



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update



USCG Penalties for Non-submittal of Ballast Water Reports

On June 14, 2004, the Coast Guard published regulations establishing penalties for ships headed to the U.S. that fail to submit a ballast water management reporting form, as well as vessels bound for the Great Lakes or portions of the Hudson River that violate mandatory ballast water management requirements.

These regulations also increase the number of vessels subject to these provisions by expanding the re-

porting and the recordkeeping requirements on ships, increasing the Coast Guard's ability to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous species as required by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act and the National Invasive Species Act. As of August 13, 2004, the Coast Guard may impose a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 per day and Class C Felony charge for non-submittal.

Vessels are strongly encouraged to electronically submit ballast water management reporting forms via e-mail and/or web-based methods available at the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse web site: <http://invasion.si.edu/NBIC/bwform.html>.

This final rule can be found at: <http://dms.dot.gov>. In this web site, proceed to simple search, and under docket number, enter 13147.

USCG Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for U.S. Waters

On July 28, 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard published regulations establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks that enter or operate within U.S. waters.

These regulations also require vessels to maintain a ballast water management plan that is specific for that ves-

sel and allows any master or appropriate official to understand and execute the ballast water management strategy for that vessel.

The establishment of a nationwide mandatory ballast water management program is a major step by the Coast Guard in protecting our environment, food supply, economy, health and overall biodiversity from the impacts

of non-indigenous species," said Capt. David Scott, Chief of the Coast

Guard's Office of Operating and Environmental Standards.

This final rule can be found at: <http://dms.dot.gov>. In this web site, proceed to simple search, and under docket number, enter 14273.

Great Lakes States Petition for Action on Vessels without Ballast On Board

On July 15, 2004, The Coast Guard received a petition from Attorney Generals of seven Great Lakes states to expand ballast water regulations governing vessels entering the Great Lakes.

The states, led by New York and including Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wis-

consin are calling for stronger action to control discharges of ballast water from oceangoing vessels, a practice identified as the chief cause of the problem.

As part of the coordinated effort, the states filed a petition with the Coast Guard to revise ballast water management regulations.

The attorney generals petitioned the U.S. Coast Guard to regulate "No Ballast On Board (NOBOB) vessels, citing that the vessels bring nonindigenous species to the Great Lakes but are not required to do anything to remove or kill foreign species in their ballast tanks.

The Coast Guard is currently preparing our response to this petition.

Ballast Water Management Issues on Agenda at IMO

At the 51st Session of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London, March 29-April 2nd, 2004, the MEPC approved the prioritized schedule for the development of guidelines for the Ballast Water Management Convention.

Several supporting guidelines including those for approving Ballast Water Management Systems are the highest priority to be finalized by MEPC 52, which will meet October 11-15, 2004. This is to facilitate the review required under Regulation D-5 by

MEPC 53 in July 2005.

The MEPC agreed to an intercessional meeting of the Ballast Water Working Group in the week prior to MEPC 52 and invited subcommittees, member states, and observers to provide input and expertise to support guideline development.

Development of the guidelines will take place intercessionally in informal correspondence groups. MEPC 53 will also have discussion of the process for the convention review scheduled for MEPC 53.

Work Continues to Develop a Ballast Water Discharge Standard

The Coast Guard continues to work on developing a standard for ballast water discharge (BWD). This standard for BWD will be scientifically sound, environmentally protective, and enforceable.

An Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published March 4, 2002, a Notice of Intent for EIS was published September 26, 2003, and public meetings were held nationwide in October and November of 2003.

Ballast Water Discharge Standard Elements:

- Macrozooplankton & Nekton
-0.01 to 10 organisms/cubic meter
- Protists including phytoplankton
-0.01 to organisms/milliliter
- Microbial organisms
-# of colony forming units of indicator microbes

Ballast Water Discharge Standard Issues:

- Concentration based
- Full range of organisms
- Living organisms vs. viable organisms
- Indicator microbes
- Microbes using a human health standard

Calendar of Events

- ↳ **September 8-10, 2004**
Ballast Water and Waste Water Conference
Hotel Landgut Horn
Bremen, Germany
- ↳ **September 19-23, 2004**
13th Annual International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, Ireland
Conference Website:
www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org
- ↳ **September 28, 2004, 9:30 am**
MEPC 52 Public Meeting
Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second St, SW, Rm 2415
Washington, DC 20593
Information: (202) 267-2079
- ↳ **October 11-15, 9:30 am**
MEPC 52
IMO Headquarters
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR UK



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