

MODERNIZING CANADA'S BALLAST WATER RULES ON THE GREAT LAKES

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



INVASIVE SPECIES HARM THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

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. Action is needed to prevent irreversible species invasions that harm our plants and animals, facilitate algal blooms, degrade beaches, impair fisheries, disrupt infrastructure, lower property values, and create prevention and control expenses.

AN INFORMED APPROACH

Canada will seek public comment in spring 2019 on a proposed rule, based on years of dialogue with industry, scientists, engineers, federal and state officials, and international partners. The proposed approach will reflect the importance of shipping in the Great Lakes-Seaway system, and the 78,000 jobs it supports in the U.S. and Canada. Ships on the Great Lakes can harm the environment by unintentionally spreading invasive species through ballast water, and new rules will address Canada's obligations under the International Ballast Water Convention.

NEW, FEASIBLE, AND EFFECTIVE

While Canada recognizes the challenges of managing ballast water in the Great Lakes, waiting for the perfect technology is not an option. Canada's practical approach responds to shipowner concerns and provides the earliest environmental protection for the Great Lakes by:

- Accepting Great Lakes ballast water managed by approved BWMS; and
- Allowing sufficient time for Great Lakes shipowners to comply by 2024.

Canada would not regulate U.S. ships that transit through Canadian Great Lakes waters without loading or unloading ballast water.

A STEP FORWARD FOR THE GREAT LAKES

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

