The vessel sea chest screen is the first line of defense in keeping large living organisms out of the vessel ballast water tanks. Owner/operators of Laker vessels must perform annual inspections of their sea chest screens to assure that they are fully intact. The inspection must assure that there is no deterioration which has resulted in wider openings or holes in the screen. If the screen has deteriorated such that there are wider openings than the screen design, the vessel owner operator must repair or replace the screen. Any repairs must be of sufficient quality that they are expected to last at least one year.

If a confined Laker meets the permit limits found in Part 2.2.3.5 of this permit, the vessel owner/operator is not required to conduct the additional management measures found in Part 2.2.3.4, but must still comply with Part 2.2.3.3.

2.2.3.5 Ballast Water Numeric Discharge Limitations

Owners/operator must meet the following discharge limits consistent with the schedule found in Part 2.2.3.5.2, unless you are excluded from these requirements by Parts 2.2.3.5.3 or 2.2.3.8 of this permit:

1. For organisms greater than or equal to 50 micrometers in minimum dimension: discharge must include fewer than 10 living organisms per cubic meter of ballast water.
2. For organisms less than 50 micrometers and greater than or equal to 10 micrometers: discharge must include fewer than 10 living organisms per milliliter (mL) of ballast water.
3. Indicator microorganisms must not exceed:
   (i) For Toxicogenic *Vibrio cholerae* (serotypes O1 and O139): a concentration of less than 1 colony forming unit (cfu) per 100 mL.
   (ii) For *Escherichia coli*: a concentration of fewer than 250 cfu per 100 mL.
   (iii) For intestinal enterococci: a concentration of fewer than 100 cfu per 100 mL.

These limits may be met by using one of the ballast water management measures in Parts 2.2.3.5.1, 2.2.3.5.1.2, 2.2.3.5.1.3, or 2.2.3.5.1.4.

Note: EPA will continue to explore new technologies with industry and states, and when warranted, will make this numeric limit more stringent in the future (see discussion in section 4.4.3.5.1 of the fact sheet). Additionally, EPA encourages and anticipates, as part of this process, that states will continue to work with industry to test and provide opportunities for new technologies.

2.2.3.5.1 Ballast Water Management Measures

In addition to the other requirements of this permit, owner/operators of vessels with the capacity to carry greater than or equal to 8 cubic meters of ballast water may use one of the four following ballast water management methods to meet the numeric discharge limits in Part 2.2.3.5: