

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 365(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/23/12

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the rapid response to, and control of, marine aquatic invasive**
2 **species."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 16.05.093. Rapid response to, and control of, marine aquatic invasive**
6 **species.** (a) The department shall, in cooperation with the Department of
7 Environmental Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state,
8 federal, public, and private entities, establish a rapid response and management plan
9 for addressing occurrences of marine aquatic invasive species in limited or isolated
10 geographic areas. The plan must

11 (1) identify and assess potential responses to the occurrence of a
12 marine aquatic invasive species that can be carried out quickly; and

13 (2) provide procedures, consistent with applicable state and federal
14 law, for the expedited eradication or control of a marine aquatic invasive species in a

1 limited or isolated area.

2 (b) Consistent with applicable state and federal law, under the rapid response
3 and management plan established under (a) of this section, the department may use
4 chemical, biological, mechanical, or physical methods, singly or in combination, to
5 control the occurrence of or eradicate a marine aquatic invasive species in a limited or
6 isolated geographic area.

7 (c) In responding under (b) of this section to the occurrence of a marine
8 aquatic invasive species, the department may apply for suspension of, or emergency,
9 quarantine, public health, crisis, or other exemptions to, applicable environmental laws
10 and regulations.

11 (d) Rapid response to, and management of, a marine aquatic invasive species
12 in a limited or isolated geographic area under (b) of this section shall be given priority
13 over activities regulated by the department in that limited or isolated geographic area.
14 The commissioner or an authorized designee may summarily open or close a season or
15 area under AS 16.05.060 to aid in responding to the occurrence of a marine aquatic
16 invasive species under this section.

17 (e) Each state department, agency, and institution shall cooperate with the
18 department in responding under (b) of this section to the occurrence of a marine
19 aquatic invasive species in a limited or isolated geographic area.

20 (f) In this section, "marine aquatic invasive species" means an organism
21 introduced to a marine ecosystem to which it is not native and whose introduction
22 causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human
23 health.