

State of California
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Sections 650, 672, 672.1, 672.2
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Invasive Mussels 2026

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: May 21, 2026

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Public Hearing

Date: August 18, 2026

Location: Teleconference/Webinar

Meeting details will be made available at:

[https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/
Invasive-Mussels](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/Invasive-Mussels)

III. Description of Regulatory Action

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulatory Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary

Unless otherwise specified, all section and subsection references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), “Department” refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This proposal amends sections 650, 672, 672.1, and 672.2 to expand the scope of the existing regulations to encompass all invasive mussel species, thereby ensuring consistency with the Fish and Game Code (FGC) as amended by Assembly Bill 149 (AB 149). The proposed amendments incorporate components of prevention and containment to limit the spread of invasive mussels in California and to other states.

BACKGROUND

The Department established an Invasive Species Program in 2000 to provide technical coordination and leadership on invasive species management in the Delta under CALFED. CALFED, formed in 1995, was a cooperative interagency effort of 18 state and federal agencies worked to co-manage the Bay-Delta for water supply, water quality, levee protection, and ecosystem health. The 2009 Delta Reform Act shifted the state’s efforts and coordination to leadership under the Delta Stewardship Council by way of implementation of the Delta Plan (2010, and subsequent revisions).

The discovery of quagga mussel in 2007 and zebra mussel in 2008 expanded the Invasive Species Program’s efforts statewide. Staff dedicated to implementing the Department’s new authorities (FGC §§ 2301 and 2302, CCR Title 14 §§ 672, 672.1, and 672.2) to work with water managers, coordinate with other departments, and lead outreach and education to the public with the collective goal of prevent the spread of dreissenid mussels. These efforts have been continuous since 2007.

Golden mussel was first detected in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in October 2024. This was the first detection of the species in North America. Since its discovery, golden mussel has

spread through water conveyance systems to southern California. Golden mussel can tolerate a wider range of environmental conditions than dreissenid mussels (quagga and zebra mussels) including less calcium, higher salinity, and warmer water temperatures. Nearly all waters of California are conducive to golden mussel establishment.

Golden mussel and dreissenid mussels are referred to collectively as invasive mussels. Large populations of invasive mussels have significant negative impacts on the environment, economy, and water infrastructure. Invasive mussels form byssal threads that enable them to attach to various types of submerged surfaces, termed “biofouling”. Large colonies of mussels, ranging from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of individual mussels result in biofouling that obstructs the operation of pipes and water conveyance infrastructure and leads to increased, ongoing maintenance costs for water managers and users. In addition, invasive mussels cause biofouling on commercial and recreational boats damaging the engine, internal compartments, and steering components if left unchecked. Ecologically, invasive mussels alter ecosystems and water quality.

Effective upon the Governor’s signature on September 17, 2025, AB 149 amended FGC sections 2301 and 2302, and created FGC 2303. The bill expands the Department’s scope of the provisions related to “dreissenid” mussels to “invasive” mussels, defining “invasive mussels” as any nonnative detrimental mussel species capable of spreading in freshwater, as specified in FGC section 2118.

FGC sections 2301, 2302, and 2303 focus on reducing the impacts of invasive mussels on California’s environment, economy, and infrastructure. Specifically, FGC section 2301 prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels, and authorizes the Department, or any representative to whom the Department has delegated authority, to implement section 2301, subdivision (a) and engage in various enforcement activities with regard to invasive mussels. FGC section 2301 also requires agencies that operate a water supply system with invasive mussels to develop and implement a plan to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system. FGC section 2302 requires any person, or federal, state, or local agency, district, or authority that owns or manages a reservoir where recreational, boating, or fishing activities are permitted to develop and implement a program designed to prevent the introduction of invasive mussel species. FGC section 2303 defines “invasive mussel”.

As a result of changes to FGC resulting from AB 149, Title 14 regulations must be updated to be consistent with the new scope of the FGC, reflecting the scope of invasive mussels threat to the state. The mission of the Department includes protecting natural resources for their use and enjoyment by the public, and these FGC sections specify the authority of the Department carrying out that mission relative to invasive mussels, as well as water managers’ and the public’s responsibilities. These regulations support the statewide effort to contain all species of invasive mussels and to prevent their overland spread, and subsequent negative impacts, to minimize further impacts to uninfested waters and water supply systems.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

Section 650 provides the Scientific Collecting Permit process, and exemptions under subsection (u)(2) currently apply to dreissenid mussels and not “invasive” mussels, generally.

