

HOUSE BILL NO. 177

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki

Introduced: 3/14/17

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species; establishing**
2 **the aquatic invasive species response fund; and relating to the provision of information**
3 **about aquatic invasive species to users of the Alaska marine highway system."**

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

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

6 **Sec. 16.05.093. Response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species.** (a)
7 Consistent with applicable state and federal law, the department may use chemical,
8 biological, mechanical, or physical methods, singly or in combination, to control the
9 occurrence of or eradicate an aquatic invasive species.

10 (b) In responding under (a) of this section to the occurrence of an aquatic
11 invasive species, the department may apply for suspension of, or emergency,
12 quarantine, public health, crisis, or other exemptions to, applicable environmental laws
13 and regulations.

14 (c) Response to, and management of, an aquatic invasive species under (a) of

1 this section shall be given priority over activities regulated by the department in the
2 area where an incipient population of an aquatic invasive species is being targeted.
3 The commissioner or an authorized designee may summarily open or close a season or
4 area under AS 16.05.060 to aid in responding to the occurrence of an aquatic invasive
5 species under this section.

6 (d) Each state department, agency, or other entity shall cooperate with the
7 department response to the occurrence of an aquatic invasive species when the
8 department has jurisdiction, and the department shall cooperate with another state
9 department, agency, or entity responding to the occurrence of an aquatic invasive
10 species when the department, agency, or other entity has jurisdiction.

11 (e) The Department of Natural Resources and the department shall include in
12 all relevant leases and permits a provision that the state and the officers and employees
13 of the state shall be held harmless for an act under (a) of this section that affects
14 private property of the lessee or permittee.

15 (f) In responding under (a) of this section to the occurrence of freshwater
16 aquatic invasive species, the department shall respond in a manner determined to
17 cause the least harm to noninvasive fish populations that are used for recreational,
18 personal use, commercial, or subsistence purposes.

19 (g) In responding under (a) of this section to the occurrence of an incipient
20 population of an aquatic invasive species, the department shall provide reasonable
21 notice to affected property owners and shall consider the potential effects of its
22 response measures on private property while selecting the most effective methods to
23 eradicate or control the aquatic invasive species.

24 (h) The aquatic invasive species response fund is established in the general
25 fund. The fund consists of appropriations made to the fund. The purpose of the fund is
26 to pay for responses to aquatic invasive species carried out under (a) of this section.
27 Money appropriated to the fund may be spent for responses made to control the
28 occurrence of or to eradicate an aquatic invasive species under (a) of this section
29 without further appropriation. Money appropriated to the fund does not lapse.

30 (i) In this section, "aquatic invasive species" means northern pike, didemnum
31 tunicate, European green crab, spartina, crayfish, or another organism introduced to a

1 marine or freshwater ecosystem to which it is not native and whose introduction
2 causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human
3 health.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 19.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 19.65.033. Provision of information relating to aquatic invasive**
6 **species.** To the extent possible, the commissioner of transportation and public
7 facilities shall ensure that a person who purchases a ticket for vehicle deck space on a
8 ferry for the purpose of transporting a vessel into the state is provided with any
9 information relating to aquatic invasive species that has been published in pamphlet
10 form by the Department of Natural Resources or the Department of Fish and Game.