

CHAPTER 62

REGULATION FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Section 1. Authority. These regulations are promulgated by authority of Wyoming Statutes § 23-1-102, §§ 23-4-201 through 23-4-205 and § 41-13-211.

Section 2. Definitions. Definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, Commission regulations, and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) “Aquatic invasive species” is defined in W.S. § 23-4-201(a) (i). Aquatic invasive species include emergency prohibited, prohibited and regulated aquatic invasive species as defined in this chapter.

(b) “Authorized inspector” means an authorized aquatic invasive species inspector who has a valid certification from an aquatic invasive species inspection training course that meets the requirements established by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department).

(c) “Decontaminator” means an authorized inspector that has received Department training to conduct decontaminations.

(d) “Emergency prohibited aquatic invasive species” means:

(i) All members of the genus *Dreissena*, including, but not limited to, zebra mussel *D. polymorpha* and quagga mussel *D. rostriformis*; and,

(ii) All members of the genus *Limnoperna*, including, but not limited to, golden mussel *L. fortunei*.

(e) “Infested water” means a water designated by the Department as having an established population of emergency prohibited aquatic invasive species.

(f) “Inspection seal” means a locking device affixed to a watercraft that has been inspected or decontaminated by an authorized inspector.

(g) “Inspection seal receipt” means a valid written or electronic document issued by an authorized inspector that contains information regarding the conveyance, any action taken by an authorized inspector and any information correlating to any applied inspection seal.

(h) “Mandatory aquatic invasive species check station” means a location established by the Department at Wyoming ports of entry, other Wyoming Department of Transportation facilities that meet established state and national safety and commerce requirements for the traveling public or other appropriate facilities where stopping is mandatory and an authorized inspector may conduct an inspection.

(i) “Positive water” means a water designated by the Department as having two or more samples meeting minimum requirements of detection for any life stage of an emergency prohibited aquatic invasive species.

(j) “Prohibited aquatic invasive species” means:

(i) Rusty Crayfish – *Orconectes rusticus*;

(ii) All members of the genus *Hypophthalmichthys*, including, but not limited to, bighead carp *H. nobilis*, silver carp *H. molitrix*, and largescale river carp *H. harmandi*;

(iii) Black carp – *Mylopharyngodon piceus*;

(iv) All members of the genera *Channa* and *Parachanna* in the family *Channidae* (snakeheads);

(v) Hydrilla – *Hydrilla verticillate*; and,

(vi) Eurasian watermilfoil – *Myriophyllum spicatum*.

(k) “Prohibited launch seal” means a locking device affixed to a watercraft to indicate it was removed from a positive or infested water, has not been decontaminated or may harbor an aquatic invasive species.

(l) “Prohibited launch seal receipt” means a valid written or electronic document issued by an authorized inspector that contains information regarding the conveyance, any action that must be taken prior to launching on a water of the state and any information correlating to any applied prohibited launch seal.

(m) “Regulated aquatic invasive species” means:

(i) New Zealand mudsnail – *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*;

(ii) Corbicula clam – *Corbicula fluminea*;

(iii) Brook stickleback – *Culaea inconstans*; and,

(iv) Curly pondweed – *Potamogeton crispus*.

(n) “Seal” means an inspection seal or prohibited launch seal.

(o) “Suspect water” means a water designated by the Department as having had a single sample meeting the minimum requirements of detection for any life stage of an emergency prohibited aquatic invasive species, but not verified by subsequent sampling within twelve (12) months of the initial sampling event.

(p) “Waters of this state” means any waters within the jurisdiction of Wyoming.

Section 3. Draining and Cleaning Watercraft and Conveyances.

- (a) Immediately upon removing a watercraft from any waters of this state, the operator shall remove all visible vegetation and drain all water including, but not limited to, water in the hull, ballast tanks, bilges, live wells and motors.
 - (i) Containers may be used to transport legally obtained live baitfish or other wildlife by land, but shall not be a part of a watercraft and shall be free of aquatic vegetation.
 - (b) No live baitfish, mollusks or crustaceans shall be collected from or transported in water taken from any positive water or infested water.
 - (c) Live baitfish possessed on a positive water or infested water must be killed prior to leaving the waterbody.
 - (d) All bilge and ballast plugs and other barriers that prevent water drainage from a watercraft shall be removed or remain open while a watercraft is transported by land within the state.

Section 4. Inspection and Decontamination.

