

Atlantic Blue Ports Newsletter #4

September 2020

The Atlantic Blue Ports project is aiming to improve the port based services for the discharge and treatment of ships effluents including oil and ballast water. The project's goal is to create awareness and motivation to stop discharge at sea using the Atlantic Area as a support platform to prototype, test, demonstrate and communicate activities. The project has gathered together a consortium of 28 partners and associated stakeholders representing ports, PRF operators, public authorities, SMEs and universities from across the Atlantic Area.

For more information on the project, its aims and objectives, achievements and partners please visit www.atlanticblueports.com

Newsletter Overview

[Virtual Project meeting in June](#)

[New partners](#)

[Virtual Project meeting](#)

[Final meeting at the Parliament](#)

[Recommendations to the IMO MEPC](#)

[Joining us via our interest group](#)

Project achievements to date and actions undertaken

[Virtual Project meeting in June 2020](#)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the partners held their 5th progress meeting virtually. Despite being less interactive than usual, the meeting enabled a constructive exchange on the progress achieved and the work still to be done before the end of the project. Besides the tests of the pilot systems for oily and ballast water treatment in Brest, the team will now concentrate on sea water monitoring, a contribution to the IMO for the regulation on Ballast Water Management Convention and the last meeting at the Parliament (see below).

[New partners](#)

In May 2020 the project team welcomed a new partner, the company SeaTopic. SeaTopic will focus on the environmental facet of the project (sea water monitoring in ports), its specialty, and will contribute to dissemination and capitalisation activities especially to the European / international policy regulatory bodies and it will support the group for its key actions: the feedbacks to the IMO and to the Parliament.

[Progress on sea water monitoring, sampling and modelling](#)

Knowledge of sea water properties in ports is essential to manage the risks of pollution of all types including biological ones (invasive species) and to make decisions. One action of Blue Ports is to design and to test enhanced monitoring and modelling facilities in port areas. Water properties and models will also allow the development of a risk assessment tool regarding possible transfers of alien species between ports due to shipping activities.

The company Bentley is in charge of developing this risk assessment tool starting from the concept of same risk area.

Recommendations to the IMO MEPC

The IMO Ballast water management convention aims at reducing the risk related to the transport of alien species from one port to another port. The convention entered into force on September 10th 2017. The project started officially on September 1st 2017.

Our goal was and is to accompany the implementation of the Convention. The project combines studies of available port based solutions (which are necessary for shipyards, Short Sea Shipping when there is a pollution risk, and for failure of on board systems) with tests in real conditions of the only one certified port based solution: InvaSave developed by DAME Green solution.

Following studies on implementation feedbacks and tests carried out in partner ports (Las Palmas, Lisbon, Setubal, Gijon and now Brest) the partners and its interest group have prepared a feedback document summarising the main project findings and recommendations to improve the Convention in order to facilitate its implementation. The text will be submitted as a contribution to the IMO BW Experience Building Phase set up by the IMO MEPC to gather feedback and recommendations from projects of any kind aiming at accompanying the implementation of the IM BWMC, which is the case of the Interreg “Atlantic Blue Ports” project.

For more information, please [contact us](#)

Final meeting at the Parliament

The Parliamentarian “Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas” intergroup (“searica”) works in a transverse/ cross cutting manner on EU policies and initiatives related to maritime topics such as the Blue Growth Strategy , the Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning, the Integrated Maritime Policy, as well as the different Sea Basin Strategies and, more recently, the Green Deal. It reflects the EU awareness of the importance of seas and oceans for a sustainable economic growth of the European Union.

The Atlantic Blue Ports project addresses some of the key topics of the searica intergroup: protection of the marine environment and marine biodiversity, reduction of marine pollution, development of sea water monitoring, etc, considering all facets of the issues including regulations. The Blue Port consortium is working to prepare a final exchange session with the searica members on the main recommendations for future actions.

More information: <http://www.searica.eu>

Contact us / join us

The project partners have created an interest group for anyone interested in the project. Joining the group is not engaging: any organisation can join to monitor the activities, to contribute to the studies of the Interest Group or to ask for implementing more concrete actions such as tests, recommendations to the IMO and EU decision making bodies, or to submit any idea that would help implementing the EU and international regulations related to ship effluents and waste. Join the interest group [here](#).

Contacts:

- ⇒ The coordinator: fabienne.vallee@brest.port.fr
- ⇒ The management board: contact@blueportservices.com

Project Partners:



Partnership

