



# Vessel General Permit

Update



# Vessel General Permit

- Current Permit Expires December 13, 2013
  - Draft revision expected November 30, 2011
  - Final revised permit expected November 30, 2012
  - Implementation of new permit at expiration of existing permit



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- On December 15, 2010 EPA held “Listening Session”
- 223 commenters
  - Did not see any SY’s commenting
  - Most comments related to ballast water or implementation questions
  - Many comments requesting EPA to control invasive species



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- EPA settles with State of Michigan and several environmental groups
  - EPA agrees to include numeric concentration based effluent limits for ballast water
    - Based on organisms per unit ballast water volume
  - EPA agrees to issue revised draft by 11/30/2011
  - EPA agrees to issue revised final by 11/30/2012
    - Provides one year for entities to implement by the expiration of the existing permit
  - EPA agrees to make improvements to 401 WQC process



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- EPA publishes report on vessels <79 feet
  - These vessels exempt from regulation per regulatory moratorium (except for ballast water)
  - Between 118,000 – 140,000 vessel in category, 50% are fishing vessels
  - EPA study focused on:
    - Engine discharges, bilges, fish holds, decks, grey water
  - Summary of findings:
    - Discharges from these vessels not likely to cause pollution
    - Could contribute to existing impairment, especially in smaller, enclosed water bodies
    - Total Arsenic and dissolved Cu primary concern



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- EPA conducting two additional studies in 2011
  - Ballast water study with National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
  - Ballast water study with EPA Science Advisory Board in conjunction with U.S. Coast Guard