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The screenshot shows the 'Download Library' page of the IMO Bookshelf. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, Index, Library Search, Download Library, Offline Mode, Account, IMO Certificate, Terms & Conditions, and User Manual. The main content area displays a table of downloadable documents. At the top, there is a search bar with a 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button. The table has columns for 'Saved', 'Title', 'Status', and 'Filesize'. Each row includes a 'Save' button (or a 'Delete' button for the 'Ballast Water Management Convention and BWMS Code').

Saved	Title	Status	Filesize
Save All	<input type="text" value="Search Title"/>	Search	Clear
Save	2000 HSC Code		14.61 MB
Save	2009 MODU Code (2020 Edition)		7.95 MB
Save	Ballast Water Management - How to do it		3.81 MB
Delete	Ballast Water Management Convention and BWMS Code		12.64 MB
Save	BLU Code including BLU Manual, 2011 Edition		7.23 MB
Save	Cape Town Agreement of 2012		10.81 MB
Save	Carbon Dioxide Sequestration		4.67 MB
Save	Casualty Investigation Code		800.83 KB
Save	Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1992 CLC and 1992 Fund Convention)		3.43 MB
Save	Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships		1.02 MB

The screenshot shows the document viewer for the 'Ballast Water Management Convention and BWMS Code'. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, Index, Library Search, Download Library, Offline Mode, Account, IMO Certificate, Terms & Conditions, and User Manual. The main content area displays the document's table of contents and the 'Introduction' page. The document is displayed at 91% zoom. The 'Introduction' page contains text about the harmful effects of unwanted species in ships' ballast water and the development of the Convention.

Ballast Water Management Convention and BWMS Code

91%

Introduction

The harmful effects of unwanted species in ships' ballast water was first reported to IMO in 1988, when Canada informed the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) about invasive aquatic species in the Great Lakes. In response, the MEPC adopted in 1991 the first voluntary guidelines for preventing the introduction into the marine environment of unwanted aquatic organisms and pathogens from ships' ballast waters and sediment discharges.

Following the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the MEPC guidelines were approved and adopted as an Assembly resolution in 1993. The twentieth session of the IMO Assembly in 1997 adopted resolution A.868(20), *Guidelines for the control and management of ships' ballast waters to minimize the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens*, which superseded earlier and less comprehensive guidelines. The new resolution requested Governments to take urgent action in applying the guidelines and to report any experience gained in their implementation to the MEPC. The resolution further requested the MEPC to work towards the completion of legally binding provisions on ballast water management together with guidelines for their uniform and effective implementation.

From 1999 onwards, the Ballast Water Working Group, established by the MEPC in 1994, focused on the preparation of a free-standing Convention on control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, called for action at all levels to accelerate the development of measures to address invasive alien species in ballast water. The introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens to new environments has been identified as one of the four greatest threats to the world's oceans (the other three being land-sourced marine pollution, overexploitation of living marine resources and destruction of habitat). Proper control and management of ships' ballast water is therefore a major environmental challenge for IMO and the global shipping industry.

In accordance with Article 23a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, the IMO Council agreed in principle to convene a diplomatic conference in 2003 to consider the adoption of the instrument.

BWMS CONVENTION

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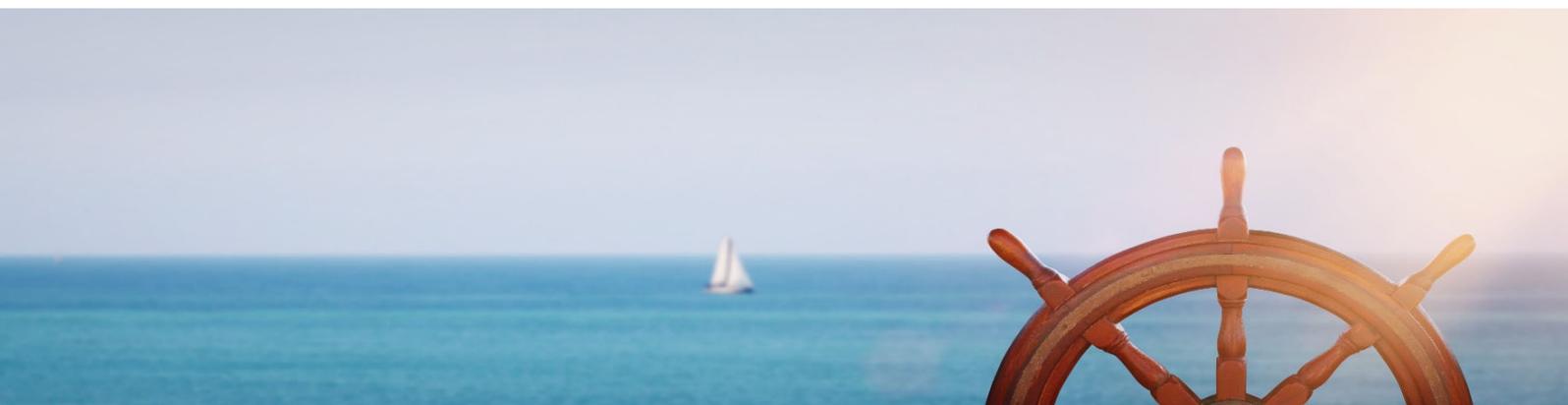
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