HB 365

<TARGET><BILL>HB 365</BILL><SUBJECT>HB 365</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES27</COMM></TARGET>

27-LS1439\A.1
Bullard
3/16/12

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE BY REPRESENTATIVE SEATON

TO: HB 365

Page 2, line 11:

Delete "activities of the department and activities regulated by the department"

Insert "activities regulated by the department in that limited or isolated geographic area"

Conceptual Amendment

Offered in the House

By Representative Seaton

Add "marine" before "aquatic invasive species" throughout the bill

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Resources Committee

Rep. Paul Seaton, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 102

Juneau, AK 99801 – 1182
Phone (907) 465-2689
Fax (907) 465-3472
Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Eric Feige, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 126

Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799
Rep.Eric.Feige@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement
HB 365

Didemnum vexillumis (DVex) also known as Sea Vomit, is an aggressive tunicate invader that grows rapidly and has few known natural predators. It creates metabolic toxins that help it smother substrates and other organisms to create monoculture infestations from intertidal, subtidal to deep sea habitats. As demonstrated in a recent infestation in Whiting Harbor near Sitka the rapid spread of DVex is a threat to the mariculture industry, commercial fisheries and ecosystem integrity.

HB 365 provides the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) the statutory authority to swiftly address outbreaks of aquatic invasive species such as Dvex. Other species of concern include *Didymosphenia geminate (aka Rock Snot) and Northern Pike.*

HB 365 requires ADF&G, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources, to establish a plan of coordination and response to an aquatic invasive species outbreak and colonization in a limited and isolated geographic area.

HB 365 gives ADF&G the authority to use chemical, biological, mechanical, or physical methods to deal with the outbreak. It allows for expedited review of plans for dealing with invasive species, and directs ADF&G staff to prioritize eradication of the invasive species over other management issues for the limited and specific area.

Sea Vomit, Rock Snot and other aquatic invasive species have the potential to seriously impact our lucrative commercial fishing, mariculture, and recreational fishing industries. HB 365 gives Alaska the tools to combat this threat.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **HB 365**
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): HB365-DEC-SWM-03-15-12
Title: Aquatic Invasive Species
Sponsor: House Resources Committee
Requester: House Resources Committee

Dept. Affected: Environmental Conservation
Appropriation: Environmental Health
Allocation: Solid Waste Management
OMB Component Number: 2344

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commodities	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Outlay	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants, Benefits	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003	GF Match	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004	GF	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037	GF/MH (UGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1178	temp code (UGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL		**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

POSITIONS							
Full-time	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0

CHANGE IN REVENUES	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by: Kristin Ryan, Director — Phone: (907) 269-7645
Division: Environmental Health — Date/Time: 3/15/2012 14:00 pm
Approved by: Lynn Kent, Deputy Commissioner — Date: 3/16/2012

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** HB 365
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

HB 365 has no fiscal impact to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Current Division of Environmental Health staff could absorb the amount of time required to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Game in establishing the plan and responding to invasive species attacks.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **HB 365**
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): HB365-DEC-WQ-03-15-12
Title: Aquatic Invasive Species
Sponsor: House Resources Committee
Requester: House Resources Committee

Dept. Affected: Environmental Conservation
Appropriation: Water
Allocation: Water Quality
OMB Component Number: 2062

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commodities	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Outlay	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants, Benefits	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
FUND SOURCE			(Thousands of Dollars)				
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1178 temp code (UGF)	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
POSITIONS							
Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN REVENUES	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by: Michelle Bonnet, Director — Phone: (907) 261-7599
Division: Water — Date/Time: 3/15/12 1:20 PM
Approved by: Lynn Kent, Deputy Commissioner — Date: 3/16/2012

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** HB 365
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

HB 365 has no fiscal impact to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Current Division of Water staff could absorb the amount of time required to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Game in establishing the plan and responding to invasive species attacks.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA cost ≠ codes
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **HB 365 \A**
Fiscal Note Number:
Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): HB365-DFG-SFD-03-16-12
Title: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
Sponsor: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Requester: House Resourses Committee

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Appropriation: Sport Fisheries
Allocation: Sport Fisheries
OMB Component Number: 464

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services	499.0		218.0	*	*	*	*
Travel	105.0		53.2				
Services	245.0		125.0				
Commodities	5.0		2.5				
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**854.0**	**0.0**	**398.7**	*	*	*	*

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF	854.0		398.7				
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1024	Fish/Game (Other)							
	TOTAL	**854.0**	**0.0**	**398.7**	*	*	*	*

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	6.0		6				

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

This is the initial fiscal note.

Prepared by: Charles O. Swanton, Director — Phone: 907-465-6184
Division: Sport Fisheries — Date/Time: 3/16/12 5:00 PM
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Administrative Services Director — Date: 3/16/2012
Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** HB 365 \A
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

House Bill 365 would require dedicated staff to be hired specifically to address each of six identified (Northern Pike, D.vexillum-Tunicate, Elodea-pondweed, Water Milfoil, European Green Crab, Spartina Cordgrass)invasive species threats to marine and freshwaters across the state. A template for a rapid response plan would be developed specific to each species which would include vectors of transmission, synthesis of background knowledge, documented or perceived distribution and identified threat to specific areas or locations and effective control or eradication methods.

Upon completion, a series of facilitated meetings would take place between identified state, federal and municipal agencies, along with other stakeholder organizations to catalog authorities and available resources specific to rapid response. In addition, a series of facilitated public meetings would be held to receive and document public input and knowledge to be incorporated into a draft plan. Each hired staff member would be specifically assigned to a species and would therefore become the subject matter expert for that species should the need for a response plan be necessary.

