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MEDIA INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY
March 19, 2012

**SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
STATEMENT ON U.S. COAST GUARD BALLAST WATER RULE**

The SLSDC applauds the publication by the USCG of its Final Rule regarding the installation of ballast water treatment systems in ships entering U.S. waters. The U.S now has a strong national standard that is consistent with the standards of both the International Maritime Organization and the Government of Canada. The Rule not only provides robust protection for the environment, but also preserves the 227,000 jobs that depend on maritime commerce in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system. Even though it has taken many years to get to this point, the USCG is to be commended for staying the course and completing its statutory responsibilities.

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