



Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais,
Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

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Subject:	Ballast Water Convention (BWM) - Presence of a non-indigenous species, <i>Styela Plicata</i>, in some locations of the Portuguese coast.
To:	Ship owners, Companies, Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters of Portuguese flagged vessels

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Under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments (approved for accession by the Portuguese Government through Decree-Law n.º 23/2017 of 31st July), Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos - DGRM - (General-Directorate of Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services) informs that a non-indigenous species (NIS), *Styela Plicata*, has been identified in certain locations of the Portuguese coast. This species is not harmful to human health but is subject to cause social and economic impacts because it puts at risk the bivalve molluscs (such as clams, mussels, donax or oysters) farming industry by attaching to these organisms and their fixing structures, competing with them for food, thriving at their cost. *Styela Plicata* species can be introduced to new locations through ships' ballast water and ships' hull, once it can travel the oceans on its surface.

The locations where this NIS was detected are:

- Lisbon marinas of Cascais (38° 41' 30.4188"N; 9° 25' 5.523"W) and Oeiras (38° 40' 34.58'' N; 9° 19' 8.109'' W) and dock of Alcântara (38° 42' 3.017'' N, 9° 10' 21.061'' W) - all of them situated in the Tagus Estuary;
- Ports of Nazaré (39° 34' 59.970'' N, 9° 4' 32.084'' W) and Peniche (39° 21' 20.671'' N, 9° 22' 16.154'' W) - 80 and 50 km north to Lisbon, respectively;
- Marina of Albufeira (37° 5' 4.880'' N, 8° 15' 57.384'' W), located on the Portuguese south coast, Algarve;

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It has also been detected in Lagoa de Albufeira (39° 30' 37.580'' N, 9° 10' 41.200'' W), a wide lagoon next to the coast (33 km south to Lisbon), which is only opened once a year to the sea, thus, not having conditions for the navigability of ships. This lagoon has an area which is dedicated to the farming of bivalves, currently affected by the mentioned NIS.

Considering the potential ecological, economic and social consequences *Styela Plicata* causes on countries involved in the bivalve molluscs' production, namely Portugal and Spain, DGRM warns mariners not to uptake or discharge near the mentioned locations, unless for the purpose of ensuring the safety of a ship in emergency situations or saving life at sea, notwithstanding the fact that every ship, whether the BWM Convention is applied to it or not, should exchange ballast water according to the depth, distance to coast and other conditions established in the Convention and taking into account the Guidelines developed by the International Maritime Organization.

Lisbon, 18th July 2018

The Director-General of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services

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