

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 11, 2012

Representative Bill Stoltze
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Co-Chairman Stoltze:

During the House Finance Committee hearing on House Bill 365, Representative Gara requested the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) provide written comment of our interpretation on how the directives contained within the bill would be implemented.

Under the rapid response and management plans described in the House Finance Committee Substitute for HB 365, AS 16.05.093(b) ADF&G authority "may use chemical, biological, mechanical, or physical methods, singly or in combination, to control the occurrence of or eradicate an aquatic invasive species..." AS 16.05.093(f) mandates that ADF&G "respond in a matter determined to cause the least harm to noninvasive resident fish populations..." The methods in which we would consider using to control or eradicate an aquatic invasive species are optional under HB 365, but the way in which we would carry out those methods is mandatory.

When considering the control or eradication of an invasive species within a freshwater ecosystem, ADF&G would take into account the presence of any non-invasive fish population present. Any potential harm to that non-invasive fish population as a result of the control or eradication of an invasive species would be mitigated. ADF&G would not be compelled to take action if the harm to the non-invasive fish population outweighs the benefits of eradication to the invasive fish population.

If you have any further questions on how ADF&G would carry out the directives contained in HB 365 please feel free to contact me at 465-6137.

Sincerely,



Ben Mulligan
Legislative Liaison