



Washington State Common Water Exemption: Examples

RCW 77.120.030(8); WAC 220-150-040(4)

“The requirements of this section [*Open Sea Exchange*] do not apply to a vessel discharging ballast water or sediments that originated solely within the water of Washington State, the Columbia River system, or the internal waters of British Columbia south of latitude fifty degrees north, including the waters of the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca.”

This means that vessels ballasting with water solely from any place in this area (not mixed with water from outside this area) are not required to conduct an open sea exchange under WAC 220-150-040 prior to discharging in Washington State waters. However, reporting is still required in accordance with WAC 220-150-030(2).



Examples:

- A vessel ballasting solely with Portland, Oregon water and intending to discharge in a Washington port is **NOT** required to exchange, but must file a Ballast Water Reporting Form with the state.
- A vessel ballasting solely with Vancouver, BC water and intending to discharge in a Washington port is **NOT** required to exchange, but must file a Ballast Water Reporting Form with the state.
- A vessel ballasting in Tillamook, Oregon with intent to discharge in a Washington port **MUST** meet all reporting and exchange requirements in WAC 220-150-030 and 220-150-040.
- A vessel ballasting in Port Alberni, BC with intent to discharge in a Washington port **MUST** meet all reporting and exchange requirements in WAC 220-150-030 and 220-150-040.

DOES NOT APPLY TO VOYAGES FROM WASHINGTON STATE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA OR OREGON STATE PORTS – SEE BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OREGON STATE REGULATIONS FOR THEIR BALLAST WATER REQUIREMENTS