

ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5923

Aquatic invasive species enforcement and control

PROGRAM IMPACTS

This bill gives the Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and the State Patrol additional authority to:

- Prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species;
- Limit the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals already in Washington;
- Issue penalties for violation of ballast water laws;
- Make rules regulating ballast water treatment; and
- Evaluate risks from other sources of aquatic invasive species such as ship hulls.

Ecology will be responsible for:

- Developing a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for biocides used in rapid responses;
- Participating in a WDFW rulemaking on ballast water;
- Evaluating ballast water treatment proposals;
- Coordinating with other state agencies in developing management approaches for ship and boat hulls; and
- Coordinating with WDFW and United States Coast Guard to improve vessel inspection procedures.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

Ecology received no additional resources for this bill. Ecology has worked with WDFW on invasive species and ballast water for some time. The tasks from this bill are within the capacity of current staff. There will be no additional fiscal impact.

WORK PLAN

- Ecology has started the NDPES permit and expects it to be completed by summer 2008.
- Ecology staff will participate in the WDFW rulemaking for the rest of 2007.
- Ecology staff reviews ballast water treatment proposals as they are submitted
- Ecology leads the Executive Committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee.

- The Water Quality Program represents Ecology on the state Invasive Species Council.

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