The final task would be compiling all of the pertinent information and publishing a final rapid response plan to be implemented by all of the affected parties. We anticipate that these plans will take 18 months to complete and the full year cost is shown in FY13 and a 1/2 year cost is shown in FY14.

Personnel for this project would consist of the department's existing invasive species program coordinator (Range 18) for 12 months to supervise and coordinate plan development. The six project leaders each dealing with a single species would be range 18 long term non-perms whom would be responsible for plan development and finalization within an 18 month period.

Each species would have a series of meetings which would be facilitated by an outside contractor whom would also be required to assist with the drafting following each meeting. We anticipate six meetings per species costing about $10.0 per meeting.

This fiscal note does not reflect the costs associated with implementing any of the plans this legislation directs ADF&G to develop. It would be extremely difficult to estimate those costs at this time resulting in an indeterminate cost for FY15 and beyond.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **HB365**
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): HB365-DHSS-EPI-3-16-12
Title: Aquatic Invasive Species
Sponsor: Resources Committee
Requester: House Resources Committee

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Public Health
Allocation: Epidemiology
OMB Component Number: 296

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable. Initial version.

Prepared by: Ward B. Hurlburt, M.D., MPH / Chief Medical Officer-Director
Division: Public Health
Approved by: Nancy Rolfzen, Assistant Commissioner
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Phone: 269-6754
Date/Time: 3/16/12 12:00 AM
Date: 3/16/2012

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** HB365
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This is a zero fiscal note.

This bill would require an unspecified department (presumably the Alaska Department of Fish and Game) to establish a rapid response and management plan for addressing occurrences of aquatic invasive species in limited geographic areas of Alaska. Development of this plan would need to be done in cooperation with other state agencies. For Health and Social Services, this bill would allow a forum to discuss and respond to invasive aquatic species with a direct impact on human health. An example of such a species could be a novel mosquito (which spends part of its life in freshwater) to Alaska that is capable of transmitting diseases (e.g., West Nile virus) not previously experienced locally in the state. There might also be indirect impacts to human health. An example of this may be the introduction of a new predatory fish species that could affect local fish stocks and impact food stability or may contain differing levels of harmful contaminants in the flesh (e.g., mercury in Northern pike). Either situation could ultimately impact human health and would require a multi-agency response, given jurisdictions and expertise. Based on the past work of a similar Council and other related issues (e.g., rat eradication), the department would likely not play a primary role but would be available to provide relevant input as needed. The department anticipates that the involvement in the rapid response and management plan would be accomplished with existing resources and would result in no fiscal impact.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version **HB365**
Fiscal Note Number
() Publish Date

Identifier (file name) HB365-DNR-AG-03-17-12
Title Aquatic Invasive Species
Sponsor House Resources
Requester (H) RES

Dept. Affected Natural Resources
Appropriation Agriculture
Allocation N. Latitude Plant Materials Center
OMB Component Number 2204

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services	71.0						
Travel	5.0						
Services	3.7						
Commodities	4.5						
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**84.2**	**0.0**	***	***	***	***	***

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF	84.2						
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		**84.2**	**0.0**	***	***	***	***	***

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	**1**						

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial version.

Prepared by Franci Havemeister, Director
Division Division of Agriculture
Approved by Daniel S. Sullivan, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

Phone 907-761-3867
Date/Time 3/17/12 4:00 PM
Date 3/17/2012

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** HB365
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

HB 365 establishes a new section in AS 16.05 that directs the Department of Fish & Game to work with the Department of Natural Resources to establish a rapid response and management plan for addressing occurrences of aquatic invasive species in limited or isolated geographical areas.

This fiscal note covers the costs associated with helping the Department of Fish & Game develop a Rapid Response Plan in FY13 and does not cover the costs associated with implementation of that plan. Not knowing what would be required for plan implementation makes it difficult to predict what the cost would be resulting in an indeterminate cost for FY14 and beyond.

It is anticipated that in order to help develop the plans, the Division of Agriculture would need a long-term, non-perm Natural Specialist Range 16, plus mandatory position costs, travel, and computer equipment. It is assumed that development of a rapid response and management plan would take up to one year and that some travel would be needed in order to coordinate with the Department of Fish & Game.

At this point in time, the only known invasive aquatic plant is Elodea . Elodea can be spread from bodies of water by aircraft, which means that this invasive species is not isolated to a single geographic area. The removal of Elodea would be carried out in the following methods: manual removal by divers, suction dredging, or chemical application.

There have been no prior eradication efforts for invasive aquatic plants in Alaska; but there have been some estimates done in both the Fairbanks and Anchorage area regions for removal of Elodea.
Eradication of aquatic plants are multi-year processes. An estimate for removal of Elodea in Sand Lake in Anchorage was $210.0 over three years using herbicides. The Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District estimated that over a 5 year period it would about $322.4 for mechanical control in Chena Slough.

These are examples of potential costs that may be included in a future rapid repsonse or management plan.

Louie Flora

From: housemajority_email@housemajority.org
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:10 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 365: Action, not more planning, is what is needed!

