

AB 128 Informational Notes

Sponsor Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams

Exempts a person from the payment of a fee for the management of aquatic invasive species under certain circumstances

Overview of AB128

Assembly Bill 128 provides reciprocity for certain registered vessels (watercraft) on the following interstate bodies of water. Those vessels would be exempt from the requirement to purchase and display a Nevada AIS decal:

- Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and the Colorado River including Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) for Arizona registered vessels
- Topaz Lake and Lake Tahoe for California registered vessels

Justification of AB128

Through reciprocity for the above listed interstate bodies of water, Nevada is recognizing existing aquatic invasive species (AIS) programs established in both Arizona and California. Currently, Nevada's AIS decal requirements are in addition to the fees Arizona and California registered vessels already pay for an AIS program in their states which applies to the listed interstate waters. When operating on interstate waters, those residents are contributing to their respective state's AIS programs through their boater registration fees. Thus, those registered non-resident vessel owners would be paying for two similar programs that implement AIS programs on the same body of water. The AIS issue is a regional and national effort; Nevada and other states are attempting to minimize duplicate impacts to our boating communities.

Background Information relating to AB128

The increased occurrence of AIS results in serious economic and ecological impacts. Quagga mussels were first found in Lake Mead in 2007 and have spread throughout the lower Colorado River system since that discovery. The original infestation of quagga mussels at LMNRA is believed to have occurred through the movement of contaminated trailered watercraft from infested waterbodies in the Great Lakes region. The economic consequences of infestation are enormous; for example, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has expended approximately \$35 million dollars in the last six years on infrastructure repairs, water supply impacts and additional maintenance due to quagga mussel infestation and the Bureau of Reclamation at Hoover Dam spends approximately \$1 million dollars annually on quagga mussel control. Those costs don't include the additional expenses water districts such as Southern Nevada Water Authority are incurring to supply southern Nevada with drinking water. NDOW's Lake Mead Fish Hatchery will require \$5-7 million dollars in necessary retrofitting, filtration and other infrastructure to reopen primarily due to quagga mussel infestation. Nationally, quagga and zebra mussels have cost an estimated \$5 billion in prevention and control efforts since their arrival in the late 1980's. To date, the spread of quagga mussels from the Colorado River to other western states has been successfully limited, due primarily to cooperative prevention efforts enacted throughout the west.



Quagga Mussels on Penstock
Belly Drain - Hoover Dam



Quagga Mussels on Pipe
- Lake Mead

AB 167 Aquatic Invasive Species Bill (2011)

The 76th Nevada Legislature passed Nevada's first Aquatic Invasive Species Bill (AB167). AB167 provides for efforts to prevent the spread of quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species in Nevada. These proactive preventative efforts are a critical tool to protect other Nevada waters and also assist in preventing quagga mussel spread to other western states. The bill prohibits persons from introducing certain aquatic invasive species into the waters of the state; provides for inspection of vessels for AIS; requires decontamination of vessels where an aquatic invasive species is present; authorizes impoundment of certain contaminated vessels and requires an AIS decal fee to be paid by operators of vessels on the waters of the State.

Nevada's AIS Decal

Nevada's AIS decal became effective in January 2013. Renewal of the decal is on a calendar year basis and includes the following fees:

- \$5 resident non-motorized vessel
- \$10 resident motorized vessel
- \$10 nonresident non-motorized vessel
- \$20 nonresident motorized vessel

Currently, the AIS decal is required on all vessels utilizing waters of the state that are capable of retaining water including motorboats and some non-motorized watercraft. Non-motorized vessels requiring the decal includes kayaks, canoes and sailboats. The AIS decal supports the Nevada Department of Wildlife's AIS Program including early-detection monitoring and sample analysis; enforcement, prevention, education and outreach activities; and other projects to prevent the spread of AIS into Nevada's waters.

Nevada Resident
AIS Decal



Nevada Non-Resident
AIS Decal



Lake Tahoe

Topaz Lake

AB 128 Reciprocity
Areas in Nevada



LMNRA and the
Lower Colorado River



Nevada Department of Wildlife

Where To Place Your AIS Decal: Motorized Vessels



*See green circles



Pontoon /Deck
Boat



Outboard/
Inboard/
Stern



Houseboat



PWC



Place on the left side of the stern in a visible location.