

November 29, 2006

## **Background Information: VPA Ballast Water Exchange Program**

The new National Ballast Water Management Regulations that came into force in June 28, 06 supersede the existing Vancouver Port Authority's (VPA's) Ballast Water Standing Order. Transport Canada has become the agency responsible for the enforcement and compliance of BWM regulations. These Regulations mark the culmination of a regulatory evolution in which the VPA has contributed as a member of the West Coast Ballast Water Management (BWM) Group. As a result, the VPA will discontinue its Ballast Water Programme effective January 1st, 2007 and repeal the relevant procedures that have been in place since 1997.

The Harbour Master's Standing Order in March 1, 1997, marked the beginning of the Vancouver Port Authority's (VPA) ballast exchange program aimed at limiting the possibility of transferring non-indigenous species into Canadian waters. The effort and cooperation of many stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, scientists and industry, the West Coast BWM Group made this program a success. The new national Ballast Water Control and Management Regulations that took effect June 28, 2006 will further reduce the risk of harmful aquatic species and pathogens being introduced into Canadian waters through ships' ballast water.

The Regulations mark the culmination of a regulatory evolution in which the VPA has contributed as a member of the West Coast Ballast Water Management (BWM) Group. This is the conclusion of a successful programme but also an important step forward as the ballast water management regulations become national standard.

The VPA will continue to actively exercise its role in protecting the environment, fulfilling its mandate under the CMA through its Ship Boarding Programme as well as providing leadership in implementing socially responsible initiatives that enhance our supply chain and promote a clean and safe port. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship with the port community.

Vancouver Port Authority  
Marine Operations and Security Department  
Tel: 604 665 9086