+----------+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to tlwurtz@alaska.edu If suspected Spam please forward to: support@housemajority.org
+----------+

From: tlwurtz@alaska.edu

Dear Rep. Seaton,
Thanks for your interest in invasive species and your sponsorship of HB 365. I don't know if you're aware that ADF&G wrote a long, detailed invasive species management plan ten years ago, and then put it on a shelf and ignored it. You can find the old plan by googling "ADF&G Aquatic Invasive Species Plan." The real question is: why isn't ADF&G acting on the plan that they themselves wrote? It is a very good plan, just needs commitment. I'm afraid that HB 365 will just allow ADF&G to spend more time writing a new plan that won't be implemented either.
Thank you.
Trish Wurtz, Fairbanks

~ Tricia L. Wurtz
Zip Code: 99708

+----------+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to tlwurtz@alaska.edu If suspected Spam please forward to: support@housemajority.org
+----------+

Linda Hay

From: Tim Stallard <weeds.free.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Alan Dick; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 365 is needed to address Alaska's aquatic invasive species

Categories: Linda

Hello members of the House Resources Committee,

Thank you for proposing and considering HB 365 - "An Act relating to the rapid response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species." I hope you will support this measure.

Alaska's environment and the natural resources upon which we depend for jobs, development, tourism, and quality of life are under threat by the rapid spread of damaging invasive species. Despite our isolation and extreme climate these aggressive alien species are skilled at hitch-hiking on cargo ships, fishing and pleasure boats, float planes, heavy equipment, vehicle tires, commodities (gravel, straw, mulch, soil), etc.

As you are likely aware, invasive species cause many billions of dollars of damage each year in the lower 48 and we are just beginning to see these impacts in Alaska. The best solution is to prevent the arrival of new species in the first place with invasive species-free commodities and good "hygiene" - For example wash the boat, plane, equipment, etc. free of any weed seeds or invasive species prior to arrival in a clean part of Alaska. While we need to do more to prevent the spread of invasive species, it is still inevitable that a few will sneak in. Thus it is essential that we have the ability to detect these alien invaders as early as possible and respond as quickly as possible. This is known as Early Detection/ Rapid Response (EDRR).

I know its politically easier to act after everyone recognizes a major problem, but the sooner we can detect and eradicate or control the most damaging species the better - this will save us a tremendous amount of money and heartache in the long run.

A specific example of a fresh water aquatic invasive species is Elodea (water weed) which is currently known in the Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Cordova areas. This plant is easily spread by small fragments. It has the ability to choke up lakes and slow moving water and degrade salmon spawning habitat. It was recently discovered in Anchorage's Sand Lake - which is used by float planes. We are very concerned that without action, it will soon spread to Lake Hood and from there throughout southcentral and southwest Alaska. USFWS biologists estimate it will cost about $210,000 to plan for and apply aquatic herbicide to Sand Lake - but we believe we can eradicate the plant from this lake with a three year effort. Note that herbicides are a last resort, but in the case of this aggressive weed, herbicides represent a much lower ecological cost than allowing Elodea to take over and spread.

I read through the text of HB 365 and this proposed bill appears to me to perfectly address the need for ADF&G to develop an EDRR plan and act in coordination with other state, federal, local, and private entities. Of course such efforts require funding to be successful, but I understand that needs to be addressed separately in a different process.

I don't see any changes that need to be made to this proposed legislation, except that there may be a comma out of place or word order issue in Sec. 16.05.093 (c) that begins on line 5 of page two of the bill. I believe in the intent of this sentence, but it doesn't make sense to me the way it is written. Also, perhaps something could/should be added to this bill to address the issue of prevention?

At the risk of asking for too much, we need a similar comprehensive statewide effort to deal with the rapid invasion of

terrestrial invasive plants. DNR has an excellent Invasive Species Coordinator, but more resources are needed to address damaging invasive land plants. Perhaps most importantly, Alaska DOT needs to take an active role in preventing the spread of invasive weeds and controlling the many weeds along state Rights of Way, airports, snow dumps and gravel pits.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Thank you,

Tim Stallard
Invasive Plant Program Coordinator
Anchorage Park Foundation

(907) 347-2214

Keeping Weeds OUT of the Picture

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 19, 2012

Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair
Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for HB 365 Regarding Marine Invasive Species

Dear Co-Chairmen Seaton & Feige, and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA member groups have long been concerned with the number of marine invasive species that have been identified in Alaska or have the potential to be introduced here. If rapid response capabilities are not established in advance, or if invasives and their transporting vectors are not identified at early stages, they pose potentially devastating effect on the state's fishery resources and the livelihoods of fishing fleets.

UFA commends the committee for drawing attention to this issue through sponsorship of HB 365, and we recommend support in the legislature. Thank you for your attention to this issue, and your support of HB 365.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

Didemnum vexillum (Dvex) in Sitka, AK

Prepared for House Resources Committee
1/23/2012

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Acknowledgements

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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- Sitka Sound Science Center
- US Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- **All the people in Sitka and outside of Sitka that have come together to support this project**

