

Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Legislation

An update on NAISA and other
bills

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several concentric circles of varying sizes and opacities, resembling ripples on water. These circles are centered around the bottom right corner and extend towards the center of the slide.

NAISA Reintroduction

- 2005 version of NAISA basically the same as S.525 and H.R. 1080/1081, except Senate bill makes changes to ballast water provisions
- In response to comments, some technical changes made to bill's findings, definitions, screening provisions, rapid response provisions, etc.
- Senate bill's ballast water provisions restructured in response to Federal Agency comments
- Ballast water edits not included in House bill due to the sponsor's positions on T&I Committee and possibility of future negotiations

Senate NAISA Ballast Water Changes

- Environmentally protective standard becomes effective within 18 months
- Best performing treatment approach to ballast water treatment begins within 18 months (not in 2011)
- Ballast exchange ceases to be an option for existing vessels after 2011
- Rules are tighter for new vessels

Other Invasives legislation

- S.363 – Ballast water-only bill introduced by Sens. Inouye and Stevens
 - Timelines are the same as IMO Convention
 - Standards are stricter than IMO
 - Pre-review can alter standard or timeframe
- Expect to see another ballast water-only bill out of House T&I Committee sometime this session
 - Majority and Minority are not in agreement on approach to legislation
- May also be another comprehensive bill from Senate EPW Committee

Outlook

- *Some* type of aquatic invasive species legislation may well move through both chambers this session
- Maybe restricted to ballast water only – particularly in the House
- Strong advocacy required to assure that ballast water provisions are more aggressive and timely than IMO (ie, NAISA)
- Best hope for comprehensive legislation is to move NAISA through Senate EPW Committee, and include non-ballast water provisions via conference committee

What you can do...

- Send endorsements/letters of support to NAISA's sponsors
- Urge additional cosponsors from both sides of the aisle and around the country
- Urge Sens. Chaffee and Clinton to schedule a NAISA hearing in their EPW subcommittee as soon as possible
- Strongly support NAISA's approach to regulating ballast water – without vocal support, Congress will likely adopt an approach similar to the IMO Convention
- Point to NAISA as a reference point in discussing other invasives legislation with sponsors and committees