

1, 2001 [66 FR 21807]. The second notice, "Approval for Experimental Shipboard Installations of Ballast Water Treatment Systems" was published on May 22, 2001 [66 FR 28213] and requests comments on a possible means of providing incentives to further the development and testing of BWT technologies.

### Sample Topics for Consideration

In order to focus the discussion about the future of the national BWM program, please consider the following when submitting comments: (NOTE—some of these questions contain redundancies and they are not posed in a sequential fashion.)

1. Should BWM (including mid-ocean exchange of ballast water) be mandatory?

2. Should an exemption be allowed for those situations where a ship's master believes that performing BWM, including exchange, would endanger his vessel, crew and/or passengers? If so, how should the validity of such exemptions be verified?

3. Should there be an exemption from ballast water exchange requirements for those voyages whose routes take them outside the U.S. EEZ but not into waters of at least 2000 meters in depth and 200 miles from land (the prescribed depth of water and distance from land for conducting a mid-ocean exchange)?

4. Should the depth of water required for mid-ocean exchange be reduced to 500 meters, as is contained in the International Maritime Organization's definition of mid-ocean exchange?

5. Should ballast water exchange be permitted in waters less than 200 miles from shore? If so, what parameters should be considered?

6. Should the Coast Guard wait for the development of a BWT standard (a means of measuring the effectiveness of and comparing various ballast water treatments) before implementing mandatory BWM regulations?

7. Should ship type (e. g. passenger, container, bulk) influence regulatory requirements on BWM, and if so, how?

8. If BWM becomes mandatory, should ships constructed before the establishment of a mandatory program be treated differently than those constructed after the program goes into effect? If so, what should the distinctions be?

9. If a mandatory BWM program is developed, should the mandatory reporting requirement still be in effect? If so, what is the most efficient means of obtaining BWM data from vessels? Should BWM information be part of the advance notice of arrivals currently required of vessels arriving in U.S. ports

and submitted to the appropriate Coast Guard Captain of the Port, even if this meant providing significantly more information in the advance notice of arrival than is currently required? Or should separate reports continue to be sent to the National Ballast Water Information Clearinghouse, which acts as the Coast Guard's agent for the collection, storage and further processing of these reports?

10. Should ballast water management requirements (including reporting and treatment) be extended to cover coastwise shipping that operates well within the EEZ? What kinds of BWM should coastwise shipping be required to practice?

11. Should there be an exemption from ballast water exchange requirements for those voyages where the vessel is only outside the U.S. EEZ for a minimal length of time? What length of time should be considered minimal?

Dated: July 5, 2001.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2001-9988]

### Towing Safety Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The License Implementation Working Group of the Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) will meet to discuss and develop the performance criteria to be used with the Towing Officer Assessment Record (TOAR) required in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulation 10.304(h). These performance criteria, when developed, will be announced in the **Federal Register** and made available for review and comment. Sample TOARs were published on May 21, 2001, as part of the Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 4-01 (NVIC 4-01) entitled "Licensing and Manning for Officers of Towing Vessels." This NVIC provides guidance on the implementation of a recent interim rule with request for comments published in the **Federal Register** on April 26, 2001 (66 FR 20931; Licensing and Manning for Officers of Towing Vessels, Docket Number: USCG 1999-6224). The NVIC is available on the Internet at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/4\\_01/n4-](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/4_01/n4-01.pdf)

[01.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/4_01/n4-01.pdf). The rulemaking history is also available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> under the same Docket Number. The meetings are open to the public.

**DATES:** The Working Group will meet on Wednesday, July 25, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Thursday, July 26, 2001, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. These meetings may close early if all business is finished. Requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before July 23, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The Working Group will meet in room 6103 at Coast Guard Headquarters; 2100 Second Street, SW; Washington, DC 20593-0001. Send written materials and requests to make oral presentations to Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Commandant (G-MSO-1); Room 1210, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters; 2100 Second Street, SW; Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Assistant Executive Director, TSAC, telephone 202-267-0229, fax 202-267-4570, or e-mail at: [gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

### Agenda of Meeting

The agenda includes the Working Group's review of the TOARs and the drafting of performance criteria proposals that will be presented to the full Committee for approval at a later date.

### Procedural

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify the Assistant Executive Director on or before July 23, 2001.

### Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Assistant Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: July 2, 2001.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Acting Assistant Commandant for Marine, Safety and Environmental Protection.*

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