

# Ballast Water Quarterly Report

## 2024



	Data source	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024 Total	Avg	Std dev
Total arrivals	Arrivals	951	1071	1100	971	4093	1023	73
Noncompliant arrivals	Arrivals	27%	17%	21%	26%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Discharging arrivals	Arrivals	395	390	361	419	1565	391	24
Unique discharging vessels	Discharging arrivals	285	264	231	303	1083	271	31
Utilized BWMS	Discharging arrivals	378	367	351	399	1495	374	20
Discharge volumes (MMT)	Discharging arrivals	5.4	4.6	4.2	6.2	20	5	1
Vessel Inspections	Inspected arrivals	61	64	56	59	240	60	3
Percent boarded vessels (WDFW only)	Arrivals	6%	6%	5%	6%	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Discharging arrivals	14%	16%	16%	14%	N/A	N/A	N/A

### In 2024

- **4093** regulated vessels arrived to ports in Washington State
- **1083** vessels discharged a total of **20** million metric tons of ballast water into Washington waters
- Legislative mandate to board and inspect **6% of vessel arrivals was met in quarters 1, 2, and 4.**
- **Regulated arrivals have increased from 2023, straining current staff to maintain legislative mandate.**

### Background

The Ballast Water and Biofouling Section administers and tracks compliance with state ballast water management regulations. Ballast water is essential to safe operation of vessels that carry cargo between ports around the world. Unless properly managed, ballast water can spread aquatic invasive species, which cause harm to economies, environments, and human health. These quarterly reports contain data from required ballast water reporting forms.

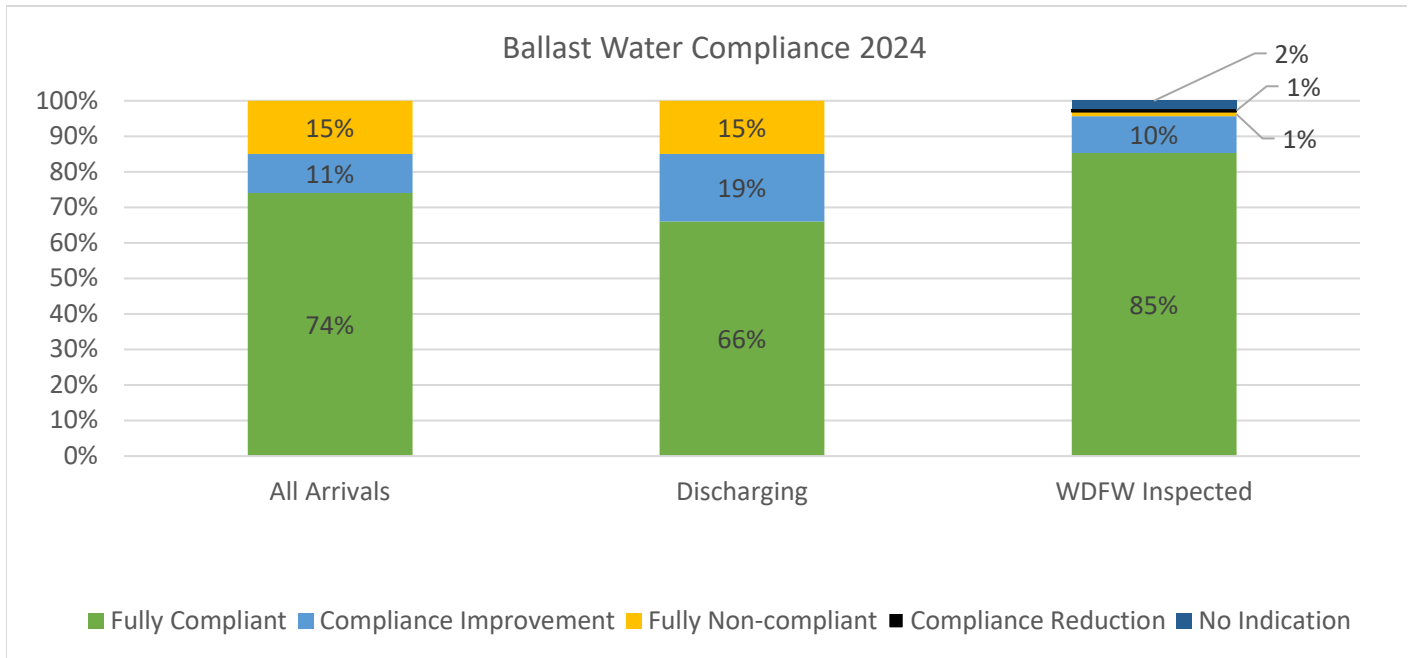


Bulk vessel at TEMCO grain elevator. Photo by A. Newsom.

For more information on the management of vessels for prevention of marine invasive species and the activities of the Ballast Water and Biofouling Section, please visit:

**[wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/ballast-water](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/ballast-water)**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Ballast Water and Biofouling Section is responsible for implementing state ballast water laws under **Chapter 77.120 RCW** and **Chapter 220-650 WAC**.



**Most vessels were in compliance with state laws, and the percentage of compliant vessels arriving to state waters was increased by interaction with the Ballast Water and Biofouling Section.** Section staff fielded over 4000 ballast water management reports and report amendments in 2024, and assisted vessels in addressing compliance problems. Approximately 74% of **All Arrivals** were fully compliant upon entry into state waters, and compliance for this group improved to 85% once section staff were able to review the ballast water reporting form and provide technical assistance. Approximately 66% of vessel arrivals in which ballast water was discharged (**Discharging Arrivals**) were compliant when entering state waters, and Section staff were able to increase compliance for this group to 85%. **For vessels boarded by a WDFW Inspector**, interaction with our program brought **compliance from 85% to 95%, with a small (~1%) reduction in compliance as inspectors discovered compliance issues while onboard that were not apparent from the vessel’s ballast water reporting form alone.**

The Ballast Water and Biofouling Section communicates daily with vessel crews and agents. Section staff provide technical assistance, review ballast management documentation, and assist vessels in correcting compliance issues as part of the Agency’s effort to improve ballast water management and protect Washington waters.

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