  - EU MSFD – IAS are one indicator
  - EUSBSR – preventing IAS and supporting BWMC

- IMO Ballast Water Management Convention
  - might enter into force 2016

- Joint Harmonised Procedure on exemptions has been adopted in 2013 by the Baltic and NE Atlantic countries within HELCOM & OSPAR

# Aim of the project

- Baltic Sea is vulnerable to invasive alien species, but has special conditions that should be taken into account in order not to hamper shipping activity unnecessarily.

- Project seeks to improve risk assessment methods related to invasive alien species through ships ballast water in order to prevent IAS in the most cost-efficient way.

# Main tasks

- To develop a decision support tool for the search of most cost-effective ballast water treatment method given the characteristics of a ship.
  - ship type, age, etc
  - online tool, easy to update with the latest information

- Develop further the risk assessment tool of HELCOM and OSPAR, used by the authorities e.g. for the evaluation of the exemptions
  - expanding the list of target species
  - testing possibilities for risks related to hull fouling species

- Evaluate the current IAS risk management practices
  - criteria for type approval for BWMS
  - criteria for target species
  - criteria for port surveys

# Thank you!

More information:

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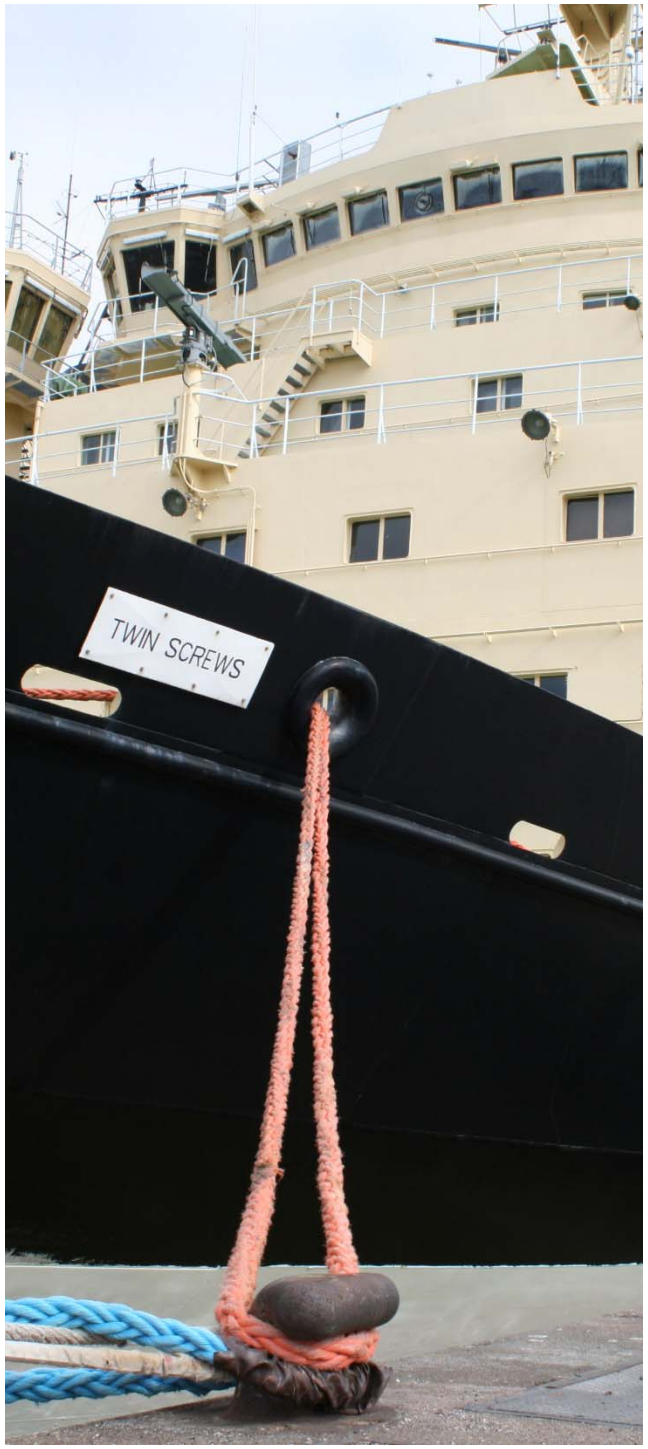
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