



CALIFORNIA'S MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM



CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION • MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeremy Bishop

California's Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards

What are ballast water discharge performance standards?

Ballast water discharge performance standards are limits on the concentration of living organisms that can be present in ballast water discharge.

CALIFORNIA'S INTERIM BALLAST WATER DISCHARGE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Organism Size Class	California's Interim Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards
Larger than 50 µm in minimum dimension	• No detectible living organisms
10-50 µm ¹ in minimum dimension	• Less than 0.01 living organisms per ml
Less than 10 µm in minimum dimension	• Less than 1,000 living bacteria per 100 ml • Less than 10,000 living viruses per 100 ml
E. coli	• Less than 126 cfu per 100 ml
Intestinal enterococci	• Less than 33 cfu per 100 ml
Toxicogenic Vibrio cholera (human cholera)	• Less than 1 cfu per 100 ml OR • Less than 1 cfu per gram of wet weight biological material

µm = micrometer (one millionth of a meter); ml = millimeter; cfu = colony forming units

When are California's interim ballast water discharge performance standards scheduled to be implemented?

- New vessel: On or after January 1, 2020 for newly constructed vessels
- Existing vessel: As of a vessel's first scheduled drydocking on or after January 1, 2020

California's final ballast water discharge performance standard is zero detectable living organisms for all organism size classes.

The final ballast water discharge performance standard is scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2030.