



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

# Ballast Water Discharges

## MPCA's Proposed General Permit Overview

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**T**he Great Lakes water transportation industry is vitally important to Minnesota's economy. However, ballast water discharges from ocean-going and Great-Lakes-only vessels may contain aquatic invasive species that compete with native species for food and habitat, alter aquatic ecosystems, and cause significant economic impact.

Protecting Minnesota waters of Lake Superior from aquatic invasive species is a high priority because of the lake's value as a natural resource and as an economic engine for the region.

Working with other state, federal, tribal and international organizations, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is taking steps to address this threat and is developing a regulatory program to control the introduction and spread of invasive species by ballast water.

### Background

The MPCA began working on a ballast water program in early 2007 and established a goal of having a permit in place by October 1, 2008. A lawsuit was filed in August 2007, and, in April 2008, a Ramsey County Court decision affirmed the MPCA's schedule.

### Permit authority, requirements

A State Disposal System permit would be required under Minnesota Statute for transit through, or discharge of, ballast water to Minnesota waters of Lake Superior from vessels meeting the applicability criteria (at least 50 meters in



length with a ballast water capacity of at least eight cubic meters).

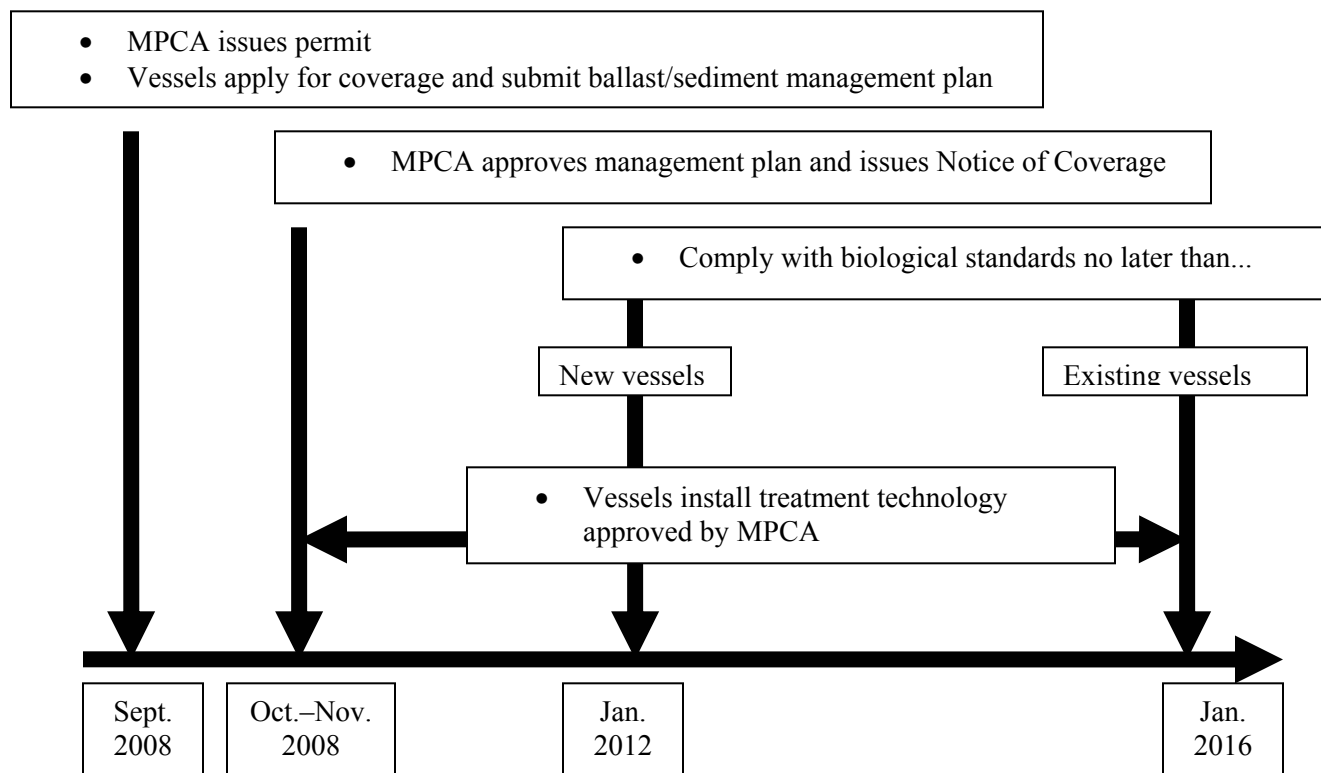
The proposed permit allows transit and discharge if the vessel meets the terms and conditions of the permit. The term of the permit would be five years.

In addition, state legislation enacted in 2008 and effective July 1, 2008, specifies requirements related to ballast water record books and ballast water management plans. It also requires the MPCA to approve the management plans.

### Permitting issuance process

The vessel owner or operator would submit an application including a Ballast Water and Sediment Management Plan to the MPCA. A vessel owner or operator has the option to apply for individual, vessel-specific coverage. The MPCA plans to have applications available by August 31, 2008. Following application review and approval of the plan, the MPCA issues a Notice of Coverage for each vessel.

## Proposed timeline to meet ballast water standards



## Discharge standards and monitoring/submittal requirements

<b>Discharge Standards</b>	Best Management Practices (Vessel-specific plan addressing ballast water and sediment management submitted with permit application for approval by MPCA)	Compliance required immediately
	IMO Regulation D-2 Performance Standards (Biological concentration-based effluent limits)	Compliance required by Jan. 1, 2012 for new vessels and no later than Jan. 1, 2016 for existing vessels (those constructed before Jan. 1, 2012).
	Additional Effluent Limits Based on Treatment Technology (such as monitoring for temperature if treatment technology uses heat)	Compliance required upon installation of treatment technology
<b>Monitoring and Submittals</b>	Submit Ballast Water Treatment Technology Plan	180 days prior to implementation of treatment technology
	Submit Ballast Water Report Form (or Pre-entry Information from Foreign Flagged Vessels form)	Compliance required immediately Form due 24 hours prior to arrival in Minnesota Port
	Submit Discharge Monitoring Report	Annually following implementation of treatment technology

## For more information

For more information, contact Mary Jean Fenske, MPCA, at (651) 297-5472 or (800) 657-3864, or visit the MPCA's vessel discharge Web page at [www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/ballastwater.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/ballastwater.html).