

## Glossary

### **Clean ballast water**

Ballast water carried in a tank which has, since it was last used to carry oil, been thoroughly cleaned and the residues resulting from the cleaning have been discharged and the tank emptied.

### **Continental shelf**

A geological term that refers to the zone of the sea floor around a continent that extends from the shoreline and where the water depth is much shallower than in the open sea. Typical depths range from 100 to 800 metres compared to 2,000 to 7,000 metres or more for the open ocean.

**Environmental noise** shall mean unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic, and from sites of industrial activity such as those defined in Annex I to Council directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control.

**Frequency** is the measurement of the number of times that a repeated event occurs per unit of time. The frequency of **wave-like** patterns including sound, electromagnetic waves (such as radio or light), electrical signals, or other waves, expresses the number of cycles of the repetitive waveform per second.

The **hearing threshold** is the sound level below which a person's ear is unable to detect any sound. For adults, 0 dB is the reference level.

**Athreshold shift** is an increase in the hearing threshold for a particular sound frequency. It means that the hearing sensitivity decreases and that it becomes harder for the listener to detect soft sounds. Threshold shifts can

be temporary or permanent.

**Tinnitus** is a condition in which a person hears a ringing, buzzing or hissing sound which is caused by the hearing system itself and not by any external sources.

Tinnitus can be temporary or persistent and is relatively widespread. It is often associated with hearing impairment, ageing or exposure to loud sounds, and generally involves the part of the nervous system that deals with hearing.