- (a) Compliance with the aquatic invasive species inspection and decontamination requirements of W.S. § 23-4-201 through § 23-4-206 and this section is an express condition of allowing a conveyance to contact any waters of this state.
- (b) The following conveyances are exempt from all inspection and decontamination requirements of this section:
 - (i) All non-motorized inflatable watercraft ten (10) feet in length or less;
 - (ii) All solid and inflatable paddleboards regardless of length; and
 - (iii) Sail boards, kite boards and all other aids to swimming or fishing that are not propelled by motors, paddles or oars.
- (c) Any person transporting a conveyance into the state by land from March 1 through November 30 shall have the conveyance inspected by an authorized inspector prior to contacting any waters of this state, unless exempted by meeting the requirements of this subsection.
 - (i) The conveyance has not been in contact with a suspect water, positive water or infested water within the past thirty (30) days;
 - (ii) Did not encounter a mandatory aquatic invasive species check station prior to reaching any of the waters of this state; and

(iii) Is in possession of an inspection seal receipt indicating that the conveyance was inspected following its last contact with a water.

(d) Any person transporting a conveyance into the state by land from December 1 through the last day of February shall have the conveyance inspected by an authorized inspector prior to contacting any waters of this state unless exempted by this subsection.

(i) The conveyance has not been in contact with a suspect water, positive water, or infested water within the last thirty (30) days; and

(ii) Did not encounter a mandatory aquatic invasive species check station prior to reaching any waters of this state.

(e) An authorized inspector or peace officer may inspect a conveyance:

(i) At mandatory aquatic invasive species check stations;

(ii) Prior to contacting any water of the state; or,

(iii) Upon removal from any water of the state.

(f) As part of all inspections, all compartments, equipment and containers that may hold water, including, but not limited to, live wells, ballast and bilge areas shall be completely drained as directed by an authorized inspector.

(g) If deemed necessary, an authorized inspector may require that a conveyance be decontaminated before said conveyance shall be allowed to contact any waters of this state.

(i) Decontaminators shall perform decontaminations at the direction of a peace officer or with the voluntary consent of the person transporting the conveyance.

(ii) Any person who refuses to allow inspection of their conveyance or refuses to complete any required decontamination or removal of aquatic invasive species shall be prohibited from allowing the conveyance to contact any waters of this state.

(iii) If a person refuses to allow inspection of a conveyance or to complete any required decontamination or removal of aquatic invasive species prior to departure from any waters of this state known to contain an aquatic invasive species, the conveyance is subject to impoundment until an aquatic invasive species inspection and decontamination is completed.

(h) Any person removing a conveyance from a positive or infested water in this state shall allow the watercraft to dry for thirty (30) days or have the conveyance decontaminated by a decontaminator before allowing the conveyance to contact any other water of this state.

(i) Any person operating a conveyance may be ordered to remove the conveyance from any of the waters of this state or any conveyance staging area by any peace officer if there is reason to believe the conveyance may contain aquatic invasive species or was not properly

inspected prior to contacting the water. Once removed from the water, the conveyance shall be subject to inspection and decontamination or quarantine for the removal and disposal of aquatic invasive species.

Section 5. Seals and Seal Receipts.

(a) Once a conveyance is inspected or decontaminated, a seal may be affixed to the conveyance by a peace officer or authorized inspector.

(b) A person transporting a conveyance with an inspection seal may remove the seal at their discretion.

(c) It shall be a violation of this regulation for any person to reattach any seal once it has been removed from a watercraft.

(d) A copy of the completed seal receipt shall accompany all seals.

(i) The most recent inspection seal receipt shall be retained aboard the watercraft as proof of inspection.

(ii) Prohibited launch seal receipts shall be retained until a watercraft has been decontaminated by a decontaminator or after thirty (30) days from the date on the seal receipt.

(e) The Department may recognize a properly affixed inspection seal applied by an authorized inspector from a state or province with a Department approved aquatic invasive species inspection and decontamination program if the inspection seal is accompanied by a valid inspection seal receipt indicating that an inspection or decontamination has been performed.

(f) If for any reason a decontaminator is unable to conduct a decontamination, the authorized inspector may affix a prohibited launch seal to the conveyance.

(g) The owner of a conveyance with an attached prohibited launch seal shall not allow the conveyance to contact any waters of this state within thirty (30) days of the date on the seal receipt unless the conveyance has been inspected and cleared for launch by an authorized inspector or decontaminated by a decontaminator.

Section 6. Impoundment and Quarantine.

(a) A peace officer may impound and quarantine a conveyance as provided in W.S. § 23-4-203.

(b) If the person in charge of the conveyance is not the registered owner, the registered owner shall be notified by mail, return receipt requested, within ten (10) days of the location of the impounded conveyance. Such notification shall also include contact information for the peace officer ordering the impoundment. If the registered owner is present when the conveyance is ordered impounded, then the same information shall be provided to the registered owner at the time the impound order is issued.

(c) All impounded conveyances shall be held at the risk and expense of the owner. A conveyance held under impound for non-compliance with this regulation shall only be released after a peace officer is satisfied by inspection or quarantine that the conveyance is no longer a threat to the aquatic resources, water supplies and water infrastructure of the state.

(d) Duration of conveyance quarantine shall be determined by the Department, shall be sufficient to allow decontamination, and shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

(e) An impounded conveyance shall not be released until a Department impound release form is signed and executed by a peace officer. It is the responsibility of the owner to coordinate with the Department for the release of the conveyance.

Section 7. Watercraft Restrictions and Closures.

(a) In order to prevent the spread of an aquatic invasive species, the Department may restrict watercraft access to or use of any waters of this state that have been designated by the Department as positive water or infested waters upon forty-eight (48) hours' notice.

(i) Access and use restrictions may include:

- (A) Prohibiting watercraft use throughout the calendar year;
- (B) Prohibiting watercraft use on specific days of the week or hours of the day;
- (C) Restricting the types of watercraft that can be used; and,
- (D) Restricting locations where watercraft can be launched or removed from the water.

(ii) Emergency, search and rescue, law enforcement and Department watercraft are exempt from the restrictions of this section.

(b) Where and when watercraft restrictions or closures apply, the public shall be advised of such restrictions by explanatory signs placed at parking areas or points of access to said waters. Signs shall specifically explain restrictions or authorized uses, shall be approved by the Director of the Department or their designee, and shall serve as an official regulation of the Commission.

Section 8. Mandatory Reporting of Aquatic Invasive Species.

(a) Any person who knows that an unreported aquatic invasive species is present at a specific location in Wyoming shall report the aquatic invasive species presence within forty-eight (48) hours to the Commission, the Department, or any peace officer and shall provide the date and time of the detection of the aquatic invasive species, the exact location of sighting (water body and specific location on the water body), the suspected species and the name and

contact information of the reporter.

Section 9. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal.

(a) An aquatic invasive species program fee may be assessed as part of the Department's motorized watercraft registration fee. A current, properly affixed combination motorized watercraft registration and Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal shall be proof of payment of this fee. Proof of combination decal purchase may be used in lieu of a properly affixed decal for up to thirty (30) days from date of purchase.

(b) All owners or operators of motorized watercraft registered outside of Wyoming, any owners or operators of Wyoming registered watercraft that have not paid the aquatic invasive species program fee as part of their watercraft registration fee and all owners or operators of non-motorized watercraft shall purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal valid for the current calendar year prior to contacting any waters of this state. Purchase of this decal shall be evidenced by an Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal properly affixed to the watercraft. Proof of decal purchase may be used in lieu of a properly affixed decal for up to thirty (30) days from date of purchase. For the purpose of this Section, all conveyances exempted from inspection and decontamination requirements in Section 4(b) of this regulation are exempt from this decal provision.

(c) The price of the decal shall be twenty dollars (\$20) for motorized watercraft registered in Wyoming and fifty dollars (\$50) for motorized watercraft registered outside of Wyoming. The price of the decal shall be five dollars (\$5) for non-motorized watercraft owned by a Wyoming resident and fifteen dollars (\$15) for non-motorized watercraft owned by a nonresident.

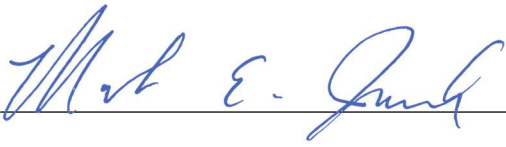
(i) An Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal affixed to a motorized watercraft shall be displayed on the starboard (right) side of the bow six (6) inches left of and directly in line with the watercraft registration decal. Decals affixed to non-motorized watercraft shall be displayed on the bow in a manner such that the decal is visible when the watercraft is underway. Only the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal which is currently valid shall be displayed.

(ii) In the case of rental watercraft, it shall be the responsibility of the rental watercraft owner to ensure that a valid Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal is properly displayed on the watercraft.

(d) Owners of multiple non-motorized watercraft may transfer valid decals between their own non-motorized watercraft, however, each non-motorized watercraft shall display a valid decal while contacting any of the waters of this state.

Section 10. Effective Date. These regulations are effective November 1, 2026 and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Commission.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By: _____

Mark E. Jolovich, President

Dated: July 14, 2026