

**Process for preventing contamination of the aquatic  
environment with organisms from another locality**

**Abstract**

The process according to the invention prevents the transfer of harmful organisms of zooplankton including the epifauna thereof and of phytoplankton including the resting stages thereof, which are taken up with the ballast water of ships and transferred to another place on discharge. According to the invention, the organisms are substantially destroyed by the addition of an agent containing a water-soluble percarboxylic acid with 1 to 6 C atoms, particularly an aqueous solution containing peracetic acid and/or performic acid and hydrogen peroxide, in a quantity of 0.1 to 200 mg of percarboxylic acid per litre of ballast water to the ballast water and allowing it to react before discharge. According to a preferred embodiment, a cyanide is added to the ballast water in addition to the percarboxylic acid.