

February 12, 2003

**LETTER SUPPORTING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS UNDER THE
NATIONAL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ACT OF 2002 (NAISA, HR 5396)
FOR BALLAST WATER AND AIS RESEARCH ON THE WEST COAST**

Dear Senator or Representative:

The Pacific Ballast Water Group (PBWG) was formed in 1998 by representatives from the shipping industry, state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, academic researchers, and others to promote dialogue on the development and implementation of safe, economical, and effective management of aquatic invasive species associated with West Coast shipping. Members of the PBWG include representatives from all West Coast states, including Alaska, and Canada. Additional information on the PBWG can be found on the internet at www.clr.pdx.edu.

The PBWG believes that the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA, HR 5396), as introduced in the 107th Congress, represents an important step in the management of aquatic invasive species. We understand that this bill will be re-introduced in the 108th Congress in substantially the same form. The PBWG supports many of the provisions of NAISA and the appropriation of funds to support its implementation. The focus of the bill on prevention and increased authorization for funding state aquatic invasive species plans would be particularly helpful in managing aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

A strong federal ballast water management program that is coordinated with, and supported by, state and regional efforts is needed. We are following the actions of the International Maritime Organization and the U.S. Coast Guard closely and we are working to ensure state and regional efforts are appropriately aligned while the international and federal regimes mature. While individual members of PBWG may relay their thoughts on specific provisions of NAISA, we all strongly concur that the level of funding available to focus on ballast research and management is grossly inadequate, particularly on the West Coast. The level of funding for research and management of ballast water should be sharply increased and geographic limitations should be lifted on existing ballast-related funding sources (e.g., National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration funds under the Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program).

One of the major concerns on the West Coast is the lack of coordinated management of ballast water on coastal voyages. Currently, the four West Coast states have significantly different requirements for ballast water management on coastal voyages. All states recognize that treatment of ballast water is the ultimate solution. However, ballast water exchange is likely to remain the most widely used management technique for several years while ballast water treatment technology develops. Many organizations are working on solutions for the West Coast, and state programs and vessel operational adjustments have indeed mitigated some risk; but the lack of available funds for this

region has slowed the development and implementation of regionally consistent, effective ballast water management strategies.

In March 2002, the PBWG hosted a technical workshop on nearshore physical oceanography to identify processes that could influence the effectiveness of ballast water exchange in coastal shipping. In January 2003, a follow-up meeting was held in cooperation with California Sea Grant to consider the results of the physical oceanography workshop and further identify potential coastal ballast water exchange zones or ballast management strategies that could provide a basis for a uniform coastwide approach to ballast water management along the West Coast of North America.

The clearest results of the workshop and meeting were that: a) coastal exchange may be a useful ballast management tool to reduce the risks associated with ANS discharges, b) research on both open coastal and estuarine biology and hydrology is critically needed to measure the effect of coastal ballast water transfer and exchange on the West Coast, and c) continued research will be needed to develop, implement and refine a coordinated coastal ballast water exchange program and to move forward on alternatives to exchange.

To address these needs the individuals and organizations who have signed below, as participants in the PBWG, request an additional Congressional appropriation in the NOAA budget of at least \$3 million for regionally significant, coastal shipping-related aquatic invasive species management research on the West Coast. We believe these funds should be in addition to the NOAA funds mentioned previously. One potential administrative mechanism would be for these funds to be allocated to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, or other regional entity, for dispersal to West Coast aquatic invasive species researchers and managers through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Wyatt, Executive Director
Port of Portland
Portland, Oregon
Columbia River Aquatic Nuisance
Species Initiative (CRANSI) Member

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director
**Washington Department of Fish and
Wildlife**
Olympia, Washington

James R. Townley, Jr.
Executive Director
**Columbia River Steamship Operators
Association**
Portland, Oregon

Linda Sheehan, Director
Pacific Regional Office
The Ocean Conservancy
Pacific Regional Office
San Francisco, California

Randy Fisher
Executive Director
**Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Commission**
Gladstone, Oregon

Steve Moore, Section Leader
Policy and Planning Section
**California Regional Water Quality
Control Board**
San Francisco Bay Region
Oakland, California

Scott S. Smith
Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator
**Washington Department of Fish and
Wildlife**
Olympia, Washington

Maurya B. Falkner
Ballast Water Program Manager
California State Lands Commission
Long Beach, California

Michael Moore
Executive Director
**Puget Sound Steamship Operators
Association**
Seattle, Washington

John S. Devens, Executive Director
**Prince William Sound Regional
Citizens' Advisory Council**
Anchorage, Alaska

Dr. John Chapman
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Oregon State University
Newport, Oregon

John Berge, Vice President
**Pacific Merchant Shipping
Association**
San Francisco, California

Dick Pedersen, Administrator
Land Quality Division
**Oregon Department of Environmental
Quality**
Portland, Oregon

Jay A. Ach
Manager of Regulatory &
Environmental Affairs
Port of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Rick Klumph
Acting Deputy Director
**Oregon Department of Fish and
Wildlife**
Portland, Oregon

Peter Gearin
Executive Director
Port of Astoria
Astoria, Oregon
CRANSI Member

Dr. Mark Sytsma, Director
Center for Lakes and Reservoirs
Portland State University
Portland, Oregon
CRANSI Member

Scott Redman, Acting Chair
Puget Sound Action Team
Olympia, Washington