

HOUSE BILL NO. 365

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/14/12

Referred: Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the rapid response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species."

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 16.05.093. Rapid response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species.**

5 (a) The department shall, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental
6 Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state, federal, public,
7 and private entities, establish a rapid response and management plan for addressing
8 occurrences of aquatic invasive species in limited or isolated geographic areas. The
9 plan must

10 (1) identify and assess potential responses to the occurrence of an
11 aquatic invasive species that can be carried out quickly; and

12 (2) provide procedures, consistent with applicable state and federal
13 law, for the expedited eradication or control of an invasive species in a limited or
14 isolated area.

15 (b) Consistent with applicable state and federal law, under the rapid response

1 and management plan established under (a) of this section, the department may use
2 chemical, biological, mechanical, or physical methods, singly or in combination, to
3 control the occurrence of or eradicate an aquatic invasive species in a limited or
4 isolated geographic area.

5 (c) In responding under (b) of this section to the occurrence of an aquatic
6 invasive species, the department may apply for suspension of, or emergency,
7 quarantine, public health, crisis, or other exemptions to, applicable environmental laws
8 and regulations.

9 (d) Rapid response to, and management of, an aquatic invasive species in a
10 limited or isolated geographic area under (b) of this section shall be given priority over
11 other activities of the department and activities regulated by the department. The
12 commissioner or an authorized designee may summarily open or close a season or area
13 under AS 16.05.060 to aid in responding to the occurrence of an invasive species
14 under this section.

15 (e) Each state department, agency, and institution shall cooperate with the
16 department in responding under (b) of this section to the occurrence of an aquatic
17 invasive species in a limited or isolated geographic area.

18 (f) In this section, "aquatic invasive species" means an organism introduced to
19 a marine or freshwater ecosystem to which it is not native and whose introduction
20 causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human
21 health.