

## What Is A BWMS

A BWMS is a system designed to manage ballast water on board ships and prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from one location to another.

Ships use ballast water to maintain their stability by taking on water when they have less cargo, and discharging it when they take on cargo. The problem with ballast water is that it often contains a variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses, plankton, and even larger species such as fish and crabs, that can be harmful to the environment and human health if they are released into a new location.

A BWMS is a system that is installed on ships to treat ballast water before it is discharged, in order to remove or kill any harmful organisms that may be present. There are various types of BWMS, including physical, chemical, and biological systems, that use different methods to treat ballast water.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has set standards for the treatment of ballast water, and ships are required to have a certified BWMS installed on board to comply with these standards.