

# **The Great Lakes Ballast Water Aquatic Invasive Species**

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# Joint US/CA Ballast Water Management Exam Program



## Great Lakes Ballast Water Working Group

- U.S. Coast Guard
- Transport Canada
- St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation
- St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation



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# Joint Agency - Mission Statement

Reduce the risk of introducing Aquatic Invasive Species into the Great Lakes via ballast water by enforcing existing regulations and educating mariners in Best Management Practices



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# Compliance and Enforcement Objectives

Inspect all vessels on first & subsequent voyages

Target 100% of tanks if resources available –  
upwards of 9,000 tanks

Data Collection (science and enforcement)

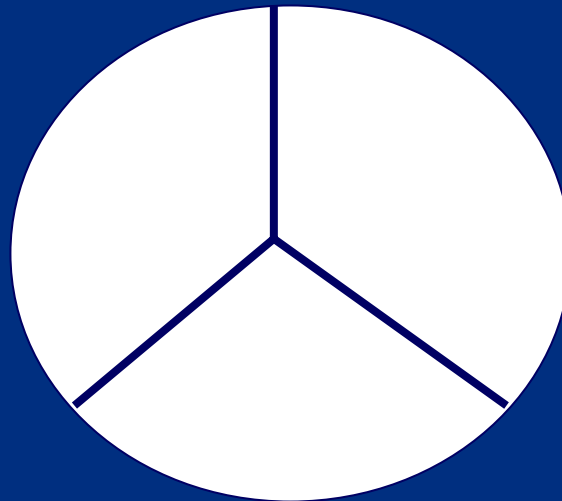
Increase compliance with regulatory requirements  
through both enforcement and education



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# Comprehensive Exam Program

Ballast Water  
Management  
Exam



Ballast Water  
Reporting

Salinity Testing of Tanks



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# Salinity Testing of Tanks

Sampling via sounding tube, vent or tank access

If enough water is present, a sample is raised to the deck and sampled with refractometer

Looking for salinity  $> 30$  ppt

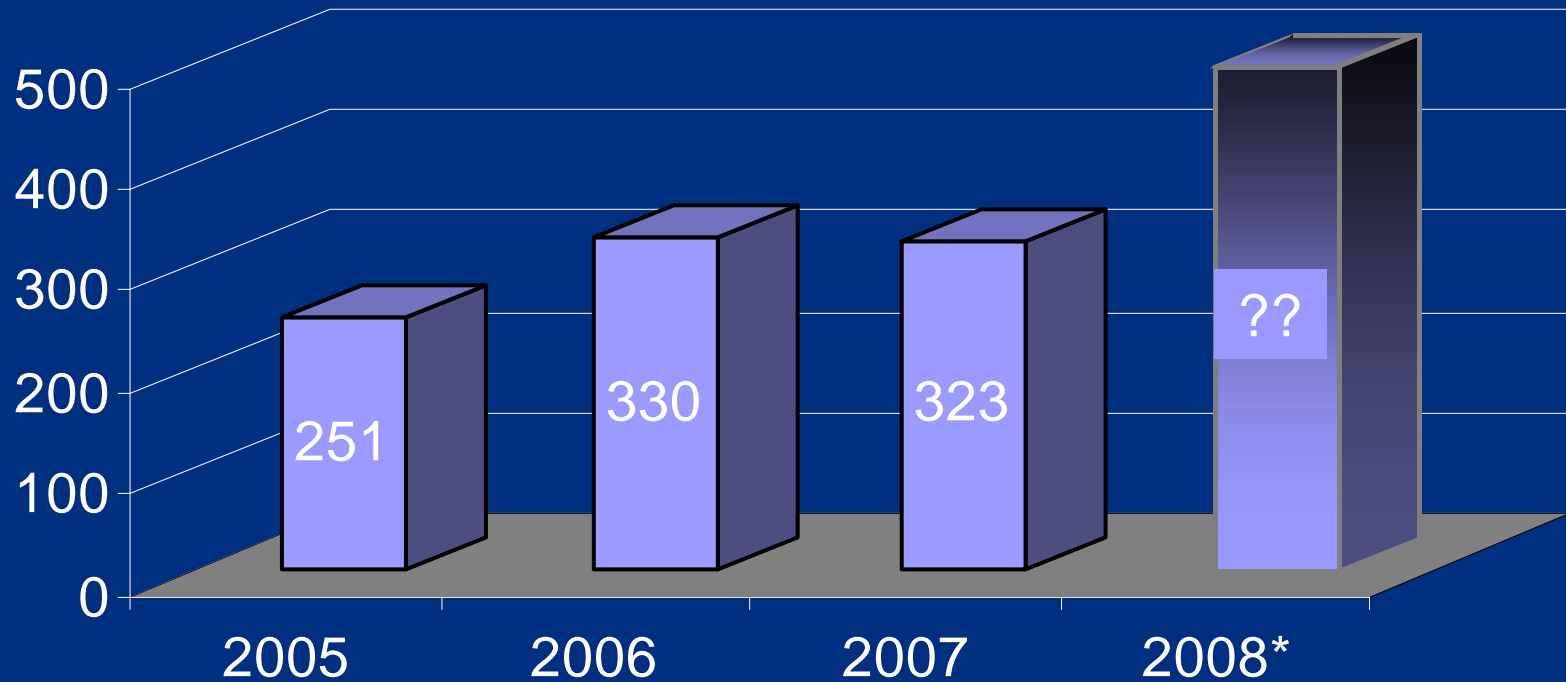
Presence of mud or salinity  $< 30$  ppt may mean non-compliant tank



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# Joint Ballast Exams

Goal: Increase the number of Ballast Exams



\*Estimate



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# New Seaway Regulations regarding NOBOB vessels

