

River Watch website case review:

On August 28, 2023 River Watch served a Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit under the Federal Clean Water Act on the U.S. Dept. of Transportation and the U.S. Maritime Administration alleging the discharge of polluted storm water into Suisun Bay by vessels maintained in the National Defense Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay.

Discharges from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Facility contain documented levels of Mercury, Selenium, pH, Cadmium, Copper, Nickel, Zinc, and TPH as Motor Oil, which adversely affect Suisun Bay. The Suisun Bay Marsh is habitat for salmon, steelhead trout, smelt, sturgeon and striped bass. Failing to care for this critical environment as alleged in the River Watch Notice is a violation not only of law, but an abrogation of the trust we demand of agencies responsible for public trust resources.

General vessel potential pollutant sources include deck runoff from vessel superstructure, equipment, deck, and hull that may contain paint solids, oil and grease, bird feces, and miscellaneous solids, such as wood chips, vegetative debris, general trash, and metal or rust pieces. River Watch is in ongoing negotiation with the responsible agencies to reach a settlement agreement to implement improvements to the Fleet maintenance procedures which will prevent the discharge of harmful pollutants into this critical habitat. If the parties can not reach a mutually acceptable agreement, River Watch will file suit in Federal Court seeking remedies imposed by the Court directing the responsible agencies to perform specific actions to prevent further pollution of Suisun Bay.