
SENATE BILL 6114

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Spanel, Kline, Snyder and Haugen

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to prevention and control of nonindigenous aquatic
2 species; creating new sections; prescribing penalties; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the unauthorized
6 introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species into Washington state
7 waters poses a serious economic and environmental threat.
8 Nonindigenous aquatic species, particularly the zebra mussel and
9 European green crab, have adverse impacts on fisheries, waterways,
10 public and private facilities, and the functioning of natural
11 ecosystems. The legislature further finds that, absent effective
12 preventative measures, the threat of zebra mussels and European green
13 crabs requires a coordinated response. It is the intent of the
14 legislature to prevent adverse economic and environmental impacts
15 caused by zebra mussels and European green crabs in cooperation and
16 coordination with local governments, the public, other states, and
17 federal agencies.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** To complement programs authorized by the
2 federal aquatic nuisance species task force, the department of fish and
3 wildlife is directed to prevent the introduction and dispersal of zebra
4 mussels and European green crabs and to eradicate infestations in the
5 waters of the state. The department is authorized to: (a) Display and
6 distribute material and literature informing boaters of the problem;
7 (b) eradicate infestations using the most environmentally sound and
8 economically feasible techniques available; (c) quarantine an
9 infestation of a water body to prevent further infestation; (d) adopt
10 rules for the prevention and control of infestations; and (e) publicize
11 and maintain a telephone number available to the public to express
12 concerns and report infestations.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of fish and wildlife shall
14 prepare, maintain, and publish a list of all lakes, ponds, or other
15 waters of the state and other states infested with zebra mussels or
16 European green crabs. The department may participate in regional or
17 national work infestation groups.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** No person shall land a seaplane or introduce
19 a boat, trailer, or other vehicle at any public or private access area
20 or marina into or on any public waters of the state if the seaplane,
21 boat, trailer, or other vehicle was previously located in any waters
22 infested with zebra mussels or European green crabs unless the person
23 complies with the rules adopted by the department of fish and wildlife.
24 A violation of this section is an infraction.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

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