

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aquatic Invaders Subject of Public Meetings

State Invited to Explain Boat Sticker and Boat Inspection Programs

This summer marks the beginning of two new programs that affect the boating public: boat stickers to raise money to prevent aquatic invasive species and roadside boat inspections to make sure aquatic invaders don't infest Idaho waterways.

Because the public may have questions about the need for these programs and the risk of aquatic invasive species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, local organizations have invited Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest Lake, and the Idaho Department of Agriculture to two public meetings on July 8 in North Idaho to explain the problem and proposed solutions.

Anderson sponsored legislation that made the transportation of invasive species illegal in Idaho and launched the boat sticker program. Amy Ferriter of the Department of Agriculture is working to create a statewide inspection program to keep quagga and zebra mussels, and other aquatic invaders, out of Idaho.

The meetings are scheduled for:

- Noon to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, in the Coeur d'Alene Library Community Room, 702 E. Front St. Bring your lunch, and enjoy complementary coffee. Sponsored by the Idaho Conservation League, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Conservation District.
- 6 to 8 p.m. (social hour from 5 to 6 p.m.), Wednesday, July 8, at the Sandpoint Community Hall, 204 First Ave. The meeting also will include information on the Bonner County's milfoil control program and a related biocontrol research project using the milfoil weevil. Sponsored by the Bonner County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force.

For more information regarding the state's boat sticker program, go to

<http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/Environment/InvasiveSpeciesCouncil/IISF.php>.

For information on quagga and zebra mussels, go to

<http://100thmeridian.org/zebras.asp>.

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