Section 672 provides definitions applicable to sections 672, 672.1 and 672.2, and provides the general permit provisions for a Dreissenid Mussel Permit.

Section 672.1 provides the requirement of a control plan when dreissenid mussels are detected in a water supply system. This section also provides the requirements of a prevention program for reservoirs that are not infested with dreissenid mussels. This section also authorizes enforcement activities pursuant to the authority in FGC section 2301 with regard to dreissenid mussels.

Section 672.2 provides the penalties and appeal procedures for violations of section 672.1.

PROPOSED REGULATION

Amend sections 650, 672, 672.1, and 672.2 and Forms DFW 1014 and 1015: Current regulations specifically state “Dreissenid mussel” throughout text. Current FGC sections, as amended, now state “invasive mussel” throughout text. FGC section 2303 defines “invasive mussels” as those species listed in a regulation adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) pursuant to section 2118. The Commission has adopted a regulation, section 671, subsection (c)(10) identifying quagga, zebra, golden, and other mussels as restricted species pursuant to its authority under FGC section 2118. Therefore, the proposed regulations change all reference to “dreissenid” to “invasive” throughout sections 650, 672, 672.1, 672.2, and Forms DFW 1014 and 1015.

Section 672: The proposed amendment renames this section “Invasive Mussel Definitions and General Provisions” to ensure consistency with the content of the section.

Amend current subsection (a): This subsection defines specific terms used in sections 672, 672.1, and 672.2. The proposed amendments affect the paragraphs and subparagraphs therein. The amendments update definitions of specific terms, remove “adult and veliger” from definitions, delete the definition for “Dreissenid mussel,” and add a definition for “Invasive mussel.” The different life stages of invasive mussels, like adults, juveniles, or microscopic veligers, are captured in the definition for “Invasive mussel”, therefore, mentioning “adult and veliger” in other definitions is unnecessary. The definition for “Dreissenid mussel” in current subsection (a)(5) is not needed because the term “Invasive mussel” is now inclusive of all species of invasive mussels per the FGC definition in section 2303. “Invasive mussel” is defined as any non-native, detrimental mussel species, including all life stages of the organism, that is capable of spreading in freshwater and is listed in a regulation adopted by the Commission pursuant to FGC section 2118. This definition is added as new subsection (a)(6). This regulation change is necessary to be consistent with current FGC.

Add new subsection (b): Current subsection (b) outlines the invasive mussel permit provisions and process. The proposed amendments move the permit process to subsection (e) and add a new subsection (b) with the existing regulation that states the Department will maintain a list of waterbodies where invasive mussels have been detected. This amendment moves this existing regulation from section 672.1(a)(4) to section 672(b). The reorganization is necessary to align the content more closely with the related provisions addressing the movement and detection of invasive mussels.

Add new subsection (c): The proposed addition explicitly states no person shall possess, import, or transport invasive mussels in California unless authorized by the Department. This

change is needed to restrict the movement of invasive mussels by any person, unless authorized by the Department, and is the foundation for subsequent regulations.

Add new subsection (d): The proposed regulations would require the operator of the conveyance to inspect the conveyance and drain all water after leaving a waterbody. Per FGC section 2301, persons are prohibited from possessing or transporting invasive mussels between waterbodies. These regulations are needed to require persons in possession of conveyances to take action to inspect the conveyance before departing a waterbody to ensure they are not in possession of invasive mussels, and at risk of transporting or transplanting invasive mussels into another waterbody. This regulation compels the public to take action to prevent the spread of invasive mussels, and negates claims of ignorance if prohibited mussels are found in their possession on a conveyance.

Amend current subsection (b), renumbered as subsection (e), Invasive Mussel Permit: The invasive mussel permit provisions and process would be moved to this new subsection. The proposed amendments restructure the paragraphs and subparagraphs numbering of the subsection, amend the mailing address for the Invasive Species Program, amend the date for DFW 1014 form, and add a cancellation process for permits. The form revision date is proposed to be updated to reflect the date of the revised report form. The 09/01/26 revision date is the date the proposed changes are anticipated to be adopted and effective upon filing.

Add new subsection (e)(7), Cancellation: The proposed addition would add a cancellation process for invasive mussel permits. This is necessary because there is not currently a way for the Department or permittee to cancel a permit. Currently, permittees forfeit permits that are no longer needed and wait for them to expire, which may take years. Adding this cancellation process gives the Department and permittee the ability to immediately cancel a permit that is no longer needed.

