

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 177: Aquatic Invasive Species - Version J Sectional Analysis

Section 1

Amends Alaska's watercraft statutes (AS 5.25.055) to give the Department of Administration the authority to provide prevention-related educational materials regarding aquatic invasive species to people who register their boats.

Section 2

Amends Alaska's Fish and Game statutes (AS 16.05.093) to give the department authority over aquatic invasive species to:

- a) use chemical, biological, mechanical or physical methods to control and eradicate it;
- b) declare an emergency and suspend applicable environmental laws and regulations to control and eradicate it;
- c) prioritize the area and give authority to open or close a season or area to control and eradicate it;
- d) require other departments to cooperate with Fish and Game to control and eradicate it;
- e) require the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game to include in all relevant leases and permits a provision that the state be held harmless for actions taken on private property to control and eradicate it;
- f) use caution to cause the least harm to noninvasive fish populations;
- g) provide reasonable notice and consider potential effects to affected property owners to control and eradicate it;
- h) create the aquatic invasive species fund to accept appropriations to control and eradicate it.

Section 3

Amends Alaska's Marine Highway laws to give authority to the Commissioner of Transportation and Public Facilities to provide prevention-related educational materials regarding aquatic invasive species to people transporting vessels into the state.