

# WHAT IS BALLAST WATER?

**Ballast water** is carried by ships for stability on shipping routes, and then released into foreign ecosystems hundreds or thousands of miles from where it was collected.

Ships carry over 90% of world trade, and transport up to **12 billion tons** of ballast water in their tanks every year.

An estimated **10,000 species** are carried every day in ships' ballast water tanks.

**European Green Crabs** arrived to the United States via ballast water in the 1800s, and have since spread to waters in Africa, Asia, South America, and Australia. These aggressive crabs compete with and feed on a vast array of native species.

MSC will be one of the earliest adopters of ballast water treatment systems, in part supported by IFC's financing for **150 systems** capable of treating the equivalent of 1,200 Olympic sized pools.

