

Department of Fish and Game Invasive Species Program: 2019



House Resources Committee
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Invasive Species

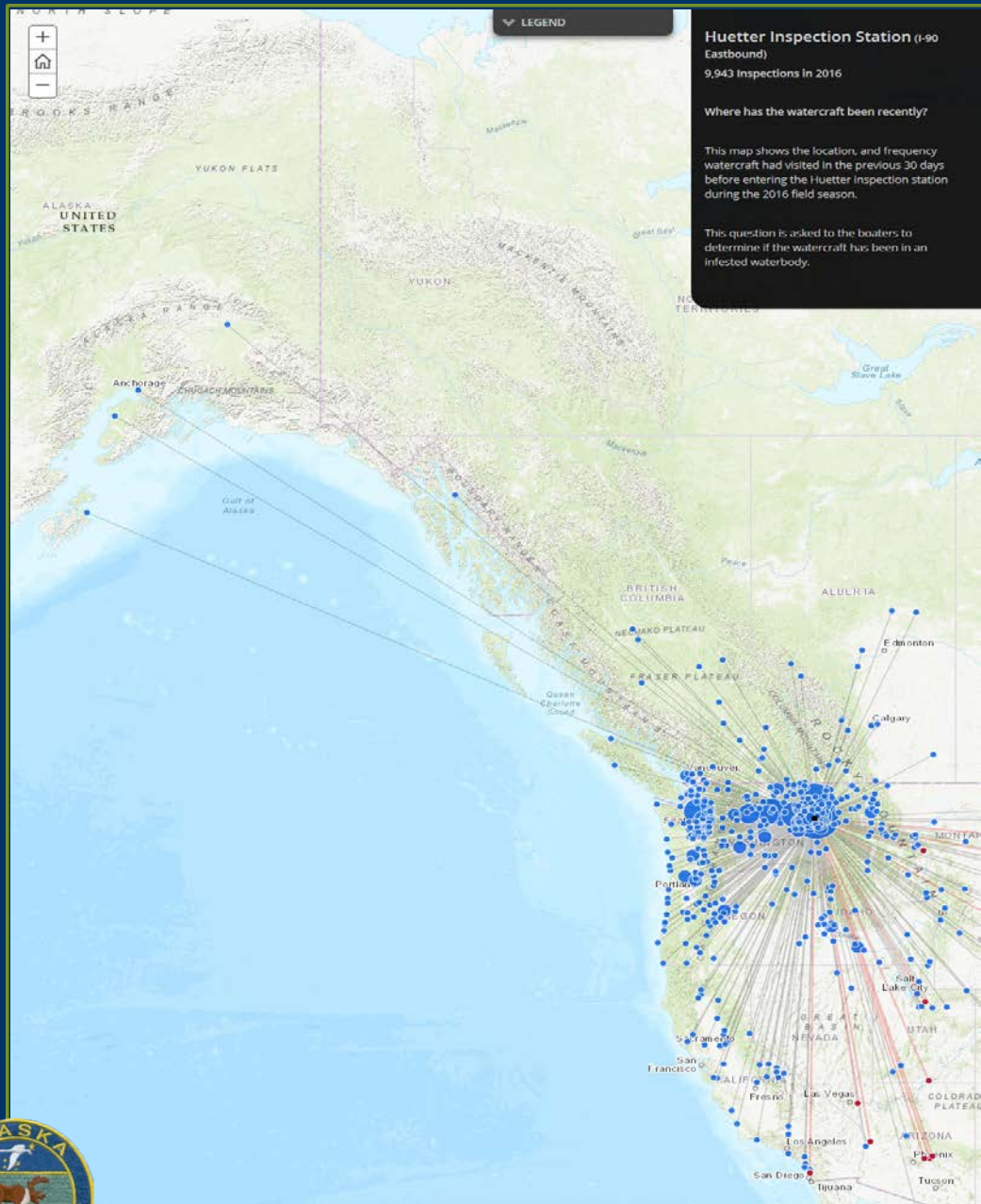
Invasive Species are organisms not native to the ecosystem under consideration that may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

- Ex.: Northern pike in Southcentral, signal crayfish in the Buskin drainage, Elodea in all state waters

Invasive Species Program Objectives

- Collaboration & Partnership: State, federal, tribal and local governmental entities, statewide ad-hoc invasive species groups, universities, western region and nationwide groups.
 - Active partnership with DNR on elodea prevention, detection, response and control.
- Management & Control: Northern pike monitoring, suppression, eradication and research.
- Research: In-water control of colonial tunicates, northern pike movement and eDNA.
- Support citizen science: Marine invasive species monitoring in coastal communities.
- Outreach & Communication: by species and vector; boaters/boat owners, pilots, industry, the public.
- Reporting: Online reporting tool, hotline and database.
- Strategic planning: Programmatic and multi-agency.
- Evaluation of existing statutory and regulatory authorities.





Watercraft Movement in the West

- One inspection station in Idaho (2016)
 - 9,943 inspections by year
 - 12 mussel fouled boats
 - 4 boats from Alaska

Boats transit through Canadian inspections stations to AK:

2017

Alberta: 13 watercraft, 2 high risk

British Columbia: 2 watercraft, 1 high risk

2018

Alberta: 12 watercraft, 2 high risk, 1 mussel

British Columbia: 42 watercraft, 5 high risk, 3 quarantined

2019

Alberta: 3 watercraft, 0 high risk

Idaho: 1 watercraft, deconned 2x for mussels



Alaska Invasive Species Authorities Review

- Background: Affiliation with the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (WRP) and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) highlighted the growing need for measures to prevent the spread of zebra & quagga mussels and other invasive species in Alaska.
 - The National Sea Grant Law Center and WAFWA outlined a legal framework for preventing AIS introductions via the watercraft pathway.
 - Model Legislative Provisions & Guidance to Promote Reciprocity among State Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs, aka “Model Law”
- Review: ADF&G led a work group with DEC, DNR and DOT&PF to review invasive species authorities.
 - All agencies identified and shared their statutes and regulations.
 - Devised a list of Species of Concern and Key Pathways for introducing invasive species.
 - ADF&G lacked some authorities provided to DEC and DNR which reduced the ability to implement strategies to prevent new invasive species introductions.
- Objective: National Sea Grant Law Center contracted by ADF&G to evaluate collated authorities and identify gaps, and then propose a “model invasive species law” to strengthen the legal framework for aquatic invasive species for Alaska.



Key Gaps by Pathway and Recommendations

Gap 1. Watercraft: Unlike DNR & DEC, ADF&G doesn't have authority to inspect key pathways for transmitting invasive species; e.g., aquatic conveyances.

Expand ADF&G commissioner authorities to: inspect and decontaminate water conveyances; survey and investigate for presence; quarantine; and emergency authority for rapid response.

Gap 3. Floatplanes: Key vector for Elodea. AK doesn't have specific legal requirements for inspection or cleaning between infested water bodies.

Consider cleaning requirement or quarantine of floatplanes from known infested waters, and add provisions regarding invasives to aircraft and airport regulations.

Gap 4. Prohibited Species: Federal Injurious Species list is not comprehensive or reflective of species of concern in AK.

Develop, maintain and adopt a classification and listing of non-indigenous and prohibited species to apply to possession, release, import, export, transport, etc.

Gap 2. In-water infrastructure: Docks and similar infrastructure are exempt from permit requirements, aquaculture permits don't require notification when gear is relocated or replaced.

Impose permit stipulations to address risk from aquatic invasive species when moving docks, floats, etc. Consider requiring decontamination prior to placement/removal.

