

## HBMWD and RLCSD Announce Updated Watercraft Restrictions Under the

### Joint Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TRINITY COUNTY, CA** – In a continued effort to protect Ruth Lake and the region's water infrastructure, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and the Ruth Lake Community Services District (RLCSD) have released an updated set of restrictions and best practices as part of their Joint Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan. These measures are designed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species such as Quagga Mussels, Zebra Mussels, and the recently detected Golden Mussel in California waterways.

Aquatic invasive species pose serious threats to local ecosystems, water quality, and water delivery infrastructure. Once established, these mussels can clog pipes and intakes, damage equipment, disrupt aquatic food chains, and cost millions of dollars in mitigation and maintenance.

Watercraft from high-risk areas and/or tanks which cannot be drained pose the most significant threat to Ruth Lake.

#### Key Requirements of the AIS Prevention Plan Include:

- **Mandatory watercraft inspections:** for all vessels (including non-motorized) entering Ruth Lake, regardless of size or motor type.
- **Mandatory 30-day quarantine:** If a watercraft does not meet the yellow and red sticker exceptions as detailed in the AIS Prevention Plan, permission to launch at Ruth Lake is revoked for a period of thirty (30) days (if boat remains in quarantine during the 30-day period).
- **Failed Inspections:** Mandatory 30-day Quarantine for all failed inspections. All watercraft with ballast tanks will fail the inspection and be required to have a 30-day quarantine.
- **Proof of decontamination:** As an alternative to mandatory 30-day quarantine, proof of decontamination from a state approved facility with an intact exit band may be allowed.
- **Expanded definitions of prohibited materials:** including aquatic vegetation, standing bilge water, and bait water.
- **Introduction of a mussel-detecting K9 unit,** which will **periodically patrol Ruth Lake facilities, launch areas, and boats** to assist in the detection of invasive mussels and support enforcement of AIS protocols

"These updates reflect our continued commitment to proactive prevention," said Michiko Mares, General Manager of HBMWD. "With the recent detection of Golden Mussels in California, it's more important than ever that we take collective action to protect Ruth Lake and our drinking water resources."

Caitlin Canale, General Manager of RLCSD, added: "Recreation is a valued part of our community, and these measures will help ensure Ruth Lake remains safe, clean, and accessible for future generations."

Residents, visitors, and boaters are encouraged to follow the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" protocol and check with Ruth Lake CSD for updated requirements before visiting Ruth Lake.

The full updated AIS Prevention Plan is available online at: <https://www.ruthlakecsd.org/sidebar/golden-zebra-quagga-mussel/>

For questions or more information, please contact:

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