Dvex in Sitka

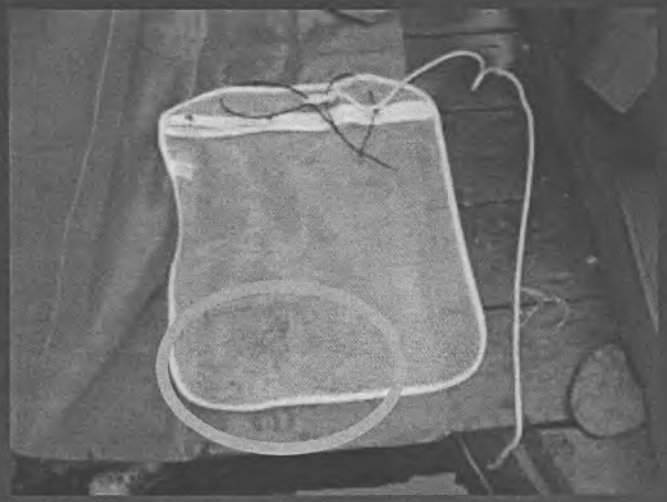
- Explosive growth and potential for spread
- Whiting Harbor infestation
  - First contain, then eradicate.
- Reduce possibilities for reintroduction
- Learn more about the biology of Dvex and potential impacts in Alaska

