

Section 5-5A-01 through 5-5A-08, inclusive, and the subtitle "Subtitle 5A. Ballast Water Management"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Environment

[Subtitle 5A. Ballast Water Management.]

[5-5A-01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Ballast water" means any water and matter taken on board a vessel to control or maintain trim, draft, stability, or stresses of the vessel, without regard to the manner in which it is carried.

(c) "Federal guidelines" means the provisions of 33 C.F.R. Part 151, Subpart D, "Ballast Water Management for Control of Nonindigenous Species".

(d) "State guidelines" means procedures for ballast water management that are consistent with federal guidelines.

(e) "Vessel" means a self-propelled ship in commerce of three hundred gross tons or more.]

[5-5A-02.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The waters of the State are a precious, irreplaceable resource essential to the environment, commerce, and recreation of citizens and tourists of the State;

(2) Nonindigenous aquatic species introduced into waters of the United States from ballast water have caused tremendous environmental and ecological damage, displacing native species, degrading water quality, and interfering with commerce, including the zebra mussel brought into the Great Lakes and the upper Susquehanna River;

(3) Ballast water practices of commercial shipping vessels may cause irreversible damage to waters of the State; and

(4) Protective measures against the introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species from ballast water are necessary to minimize exposure of the waters of the State to unwanted contamination and damage caused by these species.]