

MODERNIZING BALLAST WATER RULES FOR THE GREAT LAKES

Canada is preparing updated rules to address the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes that will require ships to install ballast water management systems (BWMS) by 2024. These rules would prevent costly invasion impacts to our shared waters and the \$6 trillion regional economy, while also providing certainty and fairness to Canadian, U.S., and international ships.

CANADA'S APPROACH

Shipping in the Great Lakes-Seaway system supports over 78,000 jobs in the U.S. and Canada. However, Great Lakes ships pose a risk of unintentionally spreading invasive species and harming the environment. Canada is planning to put forward a regulatory approach for public comment in spring 2019 that would:

- Require ships that load or unload ballast water in Canada to install BWMS by 2024, while exempting U.S. Great Lakes ships that simply transit through Canadian waters.
- Deem Great Lakes ballast water compliant with standards when a ship uses an approved BWMS that is installed, maintained and operated correctly.



INVASIVE SPECIES HARM THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

The Great Lakes is one of the most highly invaded ecosystems in the world with over 180 non-native species. Invasive species harm plants and animals, facilitate algal blooms, degrade beaches, impair fisheries, disrupt infrastructure, lower property values, and create prevention and control expenses. The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that the invasion of Zebra Mussels directly costs the U.S. roughly \$1 billion per year. The Ruffe, an invasive fish, causes over \$300 million in annual damages to Great Lakes commercial and recreational fisheries.

A FEASIBLE APPROACH FOR SHIPS

Canada recognizes the challenges of managing ballast water in the Great Lakes, but also the need to forge ahead with a practical solution. Waiting for the perfect technology is not an option. Our approach reflects discussions with industry, stakeholders, and Canada's obligations under the International Ballast Water Convention. It would also provide the certainty ships need to begin installing BWMS approved under both international and U.S. rules.

A STEP FORWARD FOR THE GREAT LAKES

The International Joint Commission has called on Canada and the U.S. to address spread of invasive species by Great Lakes ships. Canada's approach could provide a basis for further binational alignment. Countering the spread of invasive species will require action by all Great Lakes ships.