Growth Over 10 Week Period

Appearance on 6/24/11

Whiting Harbor, Sitka, AK

6/24/11



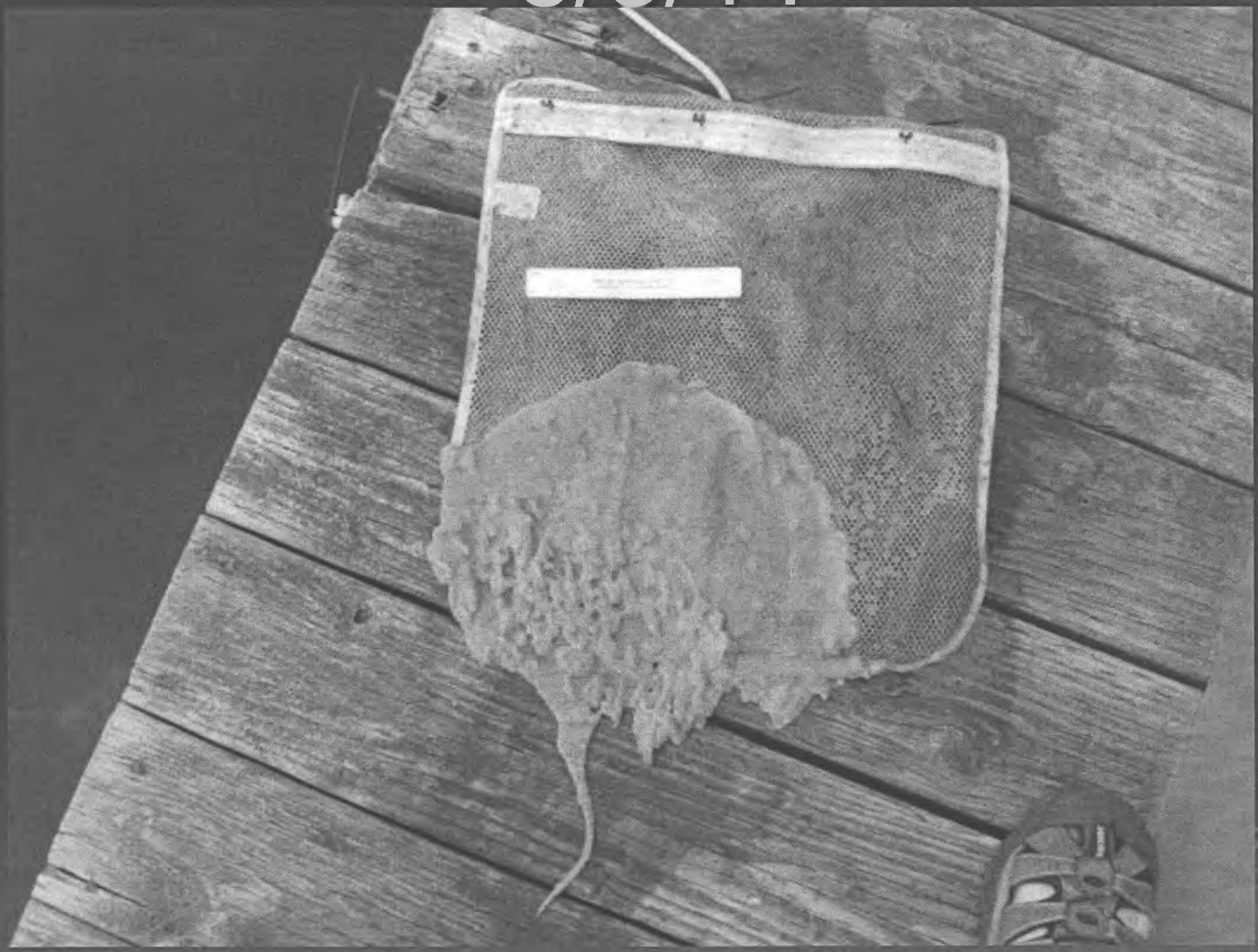
6/24/11

6/24/11

7/9/11

7/22/11

8/5/11



8/16/11

9/1/11

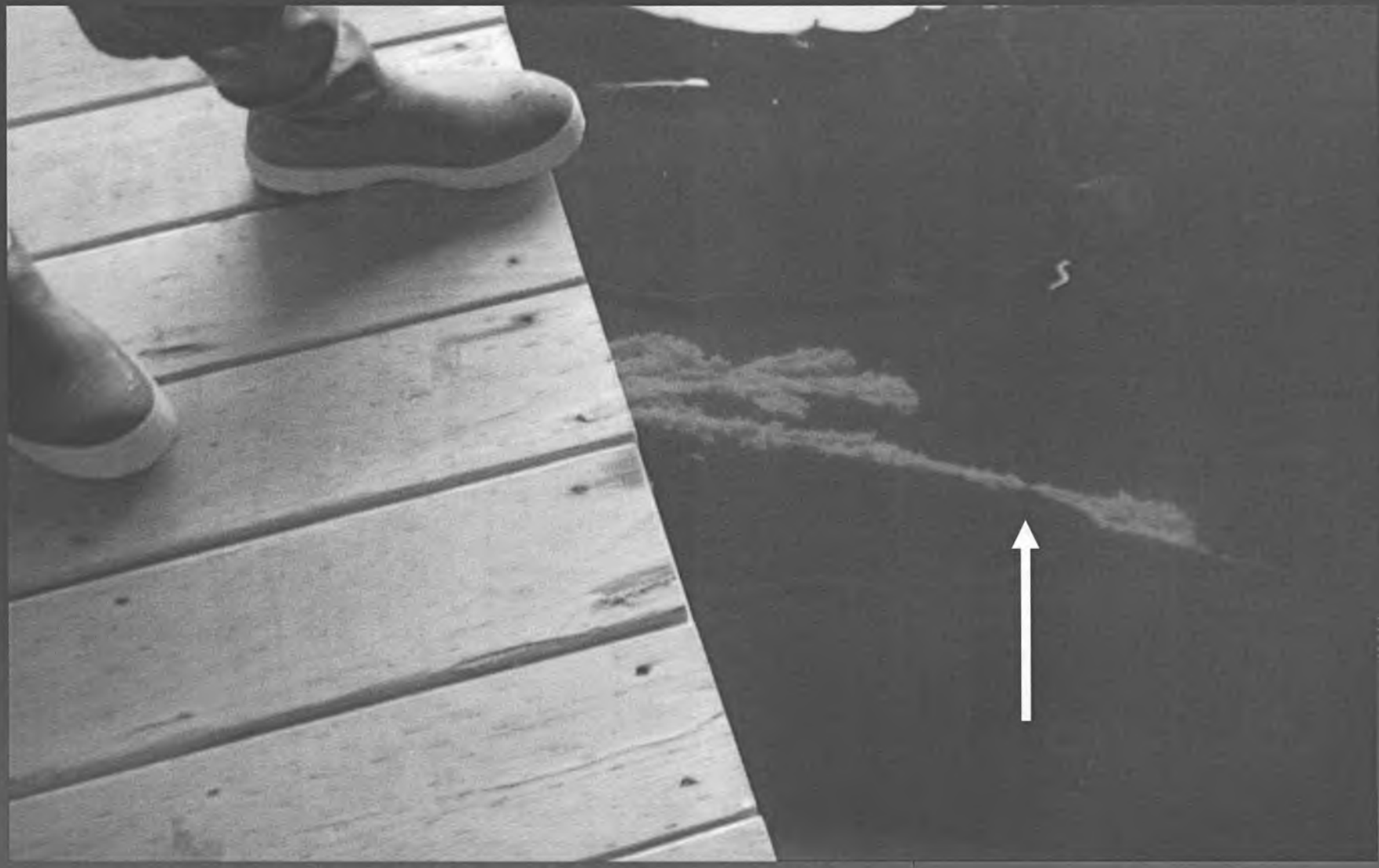
6/24/11
(10 weeks previous)

9/1/11

"Dangles"

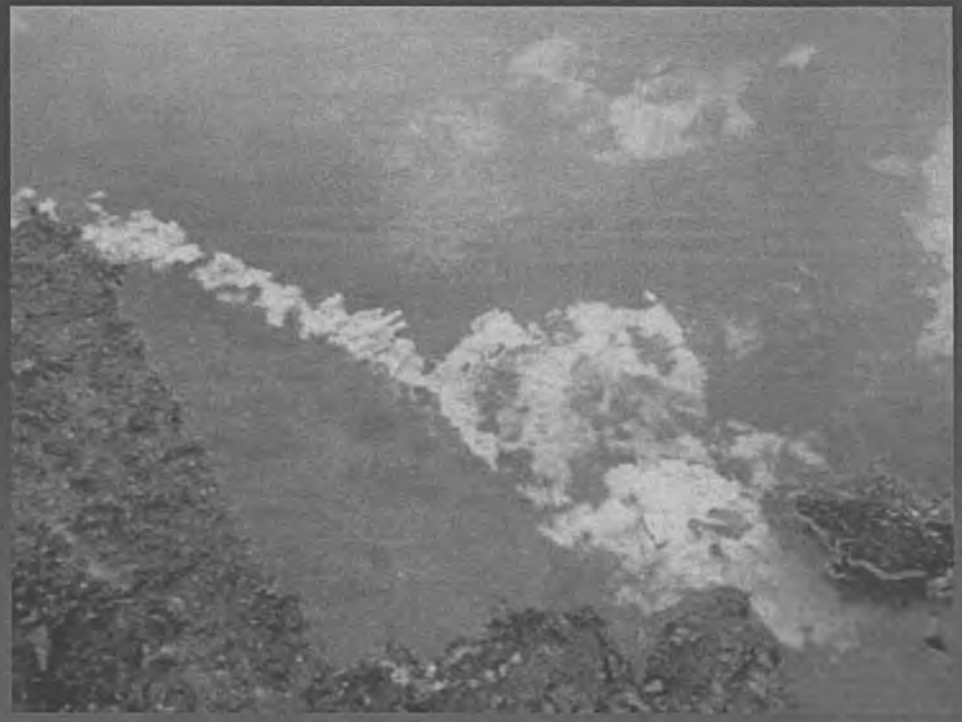
Typical 7-14 day growth of dangles.

