



PRESS RELEASE

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Contacts: Kira Schmidt, Bluewater Network, 415-544-0790 x14
Diana Mann, Surfrider Foundation, 562-494-2889
Marco Gonzalez, San Diego BayKeeper, 619-758-7744

Carnival Cruise Lines to Pay \$200,000 for Illegal Dumping of Ballast Water

Settlement concludes more than three years of violations

San Francisco, CA – Carnival Cruise Lines will pay \$200,000 to the California State Lands Commission for repeated violations of a state law regulating the discharge of ballast water, the largest source of invasive species in California.

A settlement agreement between Carnival and the State Lands Commission was passed on consent yesterday at the Commission's meeting in San Diego. The funds will be used for as yet unspecified projects relating to the Commission's work on ballast water management. Carnival also agreed to pay an additional \$24,284 for reimbursement of the Commission's costs incurred in this case.

“With this action, the state is sending a clear message: Californians don't want Carnival dumping tainted water into our precious coastal areas,” said Kira Schmidt, Bluewater Network's Cruise Ship Campaign Manager. “Carnival's repeated violation of the state's ballast water law is yet another example of the need for stronger government oversight and regulation of the cruise lines' impacts on California's environment.”

The settlement is the end result of more than three years of ongoing violation of the ballast water law by the cruise line. The law, reauthorized this year, seeks to control and reduce the release of non-native aquatic species and organisms into state waters. Ships carry ballast water in large tanks to ensure stability at sea, and discharge it when they take on cargo or passengers. However, ballast water often contains invasive plants and animals that can crowd out native species and multiply to pest proportions. Invasive species have caused significant damage to California's environment, native species and economy.

Carnival had been in violation of the law since it went into effect in January 2000. However, rather than pursuing enforcement action, the Lands Commission agreed to cooperate in good faith with Carnival and three other cruise lines that were also violating the law. Carnival promised to take the lead and develop a proposal for an acceptable alternative ballast water management practice, but dawdled and ultimately failed to produce the proposal. Bluewater Network appealed to the State Lands Commission in 2001 to pursue enforcement action, and then, with the Environmental Law Foundation, San Diego BayKeeper and the Surfrider Foundation, filed a lawsuit against Carnival in 2002. The lawsuit was settled in April 2003 with a judge's order that Carnival stop its illegal practice of dumping untreated ballast water into California waters. Bluewater and the other plaintiffs urged the Lands Commission to levy \$250,000 in fines against Carnival for its violations.

The violation of environmental laws is not new to Carnival – last year, for one, the company pleaded guilty to illegally dumping oily water and lying to the Coast Guard, and paid \$18 million in fines. Then, in July of this year, Carnival violated its probation by filing bogus environmental audit reports.

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