- Required saltwater flushing for empty (NOBOB) tanks
- Increased secondary inspections and the percentage of tanks subject to inspection
- Foreign flagged vessels must maintain the ability to measure salinity levels in each tank



# 2007 Results

- 323 or 74% ships bound for the Great Lakes examined
- 100% first trip ships bound for the Great Lakes examined
- Average of 32 exams per month
- 5016 or 78% tanks tested
- 100% of ballast water forms checked
- 164 non compliant tanks (salinity less than 30 ppt)
- > 95% compliance rate



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# Take Away

*There is no  
unmanaged inbound  
ballast water being  
discharged into the  
Great Lakes*



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# Ballast Water Management Plans and AIS Workshop

- Ninth District sponsored workshop on January 31, 2008
- Brought together members of Great Lakes states, Federal agencies, shipping industry, and academia to review Vessel Ballast Water Management Plans and Best Management Practices with respect to the intra-lake movement of AIS, particularly Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia
- Three breakout groups assembled
  - Identification
  - Communications
  - Ballast Water Management Practices



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# Ballast Water Management Plans and AIS Workshop Follow - up

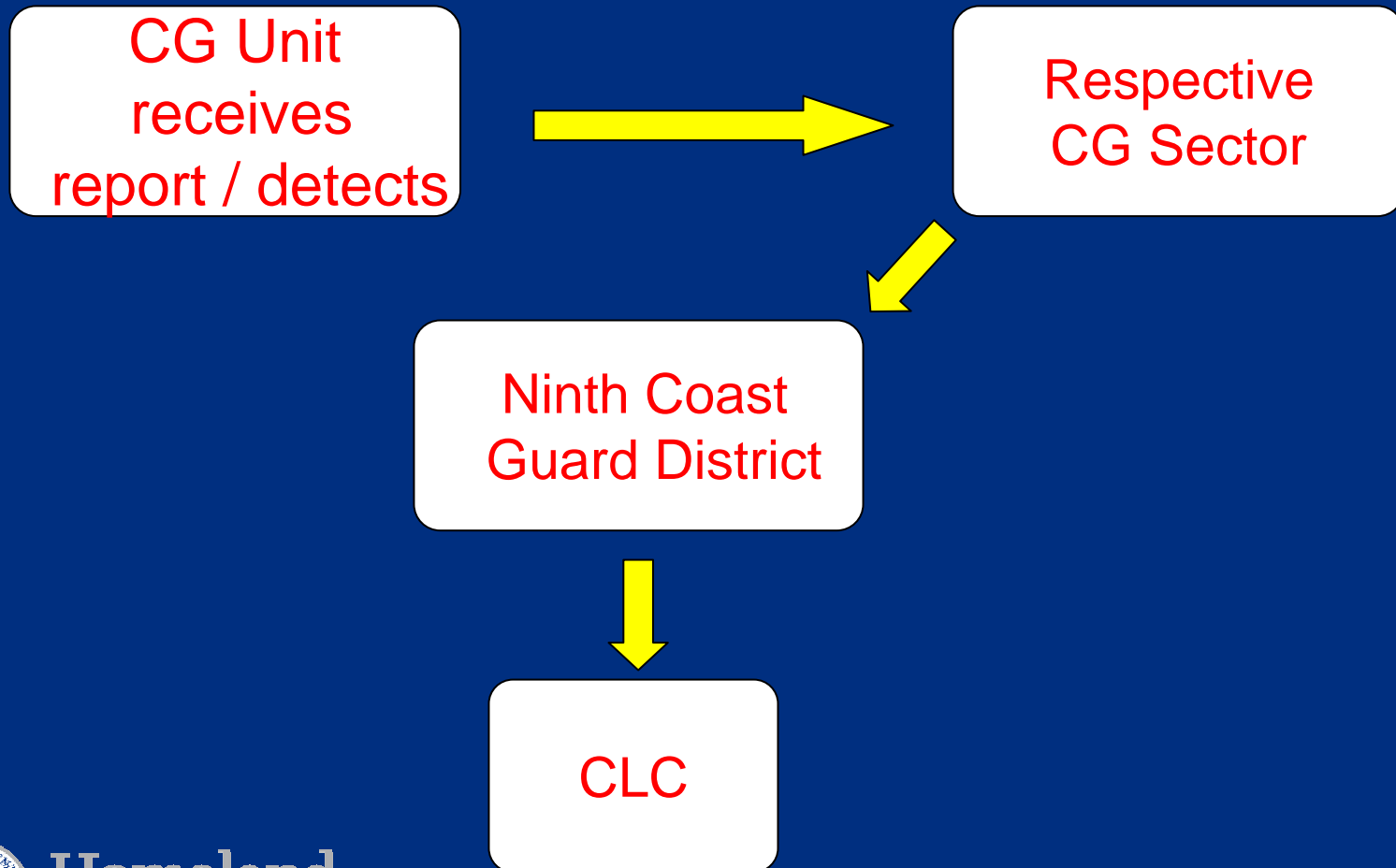
- The Ninth Coast Guard District engaged in discussions with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and expressed a desire to receive / communicate reports of large scale fish kills on the Great Lakes
  - Council of Lake Committees and Ninth Coast Guard District formalized communication strategy in May 2008
- The Lake Carrier's Association developed/released LCA Supplemental Voluntary Ballast Water Management Plan (BMP) for the control of VHS; April 2008 Edition
  - LCA's 2007 BMP for VHS and 2008 Supplemental BMP for VHS can be found at: <http://www.lcaships.com>



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# Communications of Fish Kills Reported/Detected to U.S. Coast Guard



# For More Information

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