Additional minor changes are proposed in section 672 for clarity and consistency in re-numbering subsections.

Section 672.1

Repeal current subsection (a)(1)(A); Amend current subsection (a)(1)(B) renumbered as (a)(1)(A): Currently this subsection defines that control plans must be submitted to the Department within 60 business days from when the Department requests a control plan, or within 60 business days of a mussel detection. The proposed amendments increase the number of days that control plans must be submitted to 180 calendar days. This change is necessary to provide water supply operators with more time to develop a control plan.

Add new subsection (a)(2): Current FGC specifies the Department shall review and provide comments on submitted control plans within 180 calendar days of receipt. Current regulations do not specify a limit on the amount of time the Department has to review and provide comments and suggestions on control plan deficiencies. This regulation change is necessary to maintain consistency with the FGC, which now defines the maximum time that the Department has to review control plans.

Repeal current subsection(a)(3); Add new subsection (a)(4): Current subsection (a)(3) is an artifact of the original control plan review process. The proposed amendments repeal this subsection and add a new subsection (a)(4), which would require control plans that were previously approved by the Department prior to December 31, 2025, to be revised to include

all species of invasive mussels by September 30, 2027. The FGC identifies September 30, 2027 as the latest date an existing control plan should be updated to include all species of invasive mussels. This change is necessary to make regulations consistent with current code and provide a timeline for water supply managers with currently approved dreissenid mussel control plans to update their plans to include all invasive mussel species.

Repeal current subsection (a)(4); renumbered and moved to Section 672 as 672(b): This amendment moves this existing regulation from section 672.1(a)(4) to section 672(b). Current subsection (a)(4) states that the Department will maintain a list of waterbodies where invasive mussels have been detected. The reorganization is necessary to align the content more closely with the related provisions addressing the movement and detection of invasive mussels.

Amend current subsection (a)(5): The current subsection identifies what is required to be included in a control plan. The proposed amendments add “systematic” to describe the monitoring for a control plan. Systematically monitoring populations of invasive mussels is key to understanding their infestation within a waterbody and documenting any population changes. This allows water supply system operators to conduct monitoring that will be sufficient for the waterbody to be removed from the infested waters list if there are no mussels detected for five years.

Amend current subsection (a)(6): The proposed amendments add maintenance and operation activities as a component of a control plan so it is explicitly clear that no additional Department authorization is necessary to remove invasive mussels from within a water supply system. Revisions also address possession and research conducted within the water supply system and explicitly clarify no additional Department authorization is needed for possession, collection, transport, analysis, or research conducted within the water supply system.

Add new subsection (a)(9): The proposed addition requires a waterbody must have no invasive mussel detections for five years through systematic monitoring conducted under an approved control plan in order to be removed from the list of mussel infested waters maintained by the Department. Current regulations do not provide a regulatory pathway for a waterbody to be removed from the list. This addition is needed to create a pathway for a waterbody to demonstrate invasive mussels are no longer present, and thus be removed from the list of waters where invasive mussels are present.

Add new subsection (a)(9)(A): The proposed addition states the systematic monitoring schedule will be defined by the Department, in consultation with the water manager, in order to satisfy the requirement outlined in subsection (a)(9). The consequence of removing an infested waterbody from the list while it still has mussels present means containment efforts will not be required, and there is the potential mussels will be spread from that waterbody to other uninfested waters. Therefore, water supply system operators need to conduct invasive mussel monitoring on a specific schedule, defined by the Department, to demonstrate with a high degree of confidence that their waterbody is mussel-free before ceasing containment efforts, and pivoting to managing to prevent invasive mussel introductions.

Amend current subsection (b)(1)(C): The current subsection lists management of recreational activities as a required component of prevention plans. The proposed amendment changes “waterbody” to “reservoir.” FGC section 2302 specifies the prevention plan requirement for reservoirs. The term “waterbody” includes many other water systems, like

rivers, streams, canals, sloughs that are not required to have prevention programs. This regulation change is needed to be consistent with current FGC and use the appropriate term for the requirement.

Amend current subsection (c): The proposed additions add “other parties” to those that may be delegated conveyance quarantine authority and “portions of the authority” for delegation by the Department. This regulation change is needed to be consistent with current FGC.

