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**Shipbrokers Finland is working with BSAG to survey the handling of vessel waste waters**

**The Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) and Shipbrokers Finland are working together to benefit the Baltic Sea. The parties are conducting an extensive survey to determine the handling of vessel-generated waste waters and food waste.**

The aim of the co-operation is to gain information about different vessels' own sewage processing equipment and operational methods, as well as the amounts of grey/black water and food waste that are discharged into the sea and received by waste reception facilities at individual ports. To date, we have little information regarding the means that foreign vessels are using to handle waste water and food waste. The sewage reception abilities, communications or operational methods used by the different ports can also pose challenges. Grey water and food waste can legally be discharged into the sea, which is a factor that is contributing to the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea.

In 2019, Finnish ports received approximately 36,000 vessels, of which 30,000 were vessels sailing in international traffic and 6,000 domestic traffic. Foreign vessels accounted for 65% of the international traffic and about 50% of the domestic traffic.

Shipbrokers Finland is encouraging its own member companies to become active participants in BSAG's project. Through co-operation with BSAG, Shipbrokers will create a mobile questionnaire to gather information from vessels during 2020. The aim is to get a comprehensive picture of their sewage processing equipment and operational methods, as well as their methods for discarding grey water and food waste. This information will also be beneficial for authorities and researchers.

Those members of Shipbrokers Finland that have informed of their participation in the project include Finland's largest port agency firm, **C & C Portagency**, and its owner and the oldest shipping agency in Finland, **Dahlberg's Agency**; the international port agency company **GAC Finland**; and the Finnish maritime logistics companies **Kemi Shipping**, **Rauanheimo** and **Hacklin Port Service**. Additionally, the international shipping company **SAL Heavy Lift Finland** is also participating in this undertaking. Together, these companies handle the shipping clearance for more than 10,000 vessels each year, which will provide the project with ample information on the handling of grey/black water and food waste.

'Shipbrokers are key in maintaining the communication between vessels, shipping companies and ports. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to participate as an active contributor to BSAG's project on behalf of the Baltic Sea', states Sari Turkkila, General Manager at Shipbrokers Finland.

**Further information:**

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The Finnish Shipbrokers Association – Shipbrokers Finland represents ship agents and port operators, chartering brokers, liner agents and container shipping companies. Shipbrokers Finland has 40 member companies representing different aspects of the field and endeavours to promote the operational conditions for its members and sea transports as part of Finland’s international trade. [www.shipbrokers.fi](http://www.shipbrokers.fi)

The Baltic Sea Action Group, BSAG (2008) is an independent foundation working to restore the good ecological balance of the Baltic Sea within changing climate conditions. The activities of the BSAG are based on collaboration and bring together the necessary parties – including companies, researchers and political decision-makers – to solve the problems of the Baltic Sea. [www.bsag.fi](http://www.bsag.fi)