

## **AGENCY UPDATE**

Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Virtual Meeting - March 6-8, 2023

### **NAME**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

### **AGENCY/BUREAU**

U.S. Coast Guard, Commercial Regulations and Standards Directorate

### **CONTACT E-MAIL / AGENCY WEBSITE**

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### **AGENCY'S MISSION RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

On December 4, 2018, the President signed into law the "Vessel Incidental Discharge Act" (VIDA) (Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018). VIDA restructures the way the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regulate incidental discharges, primarily from commercial vessels, into waters of the United States and the contiguous zone.

### **PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023**

The Coast Guard continues to implement provisions of VIDA, which includes updating both EPA and Coast Guard regulations on non-accidental releases of invasive species (by ballast water and hull fouling) and other waste streams by vessels. EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for discharge standards in October 2020, and now expects to publish a Supplemental NPRM by late 2023, and a Final Rule by late 2024. In parallel, Coast Guard is developing complementary regulations to implement compliance and enforcement of EPA standards, and which are due two years after EPA's Final Rule.

In addition to regulatory efforts, the Coast Guard continues other VIDA efforts, including its state outreach efforts. A final policy letter was published March 24, 2022, that describes the process to accept alternate test methods for ballast water management systems that render organisms non-viable. VIDA requires Coast Guard, EPA, and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to develop an intergovernmental response framework for aquatic invasive species. The framework will include a risk assessment and response framework and best management practices. Lastly, the Coast Guard continues to work with Smithsonian, EPA, Navy, and Transportation partners on various research projects.