Add new subsection (c)(1): The proposed addition requires conveyances that have been in invasive mussel-infested water for more than four consecutive nights to be inspected by the Department upon removal. There is no land or water manager that controls launch access to some waters of the state, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), and therefore no entity to hold responsible for ensuring conveyances exiting such waters are free of invasive mussels. These conveyances present a high risk of being fouled with invasive mussels, which can survive weeks out of water, moved overland to other waterbodies within and outside the state, launched, and result in those waterbodies becoming infested. Invasive mussels free-float within waterbodies and attach to surfaces, including conveyances, within hours. The longer the conveyance is left in the water the more likely invasive mussels will settle on it. Since October 2024 seven golden mussel encrusted conveyances have been intercepted at California reservoirs and an Oregon roadside inspection station.

The Department-inspection of conveyances moored in mussel-infested waters longer than four consecutive nights is a compromise to concurrently maintain boating access and minimize the spread of invasive mussels overland. Complemented by section 672, subsection (d), that requires all boaters to inspect and drain all water from the conveyance upon removal from the water, this regulation requires long-term users (more than 4 consecutive nights) to be inspected upon its removal from the water. This is due to the greater potential for invasive mussels to be attached to their conveyance. Short-term boaters that clean their boats upon exiting the water will find and kill any mussels found, and any mussels missed during cleaning are more likely to fall off and/or dry and die, both contributing to preventing the spread of invasive mussels. The four consecutive night regulation is intended to influence boating behavior that reduces the potential for invasive mussels to encrust conveyances. Long-term boaters can periodically remove their conveyance from the water overnight before the four consecutive night minimum and avoid the inspection requirement. As a result, long-term boaters will accomplish similar actions equivalent to those of short-term boaters – periodic inspection when the conveyance is removed, and periodic drying to kill mussels not found when the conveyance is inspected, contributing to preventing the spread of invasive mussels.

While this regulation would not eliminate the potential situation of invasive mussels moving overland and being introduced to uninfested waters, it would significantly reduce the risk of overland transport on conveyances. This addition is necessary to reduce the possession and transport of invasive mussels to uninfested waters throughout California and to other states.

Add new subsection (c)(1)(A): The proposed addition requires conveyance owners or operators to schedule an inspection with the Department a minimum of seven days in advance and provides contact information for the Invasive Species Program. This change is needed to allow the Department and public adequate notice to schedule a mutually agreeable time and location to meet to conduct the inspection.

Add new subsection (c)(1)(B): The proposed addition provides an exception for conveyances that are stored onsite, not transported overland elsewhere, and relaunch at the same site. A conveyance that meets these conditions does not pose a threat for spreading invasive mussels to uninfested water. This would address conveyances removed from the Delta for repair, maintenance, or storage on site then relaunched at the same site. This regulation is needed to exclude inspections required by the public and the Department that are not necessary to prevent the spread of invasive mussels.

Amend current subsection (c)(1), renumbered as subsection (c)(2): This subsection is about the delegation of FGC section 2301 (conveyance quarantine) authority to others by the Department. The proposed additions add “or party” to those that may be delegated conveyance quarantine authority and “portions of the authority” for delegation by the Department. This regulation change is needed to be consistent with current FGC.

Amend current subsection (c)(2), renumbered as subsection (c)(3): This subsection states those that have been delegated conveyance quarantine authority are not obligated to quarantine conveyances. The proposed additions add “other parties” to those that may be delegated authority and add “portions of the authority” for those that have been delegated a portion of the associated authority. This regulation change is needed to be consistent with current FGC.

Add new subsection (c)(4): The proposed addition requires quarantines issued by those that have been delegated authority by the Department to be transmitted to the Department immediately upon issuance. This regulation change is needed because the Department needs to be made aware immediately of all quarantines to begin tracking the quarantine to ensure the conveyance is stored at the location specified on the quarantine, follow-up is taken to address the reason the conveyance was quarantined, and the quarantine is released with the conveyance no longer presents a threat to spreading invasive mussels.

Amend current subsection (c)(4), renumbered as subsection (c)(6): This proposed amendment changes the form revision date for DFW 1015 to 09/01/26. The revision date is the date the proposed changes is around the time the anticipated to be adopted.

