



# Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update



## Ballast Water Treatment Test Facility is Prepared for Pilot Testing

The Coast Guard (USCG) and the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) have taken another step forward to make ballast water treatment (BWT) technologies available for shipboard use. This past September, USCG and NRL representatives met at the NRL Center for Corrosion Science & Engineering in Key West, Florida to review the status of NRL's BWT test facility. Under a partnership with the Coast Guard, NRL designed and constructed the test facility to conduct verification tests of BWT technologies in accordance with the protocols developed by the Environ-

mental Technology Verification (ETV) Program.

Through the ETV Program, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the USCG have collaborated under an Memorandum of Agreement to develop a protocol for the verification of performance of BWT technologies. This Fall, the NRL-USCG partnership will conduct a "pilot test" of the ETV protocols at the test facility, using a developer-supplied full scale BWT system. The USCG solicited proposals from developers of BWT technologies to identify a candidate treat-

ment system best suited for evaluating the degree to which the draft test protocols can be used for performance verification testing.

A significant number of technical difficulties had to be overcome to get to the point where the protocols could be validated, including characterization of facility effects on flow and organisms; the means for injecting and recovering indicator organisms; and methods for rapid processing of samples. The findings of the pilot test will be provided to the ETV Program, and incorporated into the ETV protocols as appropriate. The USCG will look to the validated ETV protocols for guidance, as appropriate, when developing protocols for testing BWT systems for approval within the Ballast Water Management regulatory regime.

