

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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COAST GUARD ESTABLISHES CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VESSELS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH BALLAST WATER REPORTING REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard published regulations today 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 the reporting and recordkeeping provisions and expand the reporting and 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.

“The potential impacts of nonindigenous species on our environment, food supply, economy, health and overall biodiversity are universally accepted as significant and growing, and these regulations are part of the Coast Guard's commitment to preventing the introduction of nonindigenous species into U.S. waters via ballast water.” said Capt. David Scott, Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Operating and Environmental Standards.

Proposed Coast Guard regulations for later this year will mandate ships coming from outside U.S. waters to take steps to eliminate nonindigenous species from their ballast water, and future regulations may outline specific ballast water discharge standards.

Vessels are encouraged to electronically submit ballast water management reporting forms via e-mail and/or web-based methods available at the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse website: <http://invasions.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. For further information on this rule, please contact Mr. Bivan R. Patnaik at (202) 267-1744, bpatnaik@comdt.uscg.mil.

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