Add new subsection (d): All subsections under subsection (d) are proposed new subsections. This proposed addition defines the requirements for a business to be added and kept on a Department-maintained list of businesses that inspect and decontaminate conveyances to standards set by the Department. It is important for inspection and decontamination services to be provided to a standard that minimizes the risk of spreading invasive mussels to the greatest extent possible. The Department’s standard is for no conveyances to have invasive mussels present after an inspection or decontamination has been performed. Conveyances that are cleaned, drained, and dried correctly present a very low risk for introducing invasive mussels to new waters. These regulations will not regulate this industry of service providers, or in any way prohibit any business from providing these services. The Department will only maintain a list of businesses that voluntarily opt-in to committing to provide services at or above to the Department standards. Businesses do not need to be on this list to provide inspection or decontamination services to the public. It may benefit the public to use a business on this list because they are trusted by water managers who voluntarily opt in to accepting their work as equivalent to had they performed it themselves.

Add new subsection (d)(1): The proposed addition outlines the approved methods for conveyance inspection and decontamination. For conveyance inspection, conducting a visual and tactile examination of the conveyance is the Department's approved method and is key to ensure there are no invasive mussels present on the conveyance. This includes ensuring there is no entrapped water on the conveyance that could contain invasive mussel planktonic larvae. For conveyance decontamination, exposing the conveyance to hot water with the appropriate temperature and duration to kill invasive mussels is the Department's approved method. Implementation of these methods will be detailed in the Department training. The approved methods are a necessary addition in order to identify how businesses will meet the Department's standard of no invasive mussels present on a conveyance after these services are performed.

Add new subsection (d)(2), General List Provisions: This proposed addition outlines the general provisions for the business list.

Add new subsection (d)(2)(A): This proposed addition states the Department is not responsible for any costs for a business participating in this voluntary program.

Add new subsection (d)(2)(B): This proposed addition states businesses are responsible for training their employees and meeting the Department standard for conveyance inspection and decontamination. At least one individual from the business must be trained by the Department in order for the business to participate. That person is responsible for training all other employees who perform services that did not take the Department training. This addition is needed to manage the Department's workload for training employees of the business and places the responsibility for training all employees on their employer.

Add new subsection (d)(2)(C): This proposed addition requires businesses to report any detections of invasive mussels to the Department immediately. This addition is needed because the Department must take immediate action to quarantine a conveyance that has invasive mussels. In addition, the detection may indicate exposure of previously boated waters to invasive mussels, or the presence of an unknown mussel infestation at a waterbody.

Add new subsection (d)(2)(D): This proposed addition gives businesses the option to request to be added or remove themselves from the list by completing the new form, DFW 1013. This change is needed to identify how a business can contact the Department to be added to the list and to give businesses an option to voluntarily remove themselves from the list if they no longer wanted to be listed.

Add new subsection (d)(3): The proposed addition outlines the requirements for a business to be added to the list.

Add new subsection (d)(3)(A): The proposed addition is the first requirement of a business to be on the list. The business must possess a current, valid California business license. This addition is needed to establish participants are legal business registered with the state of California.

Add new subsection (d)(3)(B): The proposed addition is the second requirement of a business to be on the list. To be list eligible, the business cannot have been removed from the list by the Department twice as described in subsection (d)(5). Services of the businesses on the list will be trusted by the public and participating water managers to ensure the conveyance has no invasive mussels present to reduce the risk of spreading invasive mussels. If a

business is removed from the list twice, they have repeatedly demonstrated they are unable to maintain a business and/or perform conveyance inspection or decontamination work consistently to the Department's standard. This addition is needed to allow the Department to deny list eligibility to a business that has already been removed from the list twice in order to maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of the business list.

Add new subsection (d)(3)(C): The proposed addition is the third requirement of a business to be on the list. One individual from the business must take a Department training on conveyance inspection and decontamination and successfully pass a knowledge and practical examination. To ensure businesses fully understand and are able to put to practice the standards set by the Department, one individual from the business will be required to take and pass a Department training. This will confirm they understand how to perform conveyance inspections and decontaminations correctly. Additionally, the training will have a test where they must put their knowledge to practice and pass the practical examination. This is needed to ensure businesses are proficient at implementing methods to achieve the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and/or decontamination.

Add new subsection (d)(4): The proposed addition defines the requirements for a business to remain on the list.

Add new subsection (d)(4)(A): The proposed addition is the first requirement of a business to remain on the list. The business must provide conveyance inspection and decontamination services using accepted methods to achieve the Department's standard.

Add new subsection (d)(4)(B): The proposed addition is the second requirement of a business to remain on the list. The business must electronically document inspection and/or decontamination services they perform and attach tamper-proof tags to conveyances. The foundation of this list is to provide services to the public to increase their recreational boating opportunity. A business must be able to electronically enter information and attach bands so that participating water managers participating in the statewide banding program can view the watercraft information electronically and verify the band against the database, and ensure that the band is intact when the conveyance arrives.

Add new subsection (d)(4)(C): The proposed addition is the third requirement of a business to remain on the list. An individual from the business must take and pass a Department refresher training annually. This requirement is necessary to update the businesses on best practices and test their knowledge of the approved methods to achieve the Department's standard.

Add new subsection (d)(4)(D): The proposed addition is the fourth requirement of a business to remain on the list. The business must agree to periodic work review by the Department to confirm the services they are providing achieve the Department's standard. The Department may use methods to conduct quality assessment like secret shopping or unannounced site check-ins. This requirement is needed so that businesses understand and consent to the Department reviewing the quality of their services provided to ensure they achieve the Department standard's.

Add new subsection (d)(5): The proposed addition outlines the requirements for a business to be removed from the list.

Add new subsection (d)(5)(A): The proposed addition outlines the Department authority to immediately remove a business from the list for major issues including falsifying business records, loss of California business license, inability to electronically enter inspection and decontamination information and/or attach tamper-evident tags to conveyances, failure to complete annual refresher training by the Department, malintent or other egregious or negligent errors. This addition is needed because the Department must be able to immediately remove a business from the list in order to maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of the business list.

Add new subsection (d)(5)(B): The proposed addition requires a business to be removed from the list after three documented failures to implement the approved method to achieve the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and/or decontamination. This puts the business on notice, twice, that they are not meeting expectations and provides opportunity to raise their performance to achieve the Department's standard. While this may seem stringent, the implications of their error include invasive mussels being introduced to uninfested waterbodies, credibility of the Department's program being compromised, and distrust in services provided by businesses on the Department's list. The requirements for participating in this program are clearly defined at the onset, the Department will have invested considerable time in training the business and facilitating this program, therefore it is necessary for the Department to maintain the high standard. This addition is needed to maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of the business list.

Add new subsection (d)(5)(B)(1): The proposed addition requires the Department to send a notification letter to the business for each failure to implement the approved method to achieve the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and/or decontamination that it documents. This letter will be on Department letterhead and mailed via the U.S. Postal Service and clearly document evidence of the failure to perform and how the Department's standard was not met.

Add new subsection (d)(5)(B)(2): The proposed addition allows the business to contact the Department to request reconsideration of the determination there has been a failure implement the approved method to achieve the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and/or decontamination. The business can provide reasoning why the failure should be reconsidered including any new or clarifying information. The Department will inform the business of its decision within 30 days of receiving their letter of reconsideration. This needs to be added to allow an informal appeal process for businesses that receive a failure notification letter.

Add new subsection (d)(6): The proposed addition allows businesses that were removed from the list to be relisted after six months. The business must meet the minimum requirements for list eligibility. Businesses that were removed from the list once should be given another opportunity to be back on the list after six months. Six months allows a business sufficient time to rectify deficiencies, remediate the cause of failures, and implement changes to achieve the Department's standard.

Additional minor changes are proposed in Section 672.1 for clarity and consistency in re-numbering subsections.

Section 672.2: This section, currently titled "Dreissenid Mussel Penalty and Appeal Procedures" is proposed to be renamed to "Invasive Mussel Penalty and Appeal Procedures"

to maintain consistency with current FGC as well as the proposed amendments to sections 650, 672, and 672.1.

Form DFW 1014: The proposed amendment renames the form to “Invasive Mussel Permit Application.” Throughout the form, “dreissenid” is changed to “invasive” to align with current FGC as well as the proposed amendments stated above. The date on the form will be changed to 09/01/26.

Section 2 - Invasive Mussels Requested

Remove the species’ and life stage in the table. The applicant will fill in themselves what invasive mussel species and life stage the permit is for in the column, “number of individuals or description of material.” Removal of language “Enter N/A for none” as there should be a description included.

Section 4 - Source of Mussels

Reorganize “City”, “State”, and “Phone Number”.

Remove “Fax Number.”

Application Certification

Add electronic signature acknowledgement language. An electronic signature ability and an acknowledgment that the electronic signature is legally binding and represents an execution or authentication of the form is proposed for compliance with California Civil Code section 1633, subdivision (b). The ability to use an electronic signature and the acknowledgement are required per the Department’s Office of General Counsel and allows for compliance with applicable accessibility laws including California Government Code sections 7405 and 11135, and the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#).

