

public comment on 2001-10486-Congress gave USCG this assignment in 1990. During the past 13 years, we have had numerous organisms moving into this area bringing things like west nile which has killed people, etc. The US Coast Guard sits on its hands when it gets an assignment. I also note that initial stds. were VOLUNTARY - WHAT A STUPID IDEA THAT WAS. Shipping profiteers would never spend a penny to make the world better - they are only interested in their own wallets. These standards MUST BE MANDATORY. DON'T LET SHIPS IN WITHOUT STANDARDS. YOU WILL SEE HOW QUICKLY SHIP OWNERS WILL THEN FIND WAYS TO MEET THE STANDARDS. THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE TO DO. THE US IS TOO GOOD A MARKET FOR ANY SHIP OWNER NOT TO MEET POSTED STANDARDS. AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF THE COAST GUARD SITTING ON ITS HAUNCHES, PROBABLY EVER KIND OF INVASIVE ORGANISM IS HERE ALREADY, BUT ON THE HOPE THAT WE CAN STILL KEEP SOME OUT WE MUST TAKE THIS STEP. I AM IN FAVOR OF HIGH FINES LIKE \$500,000 IF ANY VIOLATIONS OCCUR TO THESE STANDARDS BY ANY SHIP OWNER. SEIZE THE SHIP IF NECESSARY TO MAKE SURE THAT STANDARDS ARE OBSERVED. SHIP OWNERS HAVE BEEN GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER - EXAMPLE EXXON VALDEZ COURTESY OF OUR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. BWM METHODS MUST PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NIS (NOT "HELP" TO PREVENT") SHIPS NEED TO BE UPGRADED. WE NEED DOUBLE HULLS WHEN CARRYING OIL AND SHIPS NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO SAIL AT ALL IN BAD WEATHER. WE NEED SHIP OWNERS TO BE PREVENTED FROM SPREADING DISEASE, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALLOWING THEM TO DO RIGHT NOW, COURTESY OF THE US COAST GUARD. IF THIS MANDATORY REGULATION HAD BEEN PASSED 13 YEARS AGO, MANY SHIPS WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN UPGRADED INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO SPREAD PESTILENCE. STANDARDS SHOULD BE VERY, VERY STRINGENT - NO EXCUSES. AMERICA IS OUR HOME - WHY AREN'T WE PROTECTING IT IS THE QUESTION I WOULD ASK THE COAST GUARD. I OPPOSE A NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE AND AGAIN PROTEST THE COAST GUARD ASSIGNING CHOICES. THE AMERICAN PUBLIC CAN MAKE ITS OWN CHOICE AND SHOULD NOT BE FUNNELED INTO ONE BY THE COAST GUARD.

These are my comments for the public record on this matter.