



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Prevention Division  
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Date: July 31, 2023  
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## Great Lakes Ballast Water Reporting Requirements

The Ninth Coast Guard District is issuing this Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) to prevent potential violations of ballast water reporting requirements outlined in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 151.2060.

Recently, the U.S. Coast Guard has noted a trend of absent ballast water reports from vessels calling at U.S. ports within the Great Lakes. It is imperative that ballast water data be reported as it is used by the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies in making regulatory decisions to prevent the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species in U.S. waters.

Vessels *entering* the Great Lakes from outside the EEZ must report ballast water information 24 hours prior to arrival in Montreal, Quebec, in accordance with 33 CFR § 151.2060(b)(1). However, once a vessel *enters* the Great Lakes from the St. Lawrence River and is bound for a port or place in the United States, it is now subject to 33 CFR § 151.2060(b)(3), and must submit a separate report to the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) no later than 6 hours after arrival at the port or place of destination, or prior to departure from that port or place of destination, whichever is earlier, unless exempted in 33 CFR § 151.2015 (and must continue to submit new reports for each subsequent port or place in the United States visited).

The master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of a vessel subject ballast water reporting requirements must submit a ballast water report to the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) by electronic ballast water report format using methods specified at NBIC's Web site at <http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/submit.html>.

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains jurisdiction and authority to exercise operational control over all vessels operating on U.S. waters. A person who violates ballast water regulations outlined in 33 CFR § 151 may be liable for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$27,500 for each day of violation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Kirk Beckmann at (216) 902-6050.

Sincerely,

M. D. DOORIS  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Chief, Prevention Division  
By direction

Additional information on Ballast Water Reporting Requirements may be found at <https://nbic.si.edu/submit/faqs/>.

*This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.*