

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SJM 8010

As Reported By House Committee On:
Natural Resources

Brief Description: Requesting support for the full appropriation to fund state aquatic nuisance species management plans.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen and Oke.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Natural Resources: 4/2/99 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requests the federal government to fund state aquatic nuisance species management plans for the full amount authorized by Congress.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Buck, Republican Co-Chair; Regala, Democratic Co-Chair; Anderson, Democratic Vice Chair; Sump, Republican Vice Chair; G. Chandler; Clements; Doumit; Eickmeyer; Ericksen; Pennington; Rockefeller and Stensen.

Staff: Bill Lynch (786-7092).

Background:

The introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species into the waters of the United States causes environmental and economic problems because they have few natural enemies in their new environment. These aquatic nuisance species have the potential to cause large damage to the state because they are so invasive and can destroy native plant and animal habitat. These species can also clog waterways, reduce recreational opportunities, and negatively impact irrigation and power generation. Aquatic nuisance species may be plant or animal, and include European green crabs, zebra mussels, Chinese mitten crabs, spartina, and hydrilla.

Summary of Bill:

Congress has authorized the expenditure of \$4 million annually to fund the implementation of state management plans to minimize the environmental and economic damage caused by aquatic nuisance species. After a state plan has been approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service may fund up to 75 percent of the cost to implement the plan. In recent years, only \$200,000 has been appropriated annually to fund implementation of these management plans. The management plan for Washington identifies \$1,700,000 in additional funding needed to address aquatic nuisance species problems.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: None.