



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

October 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Honeycutt, Ph.D.
Chair, Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Honeycutt:

Thank you for the Science Advisory Board's letter of December 20, 2016, transmitting the results of the SAB's review of the conclusions in the report titled *Efficacy of Ballast Water Treatment Systems: A Report by the Science Advisory Board*.

In response to concerns raised by some members of the former Ecological Processes and Effects Committee Augmented for the Ballast Water Advisory, the SAB convened a workgroup to examine the study and the report and determined that there are no errors in the report that require correction. The Office of Water used this report to inform the development of the 2013 Vessel General Permit, which regulates ballast water discharges, and included requirements in the permit based on some of the report's recommendations.

I appreciate the effort it took to undertake this review of the report and thank the SAB for providing this update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator