Ballast Water Exchange for Coastal Traffic on the West Coast of the United States

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West Coast Ballast Outreach Project

- Outreach Products
  - Poster and Brochure - "Stop Ballast Water Invasions"
  - Biannual Newsletter - "Ballast Exchange"
  - Web Site

    http://ballast-outreach-ucsgep.ucdavis.edu

- BW Conferences and Workshops (coastal exchange & CA BWMP)

Coastwise Transport of BW

- Concern for the coastwise transport of organisms
  - San Francisco Bay to Oregon and/or Washington
  - Mexico to California

- Open Ocean Exchange (200 nautical miles offshore) – Currently the only approved management tool.

Characteristics of Coastal Traffic

- Incomplete data set.
- Short travel time/frequent discharge/repeat visits (high survival rate/repeat inoculations)
- Travels near-shore (unable to conduct open ocean exchange 200 nautical miles offshore)

Current Regulations

- CA AB 703 Ships operating outside the EEZ must conduct an open ocean exchange (200 nautical miles offshore) – Difficult to Comply
- Washington & Oregon have mandatory requirements for ballast water exchange for coastwise traffic (domestic and foreign)
  - WA (50 nautical miles) & Oregon (no distance offshore)

Potential Solutions

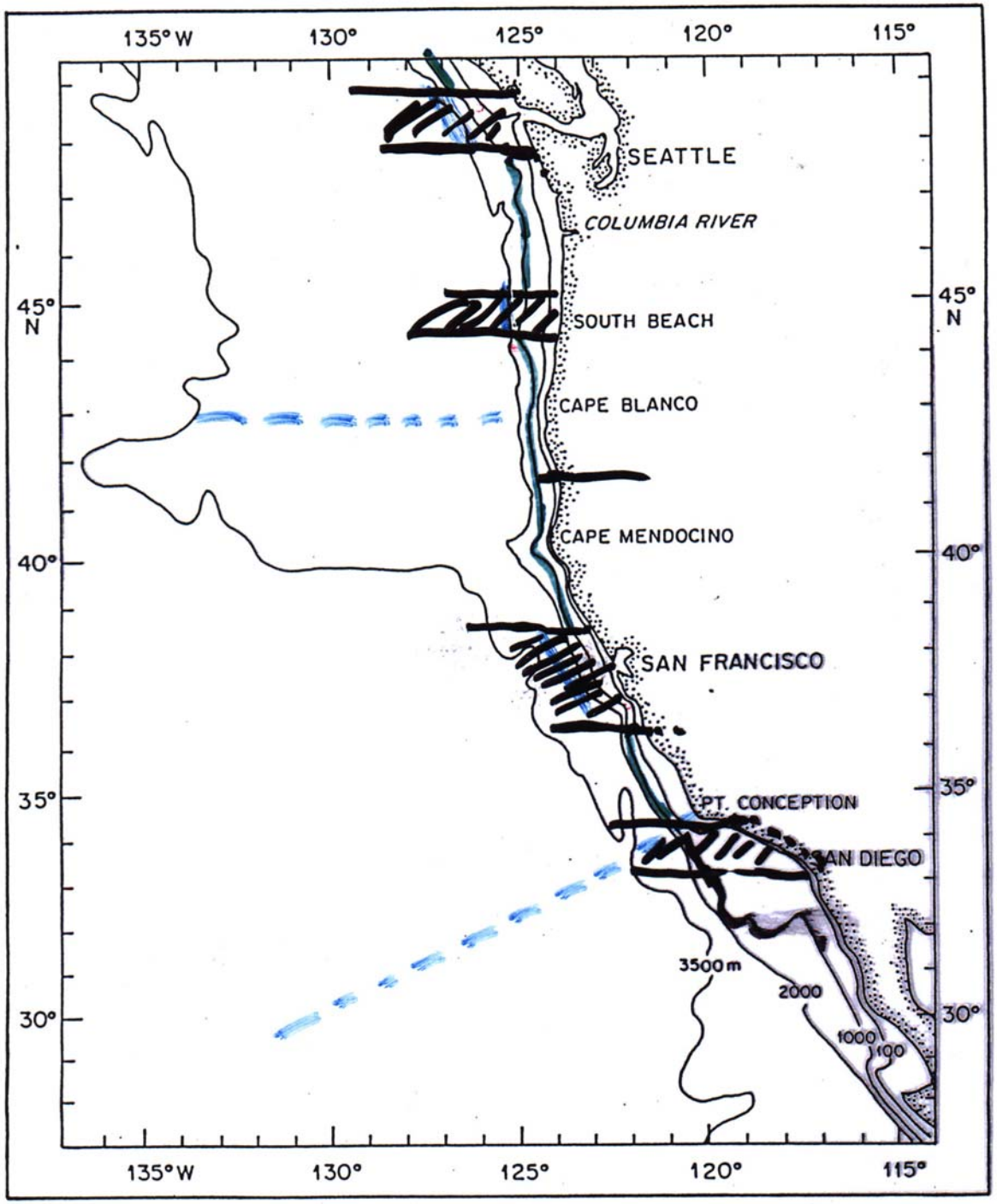
- Shipboard treatment – Ultimate Solution
- Conduct a ballast water exchange without going 200 nautical miles offshore in specific areas
  - Comprehensive plan for the entire coast, rather that a state by state approach
  - Trade-offs
    - Exchanging too close to shore could result in inoculating the coastline with ANS.
    - Examine the oceanography and biology to determine the best solution, taking into account the constraints of the shipping industry.

Time-line

- March 2002 – Oceanography Workshop
  - Report – West Coast Oceanography: Implications for Ballast Water Exchange
- Follow-up workshop Fall/Winter 2002
  - Stakeholders will review the report
  - Come up with a proposed comprehensive plan, or make some decisions about coastal ballast water exchange
  - Report with recommendations

Oceanography Report Findings

- Retention Zones
- 1000 m isobath


135° W
130°
125°
120°
115°
SEATTLE
COLUMBIA RIVER
45° N
SOUTH BEACH
CAPE BLANCO
CAPE MENDOCINO
40°
SAN FRANCISCO
35°
PT. CONCEPTION
SAN DIEGO
3500 m
2000
1000
100
30°

Options

- No coastal exchange – keep dumping directly into ports
  - In port – high risk: ships are stationary dumping its ballast water into one area (repeated concentrated inoculations)
- Coastal exchange
  - As far off-shore as is feasible
  - Exclusion zones?
  - Might result in coastline inoculation if too close to shore
  - Coastal exchange - low risk: ships are moving so the ballast water is coming out in a long stream (diluted), then it has to be transported to the shore.

What to do now?

- Attend workshop (1.5 days)
  - Setting date and location in the next few weeks
  - Review report when it is ready
  - Come to the Workshop with Information
    - Example – Vessel Perspective - Shipping routes
      - look at cost (time and fuel etc.) of going 50 miles offshore
      - Realistic to have exclusion zones?
      - Come up with some options

Contact Information

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