

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly requests that the U.S. Coast Guard, or the lead agency as designated by the federal government, implement and widely publicize a national program that establishes guidelines for voluntary ballast water management for ships calling at Chesapeake Bay and all other U.S. ports; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Coast Guard is also requested to develop, in consultation and cooperation with the shipping industry and the research community, a reasonable reporting mechanism for vessels calling at Chesapeake Bay and all other U.S. ports in order to collect data to assess the extent of participation in the program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such a program should coincide with a vigorous, multilingual education campaign to raise awareness of ballast management issues among the crews and agents of foreign- and U.S.-flagged ships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such an outreach effort should take advantage of the preexisting distribution channels of those organizations that have routine contact with vessels, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, port administrations and pilots associations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to U.S. Coast Guard implementation of voluntary ballast water management guidelines and reporting procedures, a mandatory approach should be developed for the Chesapeake Bay and all other U.S. ports if, after an adequate period of education for ship owners and crews of not less than 24 months, an evaluation of the effectiveness of participation in the program determines that such measures are necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Congress should reauthorize Public Law 101-646 and appropriate funds necessary to implement the provisions of the Act, including research to be undertaken within the Chesapeake Bay region (a) to establish post-1991 trends in ballast water released into the Chesapeake Bay, focusing on quantities, vessel types, and sources, and (b) to examine attributes and patterns of ballast-mediated invasions that relate to current and future potential management strategies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly supports modifications to international regulations under MARPOL that would require all International Maritime Organization (IMO) nations (including the United States) to collaboratively undertake ballast water management protocols, based on current voluntary IMO guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly strongly encourages the National Research Council Marine Board's Committee on Ships' Ballast Operations to continue to work toward the development of a long-term international consensus on the design and construction of vessels that operate safely while allowing for offshore exchange of ballast water and/or while allowing for other means to reduce the transport of living organisms by ships' ballast systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges Congress to support federal legislation calling for the demonstration of ballast water management technologies and practices that help prevent aquatic nonindigenous species from being introduced and