

next port of call, subject to the directions of the COTP or District Commander, as provided by part 160 of this chapter.

(1) The Coast Guard will normally allow a vessel that cannot practicably meet the requirements of § 151.2025(a)(1) of this subpart because its installed BWMS is inoperable, or the vessel's BWM method is unexpectedly unavailable, to employ one of the other ballast water management (BWM) methods listed in § 151.2025(a) of this subpart.

(2) If the master of the vessel determines that the vessel cannot employ other BWM methods due to the voyage or safety concerns listed in paragraph (a) of this section, the Coast Guard will normally allow the vessel to discharge ballast water in areas other than the Great Lakes and the Hudson River north of the George Washington Bridge.

(3) If the Coast Guard approves such an allowance, the vessel must discharge only that amount of ballast water operationally necessary to ensure the safety and stability of the vessel for cargo operations. Ballast water records must be made available to the local COTP upon request.

(c) Nothing in this subpart relieves the master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of a vessel of any responsibility, including ensuring the safety and stability of the vessel and the safety of the crew and passengers.

§ 151.2050 Additional requirements—nonindigenous species reduction practices.

The master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of any vessel equipped with ballast water tanks that operates in the waters of the United States must follow these practices:

(a) Avoid the discharge or uptake of ballast water in areas within, or that may directly affect, marine sanctuaries, marine preserves, marine parks, or coral reefs.

(b) Minimize or avoid uptake of ballast water in the following areas and situations:

(1) Areas known to have infestations or populations of harmful organisms and pathogens (e.g., toxic algal blooms).

(2) Areas near sewage outfalls.

(3) Areas near dredging operations.

(4) Areas where tidal flushing is known to be poor or times when a tidal stream is known to be turbid.

(5) In darkness, when bottom-dwelling organisms may rise up in the water column.

(6) Where propellers may stir up the sediment.

(7) Areas with pods of whales, convergence zones, and boundaries of major currents.

(c) Clean the ballast tanks regularly to remove sediments. Sediments must be disposed of in accordance with local, State, and Federal regulations.

(d) Discharge only the minimal amount of ballast water essential for vessel operations while in the waters of the United States.

(e) Rinse anchors and anchor chains when the anchor is retrieved to remove organisms and sediments at their places of origin.

(f) Remove fouling organisms from the vessel's hull, piping, and tanks on a regular basis and dispose of any removed substances in accordance with local, State and Federal regulations.

(g) Maintain a ballast water management (BWM) plan that has been developed specifically for the vessel and that will allow those responsible for the plan's implementation to understand and follow the vessel's BWM strategy and comply with the requirements of this subpart. The plan must include—

(1) Detailed safety procedures;

(2) Actions for implementing the mandatory BWM requirements and practices;

(3) Detailed fouling maintenance and sediment removal procedures;

(4) Procedures for coordinating the shipboard BWM strategy with Coast Guard authorities;

(5) Identification of the designated officer(s) in charge of ensuring that the plan is properly implemented;

(6) Detailed reporting requirements and procedures for ports and places in the United States where the vessel may visit; and

(7) A translation of the plan into English, French, or Spanish if the vessel's working language is another language.

(h) Train the master, operator, person in charge, and crew on the application of ballast water and sediment management and treatment procedures.

(i) When discharging ballast water to a reception facility in the United States, discharge only to reception facilities that have an NPDES permit to discharge ballast water.

§ 151.2055 Deviation from planned voyage.

As long as ballast water exchange (BWE) is an allowable ballast water management option under §§ 151.2025 and 151.2035 of this subpart, the Coast Guard will not require a vessel to deviate from its voyage or delay the voyage in order to conduct BWE. A vessel may be required to deviate from its voyage or delay the voyage if BWE is directed by a Captain of the Port pursuant to § 151.2040(b) of this subpart.

§ 151.2060 Reporting requirements.

(a) Ballast water reporting requirements exist for each vessel subject to this subpart bound for ports or places of the United States regardless of whether a vessel operated outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), unless exempted in § 151.2015 of this subpart.

(b) The master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of a vessel subject to this subpart and this section must provide the information required by § 151.2070 of this subpart in electronic or written form to the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard or the appropriate Captain of the Port (COTP). The Ballast Water Reporting Form (Office of Management and Budget form Control No. 1625–0069) and the instructions for completing it are available on the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse's Web site at <http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/submit.html>. Information must be submitted as follows:

(1) *For any vessel bound for the Great Lakes from outside the EEZ:*

(i) Fax the required information at least 24 hours before the vessel arrives in Montreal, Quebec to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) COTP, Buffalo, Massena Detachment (315–769–5032).

(ii) Non-U.S. and non-Canadian flag vessels may complete the ballast water

information section of the form required by the St. Lawrence Seaway, "Pre-entry Information from Foreign Flagged Vessels Form," and submit it in accordance with the applicable Seaway notice as an alternative to this requirement.

(2) *For any vessel bound for the Hudson River north of the George Washington Bridge entering from outside the EEZ:* Fax the required information to the USCG COTP, New York (718–354–4249) at least 24 hours before the vessel enters New York, NY.

(3) *For any vessel that is equipped with ballast water tanks and bound for ports or places in the United States and not addressed in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section:* If a vessel's voyage is less than 24 hours, report the required information before departing the port or place of departure. If a voyage exceeds 24 hours, report the required information at least 24 hours before arrival at the port or place of destination. The information must be sent to the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse using only one of the following means:

(i) Via the Internet at <http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/submit.html>.

(ii) Email to NBIC@BallastReport.org.

(iii) Fax to 301–261–4319.

(iv) Mail to U.S. Coast Guard, c/o Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, P.O. Box 28, Edgewater, MD 21037–0028.

(c) If the information submitted in accordance with this section changes, the master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of the vessel must submit an amended report before the vessel departs the waters of the United States.

§ 151.2065 Equivalent reporting methods for vessels other than those entering the Great Lakes or Hudson River after operating outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone or Canadian equivalent.

For vessels required to report under § 151.2060(b)(3) of this subpart, the Chief, Environmental Standards Division (CG–5224), acting for the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security, and Stewardship (CG–5), may, upon receipt of a written request, consider and approve alternative methods of reporting if—