

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20593  
Staff Symbol: CG-OES-3  
Phone: 202-372-1430  
Fax: 202-372-1926  
Email: Ryan.D.Allain@uscg.mil

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AUG 27 2012

Ms. Sarah Branch  
Director, Government Relations  
Offshore Marine Service Association  
Gravier Street, Suite 2040  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Ms. Branch:

We received your letter dated May 22, 2012, regarding the Coast Guard's Final Rule titled "Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters."

The *Federal Register* (77 FR 17254) published the Final Rule on March 23, 2012. The first page included this statement:

"DATES: This final rule is effective June 21, 2012 except for 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036 which contains information collection requirements that OMB has not approved. ...Comments... **on collection of information** (*emphasis added*) must reach OMB on or before May 22, 2012. ..."

Your comments on other aspects of the Final Rule were outside the scope of this request. However, you may find responses to similar comments in the Preamble of the Final Rule (*see V. Discussion of Comments and Changes*).

The *Federal Register* (77 FR 35268) published another notice on June 13, 2012, stating that OMB approved the Coast Guard's request, and that 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036 would become effective beginning June 21, 2012.

If you have further questions, you may contact Mr. John Morris of my staff at 202-372-1433, email [John.C.Morris@uscg.mil](mailto:John.C.Morris@uscg.mil), or visit <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg522/cg5224/bwm.asp>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. A. Newsham".

S. A. NEWSHAM  
Acting Chief, Environmental Standards Division