



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building
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September 10, 2003

254891

Office for River Basin Cooperation

717-772-5622

Docket Management Facility
(USCG – 2003 - 14273) – 6
U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL - 401
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590 - 0001

Re: CZM File No. CZ7: FDP

03 SEP 10 11 46 AM '03

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program has reviewed the U.S. Coast Guard's proposed rulemaking (FR 44691, July 30, 2003), and the *Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for US Waters – June 2003 (PEA)*, received in this office on August 11, 2003. We are providing the following comment:

The Coast Guard's development of mandatory ballast water management practices for vessels bound for ports or places within the U.S., and / or entering U.S. waters, is another important step to preventing the introduction of nonindigenous species (NIS) into U.S. waters from outside of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). However, we believe that additional steps need to be taken. The PEA states "The transfer of ballast water between domestic sources is also an important issue and results in the discharge of large ballast water volumes at many U.S. ports". The PEA goes on to state, "To date, little is known about the management and delivery of ballast water that originates and remains within the U.S. EEZ. This information gap precludes the formation of critical policy and management decisions".

The Pennsylvania CZM Program suggests that the next step to prevent further introduction of NIS, is for the U.S. Coast Guard to examine existing information and / or develop the data necessary to determine whether there is a need to create additional regulations or mandatory ballast water management practices for vessels performing domestic ballast water transfer within the EEZ. The Pennsylvania CZM Program believes that regulating the transfer of domestic ballast water transfer between U. S. ports will help prevent the spread of NIS throughout U.S. waters.

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In conclusion, we concur with the US Coast Guard's determination that the proposed regulations requiring mandatory ballast water management practices are consistent with Pennsylvania's CZM Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence J. Toth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Lawrence J. Toth
Environmental Planner
Coastal Zone Management Program

U.S. Coast Guard, Docket Management Facility

September 10, 2003

cc: John Booser – DEP, 15th Floor RCSOB
John Hines– DEP, 16th Floor RCSOB
Kirstin Wakefield
Malone
Main File