Instructions For Completing the Dreissenid Mussel Permit Application: The proposed amendment renames this section to “Instructions For Completing The Invasive Mussel Permit Application.”

Add FGC 2303 as a reference to code sections.

Remove scientific and common names of dreissenid mussels. Add “Invasive mussels are defined under Fish and Game Code 2303.”

Amend old mailing address to current mailing address.

Form DFW 1015: Throughout the form, “dreissenid” is changed to “invasive” to align with current FGC, as well as the proposed amendments stated above. The date on the form will be changed to 09/01/26.

Add “Conveyance” to origin and destination sections for clarity.

Amend “Quagga and Zebra Program webpage” to “Invasive Species Program webpage”.

Form DFW 1016: The date on the form will be changed to 09/01/26. The date on this form will be updated to align with the revised date used on the related forms DFW 1014 and DFW 1015. This change ensures consistency across these forms and minimizes the potential for

inconsistencies or confusion. No substantive information was altered beyond standardizing the date for coherence with associated forms.

Form DFW 1013 (NEW, 09/01/26), for incorporation by reference: The Department Business List Request form provides businesses a pathway to request to be added, removed, or submit changed business information for the voluntary, Department-maintained, business list. The new form will document the business point of contact and the California business license information. This form is necessary to provide an official pathway for a business to make a documented request.

Section 1 – Request Type: This section identifies the type of action being requested by the business for the Department list (Add, Remove, or Change). This section is necessary to understand what action the business wants to take in contacting the Department.

Section 2 – Contact Information: This section is where the point of contact for the business provides their information to the Department. Fields required include first name, last name, Title, phone number, and email. These fields are necessary to understand who from a particular business seeks to take action for the business list request.

Section 3 – Business Information: This section is where the information of the business, including the business license, is provided to the Department. Fields required include business name, business address, business phone number, business email, California Business License Number, and Ownership Type. These fields are necessary to understand what business seeks action for the Department-maintained business list, where the business is located, its contact information. The California Business License Number and Ownership Type allow for Department verification of a business through the California Secretary of State business services.

Section 4 – Signature: This is where the contact for the business signs and dates the form, using the same signature certification as noted for DFW 1014 listed above.

Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

It is the Department’s mission to manage California’s diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. Toward that end, the Department regulates animals that pose a threat to native wildlife, the agriculture interests of the state, and public health and safety, defined in section 671 as “detrimental animals.”

The Department’s Invasive Species Program works to reduce the negative effects of invasive mussels on the wildlands and waterways of California. Efforts prioritize preventing the spread of invasive mussels within and into the state, working with water managers to prevent introductions into waters they manage, and containing invasive mussel if they are detected, educating the public on actions they need to take to avoid spreading them, and detecting and responding to new populations. Studies show that preventing introductions is the most effective and cost-efficient way to manage invasive species.

The proposed regulations add and update the responsibilities for the Department, water managers, and the public to address additional species of invasive mussels and the new management challenges of golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) in the Sacramento – San

Joaquin Delta (Delta), Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, and water supply systems receiving Delta water. The collective purpose of these regulations is to increase containment of invasive mussels within waters where they occur. Entities and individuals directly responsible for containing and preventing the spread of invasive mussels include the Department, water managers, and the public.

These regulations strengthen the Department's management of conveyances removed from mussel-infested waters of the state for which there is no water manager responsible for containment. In addition, they enable the Department to oversee a program to vet qualified service providers who provide services to prevent the spread of invasive mussels, thereby supporting water manager's working to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels at the waterbodies they are responsible for protecting.

In absence of these regulations conveyances that have been moored in the Delta and encrusted with invasive mussels will continue to be removed from the Delta, transported overland, launched in uninfested waters, and likely to result in additional waters becoming infested with invasive mussels. Examples of this threat include the April 4, 2026 roadside interdiction of a watercraft encrusted with golden mussel by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The watercraft was removed from the Delta and en route to a new owner in Oregon when it was required by Oregon law to stop and be inspected for invasive mussels. While that conveyance was intercepted prior to being launched in uninfested water, that was not the case for a September 2025 infested watercraft that launched in Lake McCloud encrusted with golden mussel and that also originated from the Delta. These two examples represent known cases, and undoubtedly many other instances have occurred without the Department's knowledge.

