

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 804

Introduced by Assembly Member Hall

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 2301 of, and to add Section 2303 to, the Fish and Game Code, relating to invasive aquatic species.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 804, as introduced, Hall. Invasive aquatic species: mussels.

Existing law, until January 1, 2012, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, dreissenid mussels, and authorizes the Director of Fish and Game or his or her designee to engage in various enforcement activities. Existing law exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system from those enforcement activities, if the operator of the facilities has prepared and implemented a prescribed plan to control or eradicate dreissenid mussels.

Existing law provides that a person who violates or resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with the implementation of these provisions is subject to a penalty, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, that is imposed administratively by the department.

This bill would provide that an operator of water delivery and storage facilities, who has prepared and implemented a plan to control and eradicate dreissenid mussels in accordance with the above existing provisions of law, would not be subject to any civil or criminal liability for the introduction of dreissenid mussel species as a result of operations of those facilities.

This bill would require the Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with the Department of Water Resources, to conduct a study on quagga mussels. This bill would provide that the study is to consider the financial and resource-based impacts incurred by California water agencies in implementing control and eradication efforts related to quagga mussels, and measure the success of available and potential measures and programs dealing with invasive mussels. The departments would be required to submit a report to the Legislature by June 30, 2010.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Quagga mussels, related to zebra mussels in the genus
- 4 *Dreissena*, are native to the Black and Caspian Seas of Eastern
- 5 Europe.
- 6 (b) Both zebra and quagga mussels appeared in the Great Lakes
- 7 of the United States in the late 1980s, apparently brought to this
- 8 country in the ballast water of transoceanic ships.
- 9 (c) Quagga mussels can reproduce quickly. Up to forty thousand
- 10 (40,000) quagga mussels can colonize within one square meter.
- 11 The mussels damage water supply infrastructure by clogging pipes
- 12 and pumping equipment. In addition, the mussels outcompete other
- 13 species for food and with their large numbers can overwhelm native
- 14 ecosystems.
- 15 (d) While California mandates that water system operators
- 16 manage their reservoirs and delivery systems to prevent and control
- 17 mussel infestations, complete eradication of quagga mussels in
- 18 any infested large water body is unlikely. Eradication efforts in
- 19 the American Midwest have failed.
- 20 (e) Given that eradication from large water bodies is physically
- 21 impossible and that water delivery systems are essential to maintain
- 22 public health and safety, the Legislature finds that implementation
- 23 of the available measures to control mussel infestations and prevent
- 24 the spread of the mussels to new water bodies is the most that can
- 25 reasonably be required of water supply agencies.

(f) Compliance with current legal requirements for mussel monitoring and management plans in water supply systems are sufficient to protect agencies from unlimited liability for dealing with the consequences of this invasive species.

SEC. 2. Section 2301 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

2301. (a) (1) Except as authorized by the department, a person shall not possess, import, ship, or transport in the state, or place, plant, or cause to be placed or planted in any water within the state, dreissenid mussels.

(2) The director or his or her designee may do all of the following:

(A) Conduct inspections of conveyances, which include vehicles, boats and other watercraft, containers, and trailers, that may carry or contain adult or larval dreissenid mussels. Included as part of this authority to conduct inspections is the authority to temporarily stop conveyances that may carry or contain adult or larval dreissenid mussels on any roadway or waterway in order to conduct inspections.

(B) Order that areas in a conveyance that contain water be drained, dried, or decontaminated pursuant to procedures approved by the department.

(C) Impound or quarantine conveyances in locations designated by the department for up to five days or the period of time necessary to ensure that dreissenid mussels can no longer live on or in the conveyance.

(D) (i) Conduct inspections of waters of the state and facilities located within waters of the state that may contain dreissenid mussels. If dreissenid mussels are detected or may be present, the director or his or her designee may order the affected waters or facilities closed to conveyances or otherwise restrict access to the affected waters or facilities, and shall order that conveyances removed from, or introduced to, the affected waters or facilities be inspected, quarantined, or disinfected in a manner and for a duration necessary to detect and prevent the spread of dreissenid mussels within the state.

(ii) For the purpose of implementing clause (i), the director or his or her designee shall order the closure or quarantine of, or restrict access to, these waters, areas, or facilities in a manner and duration necessary to detect and prevent the spread of dreissenid

1 mussels within the state. No closure, quarantine, or restriction shall
2 be authorized by the director or his or her designee without the
3 concurrence of the Secretary of the Resources Agency. If a closure
4 lasts longer than seven days, the department shall update the
5 operator of the affected facility every 10 days on efforts to address
6 the dreissenid infestation. The department shall provide these
7 updates in writing and also post these updates on the department's
8 Internet Web site in an easily accessible manner.