Dangles attenuate and break free



Within a few days ……

Intertidal Dvex
Sitka, Alaska



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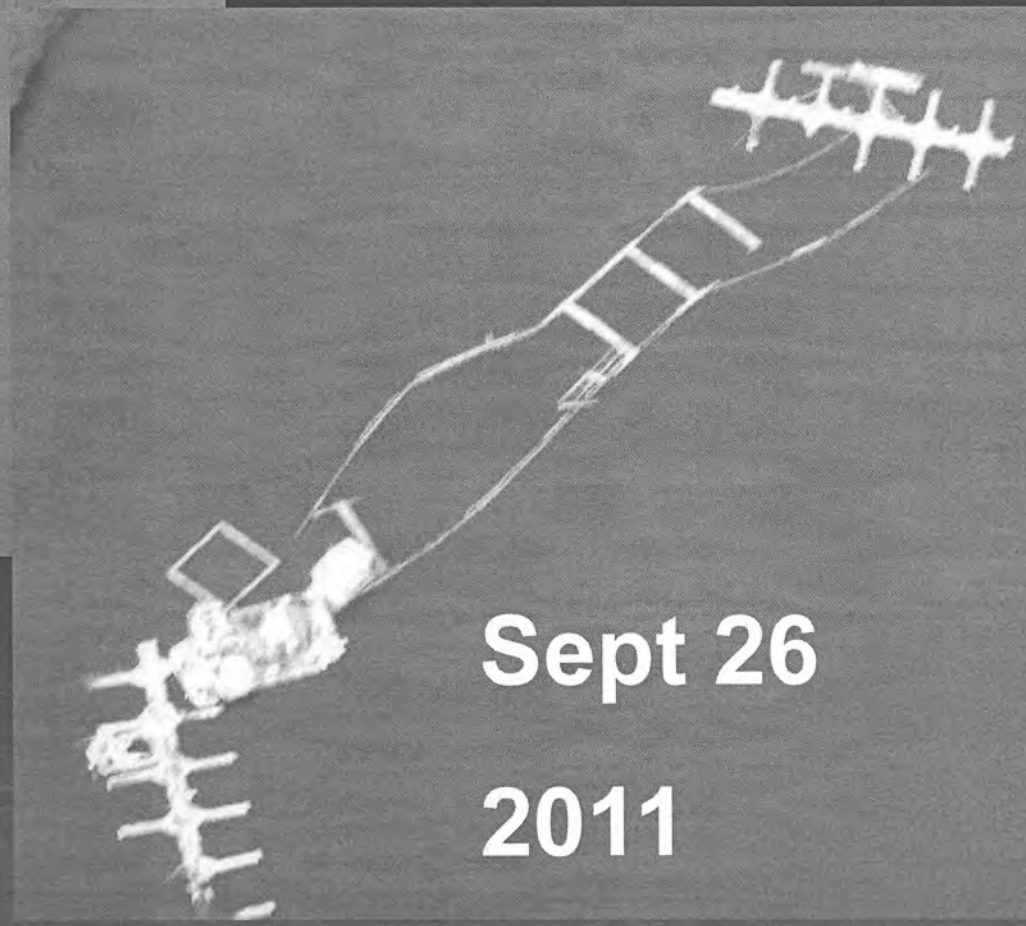
Whiting Harbor infestation
First contain, then eradicate.

- We all have been saying "Whiting docks are deteriorating and may carry Dvex out of Whiting"
- In fall of 2011, more than a year after Dvex discovery we lost dock structures out of Whiting
- Much has been cleaned up after storms
- There is still a rapidly deteriorating dock structure in Whiting that is heavily infested with Dvex and not well secured.
- Ability to quickly identify and carryout containment is crucial for communities. Still needs to be addressed in Sitka

Whiting Farm Deterioration

Summer

2010



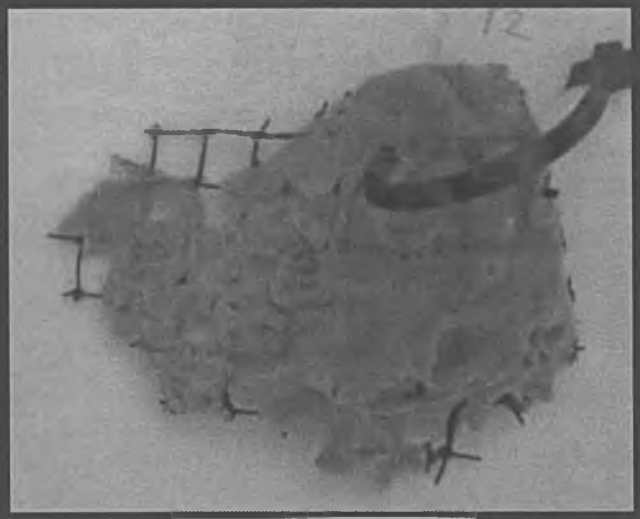
Sept 26

2011

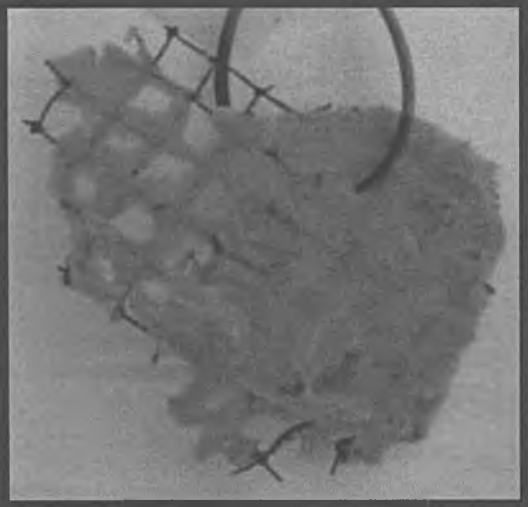
Eradication

- We need to learn how to eradicate
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center is testing eradication methods.
- This spring the plan is to scale up and try application of salt to limited area of sub-tidal habitat.

