

May 2006

Dear Reviewer –

Thank you for agreeing to review the attached document “Report To Congress: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Ballast Water Exchange (BWE) in Controlling Aquatic Nonindigenous Species (ANS) Introductions to the Great Lakes Basin and Chesapeake Bay.” Please try

Please address the following questions in formulating your comments:

1. Is the charge clearly described in the report? Are all aspects of the charge fully addressed? Do the authors go beyond their charge or their expertise?
2. Are the conclusions and recommendations adequately supported by evidence, analysis, and argument? Are uncertainties or incompleteness in the evidence explicitly recognized?
3. If any recommendations are based on value judgments or the collective opinions of the authors, is this acknowledged and are scientifically defensible reasons given for reaching those judgments?
4. Are the data and analyses handled competently? Are statistical methods applied appropriately?
5. Are the report’s exposition and organization effective? Is the title appropriate?
6. Is the report fair? Is its tone impartial and devoid of special pleading?
7. Does the executive summary concisely and accurately describe the key findings and recommendations? Is it consistent with other sections of the report?
8. Are signed papers or appendices, if any, relevant to the charge? If the report relies on signed papers to support consensus findings or recommendations, do the papers meet criterion 3 above?
9. What other significant improvements, if any, might be made in the report?

Please prepare your review using word processing software (e.g. Microsoft Word, text file, etc.). As a reminder, the names and affiliations of reviewers, along with a complete set of expert reviews will be made publicly available. However, your review comments will be compiled with those of the other reviewers and individual comments will not be attributed to individual reviewers.

Please also complete the enclosed conflict of interest form. This includes attaching a copy of your curriculum vitae. For your information, this form is derived from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Policy on Conflict of Interest.

Please submit your review electronically to Melissa Pearson (Melissa.pearson@noaa.gov) no later than *June 09, 2006*. Please fax your completed and signed conflict of interest form to my attention at 301-713-0999 or mail it to the following address:

Melissa Pearson
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National Sea Grant College Program (R/SG)
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Silver Spring, MD 20910

Thank you, again, for your participation in this review.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pearson