

## **AIS -- US LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY LANDSCAPE**

(SHP, PSMFC, 7/13/15)

### **Listing of Quagga Mussels as “Injurious Species” under the Lacey Act**

#### **2014: Legislative Listing of quagga mussels**

- **PLAQ ACT H.R. 1823 (Heck)/S. 2530 (Heller)**
- **Lake Tahoe Restoration Act included listing language**
- **Result -- neither passed**

#### **2015: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act**

**Until May 2015 we were under the impression that the LTRA would include the addition of the quagga mussel and that the language would include an exemption for water conveyance operators**

**However, in recent months there was pushback on the exemption from Sen Boxer on behalf of Department of Interior**

**NOW WHAT:** LRTA introduced 7/9/15: NO listing language

**NEXT STEPS:** Find another vehicle for quagga mussel listing (via legislation)

# Water Resources Reform and Development Act

(signed 6/10/14..Section 1039 (d) - authorization for CRB - \$ 20 million )

**On 5/1/15 the House of Representatives approved the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill** on a vote of 240-177. The legislation provides annual funding for the Army Corps of Engineers.

- Includes “Aquatic Plant Control Program.—Funding is provided for **watercraft inspection stations, as authorized by section 1039 of WRRDA 2014.**”
- **\$4 million** is in the “Aquatic Plant Control Program” under “construction”
- **PNWER, NWPCC, WISC, PSMFC, MCPUD’s, etc all worked on getting this accomplished**

On 5/21/15 The Senate Committee on Appropriations approved the FY2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. Report language:

**Funding\*** is provided for watercraft inspection stations, as authorized by WRRDA section 1039. The Secretary, in consultation with the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, is required to establish watercraft inspection stations in the vicinity of reservoirs operated by the Corps of Engineers, including for boat inspection stations in the Columbia River Basin States. These inspection stations are the principal line of defense against the spread of aquatic species at reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary, such as entry of zebra and quagga mussels into the Flathead Basin in Montana.

\*Not clear where this “**funding**” is in the budget ?

# FY 2016 House Interior Appropriations Bill – USFWS/Park Service

6/16/15: House Appropriations Committee Approves Fiscal Year 2016 Interior and Environment Bill

AIS in USFWS flat funded **EXCEPT\***:

**PAGE 18** (USFWS) -- Aquatic habitat and species conservation programs are funded at the fiscal year 2015 enacted level except for Klamath Basin, which is funded at the requested level, cooperative management, which is reduced by \$588,000, **\*and aquatic invasive species State plans, which are funded at \$2,566,000, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. All other invasive species programs are funded at the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.**

**NOW WHAT -- FY 2016 APPROPRIATIONS DOI/ENERGY/WATER :** Early prognostications on the FY 2016 budget are somewhat bleak .....likely we'll see a continuing resolution or an omnibus spending package enacted later this year??? .....stay tuned (and hope for budget cooperation)

## **H.R.1485 - Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention, and Management Act** (A.K.A. Healthy Habitats)

**2014** – Similar bill did not move

**2015** - Introduced in the House (03/19/2015) by Representative Amodei (R- NV).

Requires the department concerned to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of an invasive species program that endeavors to achieve an annual 5% net reduction of invasive species populations on lands managed by that department.

The Secretary concerned shall use not less than 75 % of the amount for on-the-ground control and management of invasive species, including through

Secretary concerned may use not more than 15 % of the amount for investigations, development activities, and outreach and public awareness efforts to address invasive species control and management needs.

**NOW WHAT:** Still in committee .....One co-sponsor (Lummis R-WY) ....No Senate companion to date

# Federal Lands AIS Committee (Ad-hoc)

Anticipated product - federal policy options paper addressing the movement of AIS onto and off of Federal lands and waters  
- currently under interagency review

1. federal policy options addressing AIS movement onto and off of federal lands and waters, with options on how to improve federal coordination and policies
2. appendix document (1) informational summary of Federal agencies roles and responsibilities in invasive species management
3. appendix document (2) summary of agency actions for addressing the movement of AIS onto and off of Federal lands
4. appendix document (3) informational summary of laws and policies guiding invasive species management

**NEXT ACTION:** product is anticipated to be available at WRP 2015

## S.373 -- Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

- A bill to “provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.”
- [S.373](#) was introduced by Sen. Rubio, Marco (R-FL) on 02/04/2015. Related bill in the house: [H.R.980](#)
- 
- **Update:** S.373 voted out of committee (2/26/15) with **two amendments**. Go [HERE](#) to see the amendments (“Peters” amendments)
- VIDA language has been amended to the [S. 1611](#), Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015
- *The States of Oregon Washington and California are **opposing** VIDA ...according to OR/WA/CA Joint letter (7/2/15) lands Commission opposes this bill saying:*
  - *“.....opposes the bill because it would preempt states’ authority to address incidental vessel discharges, including ballast water, and eliminate long-standing ability of states’ to protect their waters from invasive species” ]*