

Reporting Requirements

All vessels (including ATBs, barges, and recreational vessels) of 300 gross tons and greater, except military vessels, must file a ballast water reporting form to the department 24 hours prior to entering Washington State waters and before transiting between state ports. U.S. Coast Guard and IMO reporting forms will be accepted. The U.S. Coast Guard form is preferred. Submit reporting forms to:

Email: ballastwater@dfw.wa.gov

OR

Fax: 360-902-2845

Penalties for Violations

Civil Penalties:

The department may impose a civil penalty of up to \$27,500, per violation per day, on a vessel owner or operator who fails to comply with the requirements of state laws including:

- Failure to file a ballast water reporting form;
- Failure to meet the requirements in a Notice of Correction;
- Discharge of improperly exchanged or treated ballast water without a valid exemption.

Criminal Penalties:

A vessel owner or operator who knowingly and intentionally falsifies a ballast water reporting form may be subject to criminal penalties of up to five years imprisonment in addition to any civil penalties.

Washington State Ballast Water Management Program



Photo Courtesy of Keith Strieck, WDFW

Chapter 77.120 RCW
Chapter 220.150 WAC
It's the Law

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ballast Water Management Program

600 Capitol Way N, 6th Floor
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phone: 360-902-2753

Email: ballastwater@dfw.wa.gov

Web: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/ballast>



Exchange Requirements

All vessels intending to discharge water within Washington State waters are required to conduct an open sea exchange or treat their ballast water to meet state standards. Specifically:

- Vessels making an ocean crossing are required to exchange their ballast water at least 200 NM offshore in waters at least 2,000 meters deep;
- Vessels making a coastal voyage are required to exchange their ballast at least 50 NM offshore in waters at least 200 meters deep;
- All exchanges must be conducted using the Empty Refill method at 100% or greater exchange OR the Flow Through method at 300% or greater exchange.

WDFW Inspections

A WDFW Vessel Inspector will examine ballast water management records, take ballast water samples, and make other inquiries to assess compliance with Washington State ballast water management laws.



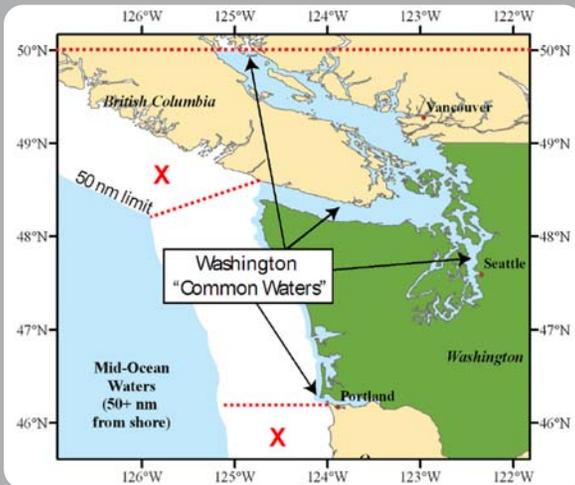
Samples collected during inspections are examined for the presence of invasive or potentially invasive species.



Exchange Exemptions

Exchanges are not required when:

- A vessel does not discharge ballast water into waters of Washington state.
- A vessel master declares a safety exemption on the state ballast water reporting form and files a minimum \$500 administrative fee. Unless unsafe to do otherwise, the vessel may not discharge unexchanged or untreated ballast water into waters of the state without department authorization.
- The vessel's ballast water and sediment originated solely from common waters of the Columbia River north to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, inland waters of Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia south of latitude 50° North.
- When a ballast water treatment system is used that meets the Washington State ballast water discharge requirements.



BWRF Waiver Option

Vessel operators who do not regularly discharge ballast water while in Washington State ports and who do not wish to file a reporting form for every visit may complete and sign a WDFW waiver request form. The form can be found on the ballast water program website.



Examples of nearshore organisms



Examples of open ocean organisms



Species photos courtesy of Jeffery Cordell, University of Washington