

Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Consent Order Fact Sheet

- United States District Court Judge Garland Burrell approved a Consent Judgment against the United States, settling litigation brought by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Arc Ecology, San Francisco BayKeeper and the Natural Resources Defense Council, regarding the maintenance and disposal of obsolete ships owned by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration at the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet site in Suisun Bay. The Judgment resolves the lawsuit .
- Under the Judgment, MARAD will clean, maintain, and dispose of some 56 obsolete, non-retention ships in a manner that eliminates sources of Bay pollution.
- The Maritime Administration has already begun removing obsolete ships from Suisun Bay for recycling—4 ships have left since November 2009, and another vessel is scheduled to be removed from the fleet on March 31. A total of 52 obsolete ships remain.
- Under the terms of the Judgment:
 - Hazardous paint debris collected on vessel decks will be removed within 120 days.
 - All the obsolete ships currently located at the site will be cleaned of flaking paint within 2 years.
 - Twenty ships in the worst condition will be removed for disposal by September 30, 2012.
 - Before their removal, these ships will be sent to a local drydock for cleaning (removing marine growth from the underwater hull and removing flaking paint from areas above the water).
 - All the obsolete ships currently located at the site will be removed for disposal by September 30, 2017.
 - Prior to removal, the ships will be maintained according to locally-approved best management practices, as monitored by the Regional Board.
 - The horizontal surfaces of the obsolete ships will be cleaned every 90 days to prevent peeling paint from getting into the water; monthly and quarterly inspections will be conducted; and water runoff samples will be collected regularly.
 - No new ships with excess flaking paint will be admitted to the fleet site.