

Fishing vessels on an international voyage that take on water or use brine to maintain stability must comply with Part 300

Position Statement (PS 05)

June 2024

New Zealand's Marine Protection Rules Part 300: Ballast (Part 300) set out rules for the control and management of ships' ballast water. Part 300 aims to prevent harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens entering into New Zealand's marine environment. If harmful aquatic organisms become established, they can severely harm our marine environment. Pathogens in ballast water can also present a risk to human health and marine ecosystems.

Part 300 gives effect to the provisions of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments 2004.

This position statement clarifies how Part 300 applies to:

- New Zealand flagged fishing vessels within New Zealand's jurisdiction on an international voyage to or from New Zealand; and
- foreign fishing vessels within New Zealand's jurisdiction on an international voyage to or from New Zealand.

Fishing vessels on an international voyage that take on water or use brine to maintain stability must comply with Part 300

When on non-fishing international voyages, fishing vessels that use refrigerated sea water tanks (RSW) or non-dedicated ballast water tanks for stability, are considered to be carrying ballast water in ballast water tanks. Therefore, these vessels must be compliant with Marine Protection Rules Part 300 when on international voyages.

Key Terms

Ballast water in relation to a ship, means water with its suspended matter taken on board the ship to control the ship's trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses.

Ballast water tank means any tank on a ship used for carrying, loading, or discharging ballast water, including any multi-use tank designed to allow carriage of ballast water.

International voyage means a journey by water from a port in New Zealand to a port outside of New Zealand or vice versa; or for a New Zealand ship, a port outside New Zealand to another port outside New Zealand.

New Zealand jurisdiction means the internal waters of New Zealand, the territorial sea of New Zealand, and the exclusive economic zone of New Zealand.

Non-dedicated ballast water tank for the purposes of this position statement, means any tank used to carry ballast water which is not specifically designed to carry ballast water.

Non-fishing voyage for the purposes of this position statement, means a voyage where fishing does not occur (fish are not caught and stored as cargo on the vessel). They include voyages for relocation, repair, maintenance or dry-docking.

Refrigerated sea water tank (RSW) for the purposes of this position statement, means any tank used on board fishing vessels to preserve large catches.

Vessel for the purposes of this position statement, means vessel, ship, or boat and is a generic term that is not associated with the size of the craft.

Where can I find further information

See Maritime New Zealand's website for:

- Part 300, and
- ballast water management guidelines.

