



# *Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet*



## 2013 POLICY FACT SHEET

### Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Bill

#### **It is needed because**

This bill contains policy and technical changes related to aquatic invasive species (AIS), expanding and streamlining permitting and enforcement authority and providing necessary exemptions to ensure public safety and allow business operations to continue.

#### **Overview**

**Section 1. Service provider.** This section adds decontamination to the definition of service provider, which expands permitting requirements to individuals and entities that perform decontamination services. DNR intends to offer specific decontamination training and post a list of permittees that provide these services.

**Sec. 2. Commercial fishing and turtle, frog, and crayfish harvesting restrictions in infested and noninfested waters.** This section deletes a provision that required commercial harvesters to remove all aquatic macrophytes from nets and other equipment before leaving the water access. This provision will be replaced with conditions on commercial licenses or special permits that allow nets and other equipment to be transported to a location where the water-related equipment can be properly decontaminated.

**Sec. 3. Aquatic Macrophytes.** This section allows aquatic macrophytes to be transported if specifically authorized by a permit issued by the commissioner. Two exceptions to the prohibition on transporting aquatic macrophytes are deleted because these activities are subject to permit requirements with specific invasive species provisions.

#### **Sec. 5. Person transporting water-related equipment.**

This section allows water taken from noninfested water bodies to be transported in tanker trucks and other commercial vehicles that are specifically designed and used for hauling water. These vehicles would be exempt from drain plug and water transportation requirements. Vehicles used for firefighting or emergencies that

threaten human health and safety would also be exempt from drain plug and transportation requirements.

**Sec. 6. Inspector authority.** This change allows centralized inspection stations to service multiple water accesses on an individual water body. Safety and public access criteria for inspection stations that service multiple water bodies would also apply to inspection stations that service multiple water accesses on an individual water body.

**Sec. 7. Transport of water.** This section gives the commissioner authority to issue permits for the transport of water or to authorize the transport of water in other permits or licenses issued by the commissioner. Including authorizations to transport water on other permits or licenses avoids the need to obtain a separate permit.

**Sec. 8. Transport of aquatic macrophytes.** This section gives the commissioner authority to issue permits to allow the transport of aquatic macrophytes to locations where the water-related equipment can be properly decontaminated.

**Sec. 9. Special permits.** This section gives the commissioner authority to issue special permits, including general permits that could allow one or more activities to be conducted under a single permit issued to a governmental subdivision or the general public.

**Sec. 10. Cumulative criminal and civil penalties.** This section provides a technical clarification that any licensed peace officer cannot issue both a civil citation and a criminal citation for the same incident – the same limitation is currently provided for Conservation Officers only.

**Secs. 11-12. Training for offenders.** These sections require the completion of an AIS prevention program

education course for those persons who received either a criminal or civil citation that involved the use of water-related equipment. The mandatory training is intended to provide informational tools to those offenders for their personal use in preventing the spread of AIS to other waters.

**Secs. 4, 13. Repealer.** These changes repeal the definition of zebra mussel and delete the one use of this term in section 84D. The term “prohibited invasive species” will continue to be used to describe zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species.

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