Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Agreement Fact Sheet

- The United States Government has reached an agreement with Arc Ecology, San Francisco BayKeeper, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Regional Board) 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, resolving a lawsuit in the Eastern District of California.

- Under the agreement, MARAD will clean, maintain, and dispose of these 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 settlement:

    - 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-eight 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.