10% Acetic Acid (5 min)



Before



After

1 Week

3 Weeks

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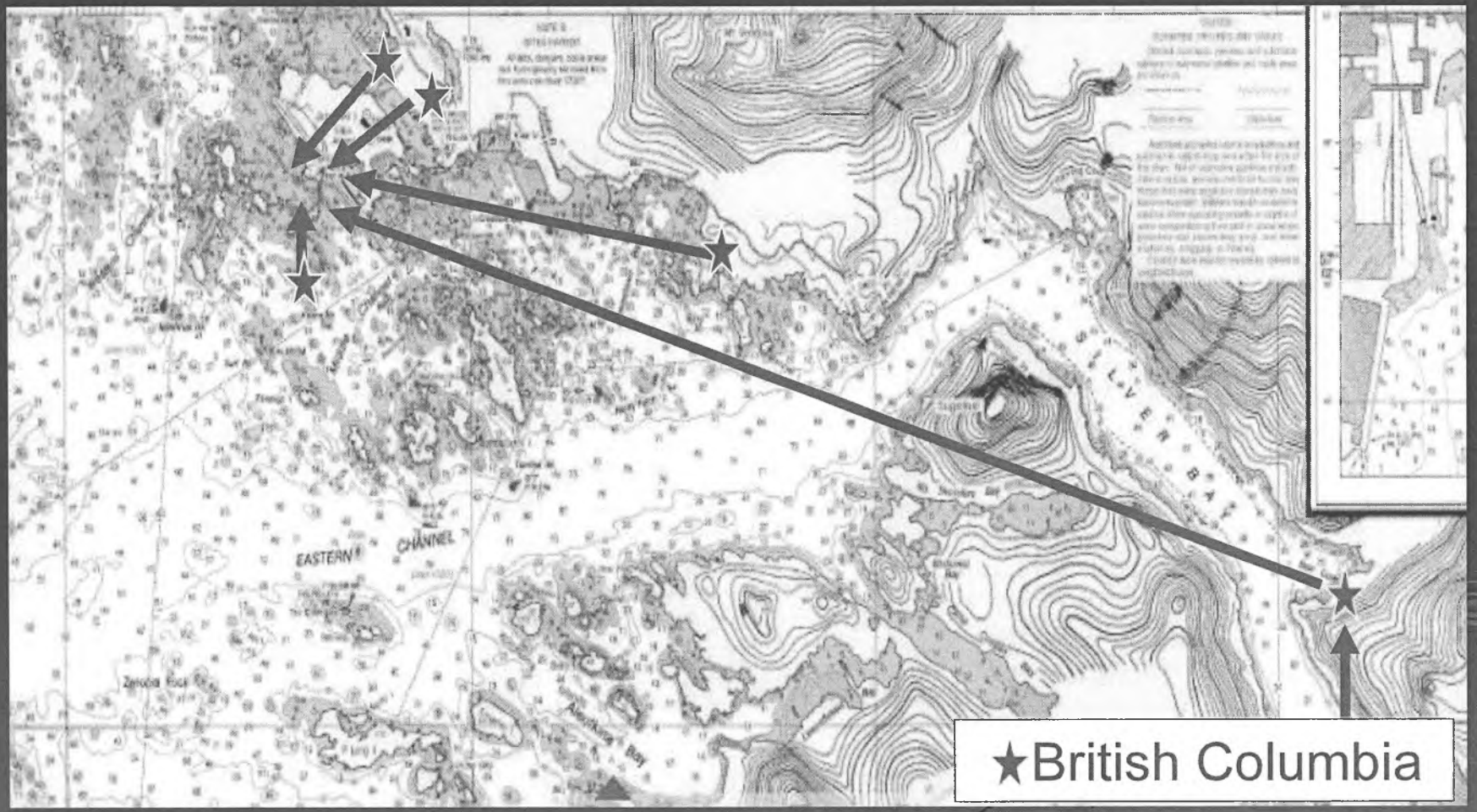
Reduce possibilities for reintroduction

- Ballast water, hull fouling, etc. all important
- Movement of docks other floating infrastructure has huge potential for spread of marine invasive species
- Moving a dock moves an entire habitat
- Very common in SE AK
- No legislation (?), little public awareness

Whiting docks pieced together from local and distant sources



Dvex in Sitka

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Learn more about the biology of Dvex and potential impacts in Alaska

- Population genetics
- Distribution
- Ecological interactions and impacts
- Sexual reproduction & reproductive cycles
- Asexual reproduction & growth
- Considerations for containment & radication

Impacts for Sitka and Alaska are Unknown

- Example: Herring Eggs (below)
- We know patches of Dvex can reach nearly 100% coverage Whiting.
- We do not know if herring will spawn on Dvex or if herring eggs can survive on Dvex.

Where do we go from here?
Where does Dvex go from here?

