



# CALIFORNIA'S MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM



CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION • MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

## Marine Invasive Species Program

The Marine Invasive Species Program (MISP) seeks to be a world-leading program that reduces the risk of aquatic nonindigenous species introduction into California's waters.

The program strives to accomplish this goal through:

- The development, implementation, and enforcement of innovative vessel biofouling and ballast water management policies.
- The use of best available technology and peer reviewed science.
- Partnerships with stakeholders to improve awareness of invasive species issues and assess program efficacy

Vessels that arrive at a California port, are 300 gross registered tons or more, and are carrying or capable of carrying ballast water.

### The Marine Invasive Species Program at Work



### Marine Invasive Species Program History

The MISP began in 1999 with the passage of California's Ballast Water Management for Control of Nonindigenous Species Act, which addressed the threat of species introductions from vessels arriving at California ports. In 2003, the Marine Invasive Species Act was passed, reauthorizing and expanding the 1999 Act. Subsequent amendments to the Act and additional legislation further expanded the Program's scope.

For more information, please visit the MISP webpages at the California State Lands Commission website: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Programs/MISP.html>



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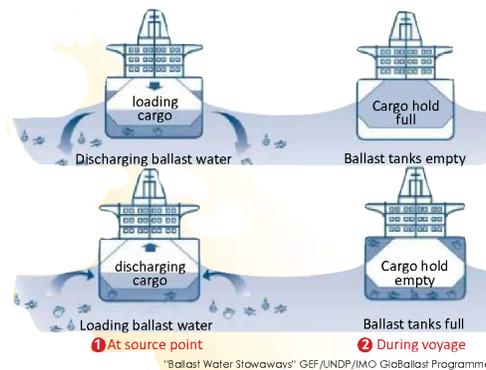
## What are Nonindigenous Species (NIS)?

NIS are organisms that are intentionally or unintentionally transported through human activities to new habitats such as California's marine, estuarine, and freshwater environments. NIS threaten human health, the economy, and the environment. A NIS is considered an invasive species once it is moved, becomes established in a new geographic location, and causes impacts. In coastal aquatic habitats, vessel ballast water and biofouling are two of the most significant NIS vectors. Prevention of species introductions through vector management is considered the most effective way to address invasive species because, once established, attempts to eradicate invasive species are often unsuccessful and costly.

## How Commercial Ships Move Nonindigenous Species

### Ballast Water

Vessels take on ballast water to adjust weight for stability in rough seas, to navigate through shallow waterways, or to pass under bridges. Ballast water that is taken up in one port, then discharged in another port can contain thousands of organisms that may gain a foothold in a new location.



### Vessel Fouling

Some organisms attach to hard surfaces that are underwater, including the bottoms and sides of ships. These "fouling" organisms can be moved along with vessels to new places where they can be introduced.