### Ballast Water Treatment Test Facility at NRL Key West

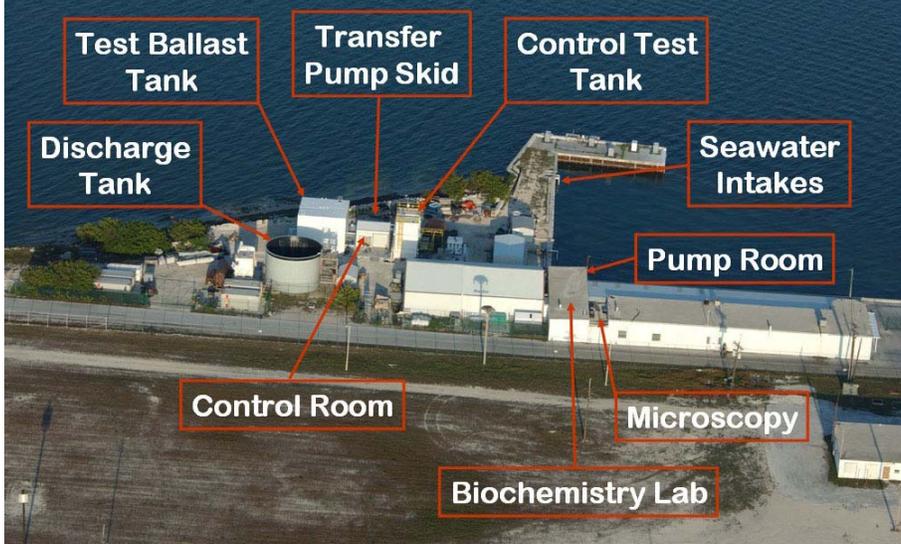


Photo courtesy of Naval Research Lab, Key West, Florida

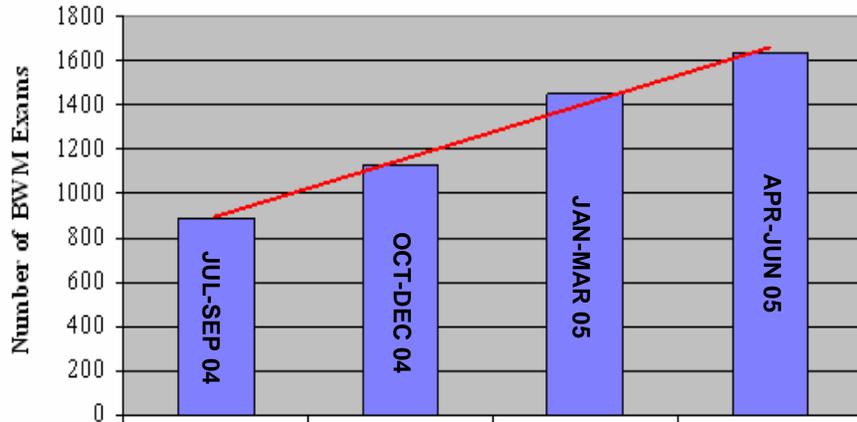


**We are on the web!**

**[www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm)**

# Compliance with Mandatory Ballast Water Management is on the Rise

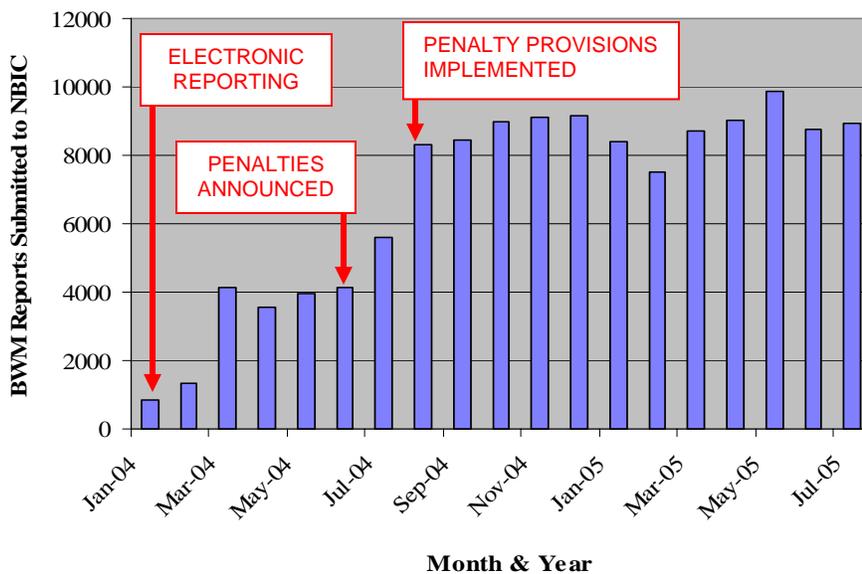
Coast Guard field personnel conduct Ballast Water Management (BWM) Examinations in conjunction with other regularly scheduled major marine examinations and commercial vessel inspections to verify compliance with mandatory BWM practices. The number of these examinations conducted by the Coast Guard has steadily increased since the implementation of the Coast Guard's Mandatory BWM Program in November 2004 (Figure 1). Since the final rule went into effect, over 6,400 BWM Examinations have been conducted by Coast Guard personnel. This represents almost one BWM Examination for every 20 vessel arrivals to the U.S. (4.8% of vessel arrivals have received ballast water exams).



**Figure 1:** Number of BWM Examinations conducted by U.S. Coast Guard personnel from July 2004 until June 2005.

Current Coast Guard data reflects a 96.5% compliance rate with the mandatory BWM regulations, with only 207 deficiencies cited as of November 7th, 2005. Of those deficiencies noted, 7.6 % have resulted in the Coast Guard pursuing enforcement action in the

form of a monetary penalty. Of the deficiencies noted, onboard BWM Log/Records have been the number one discrepancy, followed by vessel-specific BWM Plans and non-compliance with one of the mandatory BWM practices of 33 CFR 151.2035 (a).



**Figure 2.** Number of BWM Reports submitted to the National Ballast Informa-

The number of BWM Reports submitted to NBIC has also dramatically increased over the last year and a half since the Coast Guard and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) conducted a campaign in January 2004 to encourage electronic (e-mail and web-based) reporting. (Fig. 2). Around the same time in August 2004, the Coast Guard implemented penalty provisions for failure to submit the required BWM Reports. BWM Reports received by the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) have increased from approximately 800 per month in January 2004 to consistently over 8,000 per month

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

since September 2004. The quality of reports submitted, has also significantly increased as the proportion of clear and properly submitted reports relative to "bad" reports is steadily increasing. A BWM Report is considered "good" when it can be entered as is into the NBIC database; "bad" re-

ports are reports that cannot be entered due to illegible handwriting, bad fax transmissions, or missing data.

The Coast Guard will continue to monitor these data and use them as part of our feedback on the effectiveness of our ballast water management policy, regulations, enforcement, and outreach activities.

## Steering Committee Meets to Plan Fourteenth ICAIS

On the weekend of October 28th, The Steering Committee for the 14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) met to develop the program for this conference to take place in Key Biscayne, FL in May 2006. Despite the affects of Hurricane Wilma, without power, hot water, or air conditioning, the committee reviewed a record 206 ab-

stracts to determine oral and poster presentations, the format of the program, and possible field trips during the conference.

The conference will hold sessions on ballast water management, hull fouling, risk assessments, invasion biology, outreach/education, and other invasive species issues.

The Coast Guard is a co-sponsor of this conference along with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and international organizations. For more information on the conference, please look at the following web site: <http://www.icais.org/>



## Calendar of Events

- 📅 **November 15-16, 2005**  
**Northeast ANS Panel**  
 Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa  
 Stowe, Vermont
- 📅 **November 16-17, 2005**  
**Great Lakes Panel Meeting**  
 Courtyard Marriott  
 Ann Arbor, MI
- 📅 **November 17-18, 2005**  
**Great Lakes Waterways Management Forum**  
 Village Inn 751 Christina Street  
 Point Edward, Ontario, Canada
- 📅 **March 20-24, 2006**  
**MEPC 54**  
 IMO Headquarters  
 4 Albert Embankment  
 London SE1 7SR UK
- 📅 **April 3-7, 2006**  
**BLG 10**  
 IMO Headquarters  
 4 Albert Embankment  
 London SE1 7SR UK
- 📅 **May 14-19, 2006**  
**International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species**  
 Sonesta Beach Resort and Conference Center  
 350 Ocean Drive  
 Key Biscayne, FL 33149

**We are on the web!**

**[www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm)**