



NEWS RELEASE

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Report Calls for Uniform Regulations for Ballast Water

The **Chamber of Marine Commerce** endorses the recommendation made by the National Research Council that uniform standards and regulations be applied for the management of ballast water throughout the Great Lakes. The recommendation is one of a series of proposals being made to combat the introduction of invasive species contained in the National Research Council's recently released report - GREAT LAKES SHIPPING, TRADE, AND AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

Commenting on the committee's recommendation, CMC President Ray Johnston stated, that "The National Academies report represents an extensive and impressive piece of work on the aquatic invasive species issue. Moving to a uniform bi-national system of standards and regulations for the entire Great Lakes region is clearly one of the most effective ways to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species in ballast water carried by ships."

The report notes that while a number of ballast water management regulations are already in place within the Great Lakes region, both Canada and the United States have different requirements. The United States allows states to set their own standards. Michigan has adopted specific requirements for ships accessing its ports, and other states are considering following suit.

The committee of experts responsible for the report believes that the entire Great Lakes region should have a uniform set of standards for combating invasive species, rather than the current fragmented and inconsistent regulatory approach that creates confusion within the shipping industry and makes monitoring compliance difficult.

The committee also recommends that the United States adopt ballast water management standards identical to those proposed by the IMO, which require specific saltwater exchange or flushing protocols and monitoring for organisms after treatment. Canada adopted regulations identical to the IMO rules in 2006, but the United States is still considering legislation options.

"The Great Lakes shipping community recognizes the importance of addressing the issue of aquatic nuisance species issue and is proactively taking steps through the Green Marine Environmental Program to ensure ballast water management practices are adopted", concluded Mr. Johnston.

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