Ballast-water Perspectives on the Passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act

Thomas Rayburn
Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs
Lake Carriers’ Association
May 14, 2018
What’s it all about?

• Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S. 168)
• Coast Guard Authorization Act (S. 1129)
• Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (S. 140)
Coast Guard Authorization Act

• Coast Guard Center of Expertise for Great Lakes oil spill preparedness and response
• New heavy Great Lakes icebreaker
• Mission priorities: search and rescue, law enforcement, aids to navigation, pollution response, and icebreaking
• VIDA
• Vote: 56 to 42
• All republicans, but one, plus seven “yes” Democrats
• Lost three Democratic co-sponsors
• Lost two other Democrats
• Schumer has never lost a cloture vote
• Unanimous consent
Moral of the story

• Congress is infinitely baffling
Committee jurisdiction

• Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Coast Guard)
• Environment and Public Works (Clean Water Act)
Next steps

• Bipartisan interest
• Lakers installing treatment system
• Critters versus chemicals
Questions?