9 (iii) The department shall develop procedures to ensure proper
10 notification of affected local and federal agencies, and, as
11 appropriate, the Department of Boating and Waterways, the
12 Department of Water Resources, the Department of Parks and
13 Recreation, and the State Lands Commission in the event of a
14 decision to close, quarantine, or restrict a facility pursuant to this
15 paragraph. These procedures shall include the reasons for the
16 closure, quarantine, or restriction, and methods for providing
17 updated information to those affected. These procedures shall also
18 include protocols for the posting of the notifications on the
19 department's Internet Web site required by clause (ii).

20 (iv) When deciding the scope, duration, level, and type of
21 restrictions, and specific location of a closure or quarantine, the
22 director shall consult with the agency, entity, owner, or operator
23 with jurisdiction, control, or management responsibility over the
24 marina, boat launch facility, or other facility, in order to focus the
25 closure or quarantine to specific areas and facilities so as to avoid
26 or minimize disruption of economic or recreational activity in the
27 vicinity.

28 (b) (1) Upon a determination by the director that it would further
29 the purposes of this section, other state agencies, including, but
30 not limited to, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the
31 Department of Water Resources, the Department of Food and
32 Agriculture, and the State Lands Commission, may exercise the
33 authority granted to the department in subdivision (a).

34 (2) A determination made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be in
35 writing and shall remain in effect until withdrawn, in writing, by
36 the director.

37 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), Division 13
38 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code
39 does not apply to the implementation of this section.

(2) An action undertaken pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) involving the use of chemicals other than salt or hot water to decontaminate a conveyance or a facility is subject to Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

(d) (1) A public or private agency that operates a water supply system shall cooperate with the department to implement measures to avoid infestation by dreissenid mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system. If dreissenid mussels are detected, the operator of the water supply system, in cooperation with the department, shall prepare and implement a plan to control or eradicate dreissenid mussels within the system. The approved plan shall contain the following minimum elements:

(A) Methods for delineation of infestation, including both adult mussels and veligers.

(B) Methods for control or eradication of adult mussels and decontamination of water containing larval mussels.

(C) A systematic monitoring program to determine any changes in conditions.

(D) The requirement that the operator of the water supply system cooperate with the department to update or revise control or eradication measures in the approved plan to address scientific advances in the methods of controlling or eradicating mussels and veligers.

~~(2) Paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) does not apply to the operation of water delivery and storage facilities for the purposes of providing water supply if the operator of the facilities has prepared and implemented a plan to control or eradicate dreissenid mussels in accordance with paragraph (1). If the operator of water delivery and storage facilities for public water supply purposes has prepared and implemented a plan to control or eradicate dreissenid mussels in accordance with paragraph (1), the requirements of subdivision (a) do not apply to the operation of those water delivery and storage facilities, and the operator is not subject to any civil or criminal liability for the introduction of dreissenid mussel species as a result of those operations. The department may require the operator of a facility to update its plan, and if the plan is not updated or revised as described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1), the department may engage in~~

~~the actions described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a); subdivision (a) shall apply to the operation of the water delivery and storage facilities covered by the plan until the operator updates or revises the plan.~~

(e) Any entity that discovers dreissenid mussels within this state shall immediately report the discovery to the department.

(f) (1) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates this section, any verbal or written order or regulation adopted pursuant to this section, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with the implementation of this section, is subject to a penalty, in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), that is imposed administratively by the department.

(2) A penalty shall not be imposed pursuant to paragraph (1) unless the department has adopted regulations specifying the amount of the penalty and the procedure for imposing and appealing the penalty.

(g) The department may adopt regulations to carry out this section.

(h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2012, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 3. Section 2303 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

2303. (a) The Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with the Department of Water Resources, shall conduct a study on the financial and resource-based impacts incurred by California water agencies for implementing control and eradication efforts related to quagga mussels. The study shall do all of the following:

(1) Measure the level of success achievable by available and potential mussel control measures that can reasonably be applied to water supply systems and recreational water bodies.

(2) Identify the level of success of monitoring and education programs in preventing the spread of invasive mussels on water craft.

(3) Determine the methods by which quagga mussels move between water bodies and proliferate within water bodies, and the effectiveness of existing monitoring and management measures adopted and implemented in accordance with Section 2301.

- 1 (b) The Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with the
- 2 Department of Water Resources, shall provide a report of its
- 3 findings to the Legislature by June 30, 2010.

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