



# COMPLETE

## COMPLETING MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION TO REDUCE RISK OF INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCTION BY SHIPPING

Shipping contributes to the uncontrolled introduction of invasive species to the Baltic Sea that has severe environmental and economic consequences.

COMPLETE supports the implementation of the International Maritime Organization's Convention on ballast water management that came into force on 8 September 2017 and their biofouling guideline documents by triggering regional cooperation, developing risk assessment procedures for ballast water management exemptions, and setting up a monitoring system of non-indige

Overall goals:

- Harmonized monitoring of non-indigenous species
- Harmonized implementation of Ballast Water Management Convention
- Proposal for a regional biofouling management strategy: ROADMAP

Follow the project [www.balticcomplete.com](http://www.balticcomplete.com)

Duration: OCT 2017 – SEPT 2020

Total budget: 3.2 million

European Regional Development Fund: 2.5 million

Maritime traffic is very intensive in the Baltic Sea area. Thousands of ships and leisure boats travel the Baltic Sea at all times. Such a busy traffic presents a high risk of transporting aquatic organisms from one port to another, which has an impact on local Baltic Sea ecosystems. Different marine species are spread not only by commercial ships via ballast water, but also by smaller leisure boats. Organisms attach to the hull of the vessels and are carried along within shorter or longer distances.

To gain a better understanding on how these organisms spread and which of them are already found in the Baltic Sea, scientists are taking samples from leisure boat hulls, and collecting information from leisure boat owners and users.

For this purpose, project partners have developed a special questionnaire, which not only can help to understand the potential routes of invasive organisms, but also to give an overview of the hull cleaning and treatment methods, which can have a direct impact on species distribution, that are used around the Baltic Sea.

By replying to the questionnaire everyone can contribute to providing information that is needed to better understand the current situation in the Baltic Sea area, and to help to create tools to prevent new invasions of invasive aquatic organisms.



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