

**WAC 220-650-110 Ballast tank sediment.** (1) **Purpose.** A vessel owner or operator may not remove or discharge sediment or tank fouling organisms into waters of the state from spaces carrying ballast water unless that sediment or those organisms are discharged solely in the location from which they originated. Sediment is known to contain non-indigenous species that are otherwise missed during open sea exchange and operations that would otherwise meet ballast water discharge performance standards. These rules implement RCW 77.120.020 (1)(b) and the overall authority under RCW 77.120.030(3) and 77.120.040(5) to set standards by rule that provide a minimal risk of introducing nonindigenous species into the waters of the state.

(2) **Ballast tank sediment removal options.**

(a) In general. Three options are provided for the effective removal of sediment and any fouling organisms in a vessel's ballast tanks, including saltwater flushing, upland disposal, or use of an approved reception facility.

(b) Saltwater flushing. Ballast tanks must be cleaned as necessary in open sea exchange areas consistent with WAC 220-650-070(3) voyage requirements unless common water rules apply under WAC 220-650-070(4) except for ballast-related fouling organisms. Sediment may be removed by saltwater flushing of ballast water tanks by:

(i) Adding open sea water to a ballast water tank that contains residual quantities of ballast waters;

(ii) Mixing the open sea water with the residual ballast water and sediment in the tank through the motion of a vessel or alternative means so that the sediment becomes suspended; and

(iii) Discharging the mixed water so that the salinity of the resulting residual ballast water in the tank exceeds thirty parts per thousand.

(c) Upland disposal. Tank sediment and fouling organisms may be removed from the vessel under controlled arrangements in port or in drydock, and disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal law.

(d) Sediment reception facilities. The department, in consultation with the department of ecology, will adopt department policies as necessary for sediment reception facilities. These facilities must be approved by the department for use and provide for the disposal of such sediment in a way that effectively eliminates the risk of nonindigenous species and does not impair or damage the environment, human health, property, or resources of the disposal area.

(3) **Reporting.** Sediment cleaning and discharges must be recorded in the vessel's ballast water log or record book as defined in WAC 220-650-030(6), or in another format conforming to the intent of that section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.020, 77.12.045, 77.12.047, 77.120.040(5). WSR 18-08-013, § 220-650-110, filed 3/22/18, effective 4/22/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), recodified as § 220-650-110, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.120.030, 77.120.040, and 77.120.070. WSR 09-14-052 (Order 09-110), § 220-150-070, filed 6/25/09, effective 7/26/09.]