Whiting Harbor
Sitka, Alaska

Balancing the Interests of the Economy & Great Lakes Ecosystem

by Tim Anderson

BATTLE OVER INVASIVE SPECIES
CHICAGO—Brett Kirbach of Illinois Marine Towing stands watch while working on the Windy City tow boat. State leaders are striving to balance the sometimes competing interests of the economy and the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Policymakers are striving to find a balance between protecting the delicate ecosystem of the Great Lakes and preserving much-needed jobs.

The problem comes in the form of invasive aquatic species entering the Great Lakes.

Take, for example, the case of sea lamprey, a fish native to the Atlantic Ocean that came to, and then spread throughout, the lakes via manmade shipping canals built in the 1800s.

By the middle of the 20th century, sea lampreys were wreaking havoc on the Great Lakes ecosystem and fishing industry. The population of lake trout was decimated. To this day, the U.S. and Canadian governments are spending millions of dollars a year to control this non-native fish.

More than 180 nonindigenous species have been detected in the Great Lakes. Some are harmless, but others—such as the sea lamprey—have had a profound ecological impact.

Wisconsin Rep. Cory Mason, whose district borders Lake Michigan and also includes some of the state's treasured 15,000 inland lakes, is all too familiar with the impact these invasions can have.

"We've certainly had to deal with the zebra mussel problems in Lake Michigan, and invasive species in our inland lakes change how people can use them," Mason said. "They affect our quality of life. And once they're here, there is no redoing it. They're here permanently."

Tough New Standards

Led in part by lawmakers like Mason, states have taken a lead role over the past decade in trying to keep invasive species out of the Great Lakes.

Today, the fight is centered in New York, which plans to begin enforcing the toughest standards on ballast water discharges in the country next year.

Late in 2011, Mason spearheaded a letter-writing campaign—signed by 21 Wisconsin lawmakers—urging New York to stand by its rules.

"Because of its geographic location, New York is a first-in port of entry, so a tougher standard in that state means protecting the entire basin," Mason said.

He points out that invasive species are not only an ecological threat, but also have an economic consequence. A study by University of Notre Dame researcher David Lodge estimated that these non-native species cost the Great Lakes region $200 million a year.

But some state and federal leaders believe New York's rules go too far in trying to address the threat.

While the seaway has opened up a new pathway for invasive species to come to the Great Lakes, it has opened up new economic opportunities for the region to trade with the

rest of the world.

Governors in Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin say New York's new rules will close these opportunities.

The state's discharge standard is incompatible with current ballast water treatment technologies, the governors wrote in a letter last year to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and will "possibly force the closure of the St. Lawrence Seaway and imperil thousands of maritime-related jobs."

That letter prompted Mason's letter to New York.

Since the seaway began operating in 1959, more than 2.5 billion metric tons of goods valued at more than $375 million have been moved through it. A 2011 study done on behalf of the Great Lakes shipping industry estimated that the economic activity related to the seaway supports 227,000 jobs in the region.

Over the past half-century, the ballast water of ocean-going ships has been the leading source of nonindigenous species introductions in the Great Lakes, and is the cause of notorious invaders such as the zebra mussel and round goby entering the freshwater system.

States have responded by adopting mandatory ballast water treatment programs and discharge standards. Michigan established the first state-level permitting program in 2005; other states have since followed.

"States like New York have basically said, 'We are not going to tolerate this source of pollution anymore, and we're going to try and figure out how to deal with it,'" said Joel Brammeier, president and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. "One way to deal with it is through the rapid development of (ballast water) technology, in order to achieve a standard to protect the Great Lakes."

The idea is to establish a standard of treatment that reduces the number of viable organisms in ballast water discharges. But as Brammeier noted, "States are not of one mind on this issue."

The letters written by Mason and the three governors illustrate this divide.

Still, some lawmakers would like the eight Great Lakes states to find consensus on a uniform discharge standard for ballast water.

In late 2011, the Michigan Legislature passed a package of bills that in part call on the state's Department of Environmental Quality to lead such an effort.

The legislative package, sponsored by Sen. Howard Walker, also establishes a 19-member Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council, which will revise Michigan's laws, regulations and programs, as well as update the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan.

The Federal Response

Meanwhile, New York's proposed rules have prompted a strong response from some federal lawmakers. In late 2011, the U.S. House passed legislation stripping states of their authority to create ballast water regulations stronger than those at the federal level.

The same measure would establish a federal ballast water discharge standard that is the same as the one set by the United Nations' International Maritime Organization, known as the IMO. As of early 2012, not enough member countries had ratified the IMO standard to be enforced.

New York's pending discharge standard is 100 times more stringent than the UN standard for existing vessels.

In contrast, states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin have established ballast water programs using the IMO standard. And both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Coast Guard are moving ahead with plans to tie a federal standard to the IMO standard.

While a discharge standard remains a priority for many, some past actions have helped in the fight against invasive species. Starting in 2006, all overseas vessels entering the Great Lakes were required to conduct saltwater flushing and ballast water exchanges. Since then, there have been no reports of invasive species entering the lakes via ocean-going vessels.

But there are limits to the efficacy of these practices in preventing the introduction of invasive species.

The IMO standard adds another layer of protection to these existing practices. States such as New York and California have decided that even this standard is not enough, while others say anything above it simply is not feasible.

"(Invasive species) affect our quality of life. And once they're here, there is no redoing it. They're here permanently."

—Wisconsin Rep. Cory Mason