The regulations are intended to minimize the potential for conveyances exiting mussel-infested waters from moving invasive mussels overland. Mandating self-inspecting and draining conveyances removed from all waters of the state, and Department inspection of conveyances moored in infested water more than four consecutive nights, requires action by the public and water users that reduces the potential for them to possess and spread invasive mussels. If inspections of watercraft result in the detection of invasive mussels, the custodian will be required to take action to remove all invasive mussels before being allowed to launch again. These new requirements will prevent irreparable impacts to natural resources, increased maintenance costs in perpetuity to manage biofouling of infrastructure, and protection of public safety via water security, flood protection, and hydropower generation.

Additionally, the proposal includes a new component of conveyance management: the Department list of businesses that implement the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and decontamination. There are two purposes for the business list. First, the Department can provide quarantined conveyance owners or operators a list of vetted, qualified private businesses or non-profits that offer decontamination services that achieve the Department's standard of no invasive mussels present. This will help ensure owners or operators receive adequate decontamination services and may lead to reduced quarantine time. Second, waterbody managers may accept the services provided by those listed businesses, which will increase recreational boating opportunities for the public and reduce workload for individual waterbody managers.

(c) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation

Section 650

Authority: Sections 702, 1002, 1002.5, 1003, 1050, 2860 and 4810, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 14, 22, 33, 45, 51, 54, 56, 79, 80, 86, 88, 89.5, 703.3, 710.5, 711.7, 713, 1001, 1002, 1006, 1008, 1017, 1050, 1050.1, 1050.3, 1050.5, 1052, 1054, 1054.2, 1603, 1700, 1755, 1764, 1801, 1802, 1907, 2000, 2000.5, 2002, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2021, 2080, 2081, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2353, 2582, 2583, 2835, 3007, 3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3960.4, 4004, 4150, 4155, 4700, 4810, 5050, 5515, 8598.3 and 12000, Fish and Game Code; Section 597, Penal Code; and Sections 36602 and 36710, Public Resources Code.

Section 672

Authority: Sections 702 and 2301, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Section 2301, 2302, and 2303, Fish and Game Code

Section 672.1

Authority: Section 702, 2301 and 2302, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Section 2301, 2302 and 2303, Fish and Game Code

Section 672.2

Authority: Section 702, 2301 and 2302, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Section 2301 and 2302, Fish and Game Code

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change

None.

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Relied Upon

State of California. 2025. Golden Mussel Response Framework. April 14, 2025. Available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=231231&inline>.

(f) Identification of Reports or Documents Providing Background Information

California Assembly Bill 149 (2025-2026), Public resources trailer bill, Chapter 106, Statutes of 2025. Available at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB149.

California Department of Fish and Game. 2008. California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan; Draft Rapid Response Plan. State of California, Resources Agency. Available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=3868&inline=1>.

(g) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication

None

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No alternatives were identified that would have the same desired regulatory effect.

(b) No Change Alternative

Golden mussels in California is a state, national, and international concern. Future invasions by other mussels could also be detrimental to the state.

Without the proposed changes in regulations, the Department would lack the regulatory authority to manage golden or other invasive mussels in California and reduce the negative impacts of invasive mussels on the state's environment, economy, and infrastructure.

Without containment, golden mussel, and other invasive mussel species, are likely to spread overland on trailered watercraft and equipment to other fresh and brackish waterbodies throughout California, and to other ports and inland waters in North America, and potentially abroad.

Without a watercraft inspection and decontamination training program, process to ensure industry standards are being adhered to, and incentivized participation, private businesses will continue to conduct subpar inspection and decontamination further jeopardizing prevention efforts.

The proposed changes are sought to protect native wildlife and the agricultural interests of the state and public health and safety.

(c) Description of Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business

In light of the available evidence, Department staff could not identify reasonable alternatives that would lessen adverse impact on small business and still achieve the goal of this proposal.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States

The Department does not anticipate any adverse economic impacts to businesses that would affect their ability to compete with businesses from other states as a result of these regulations to manage invasive mussels. The proposed regulations do not impose costs that would create an adverse economic impact.

Upon the effective date of AB 149, on September 17, 2025, any person, or federal, state, or local agency, district, or authority that owns or manages a reservoir, as defined, where recreational, boating, or fishing activities are permitted, except as specified, is required to develop and implement a program designed to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels. "Invasive mussel", per AB 149, is any nonnative detrimental mussel species that is capable of spreading in freshwater.

The bill also requires any agencies that operate water supply system(s) to work with the Department to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive mussels within the system. While these provisions may induce economic and fiscal costs to entities or agencies that operate waterways, they are considered to be impacts caused by the legislation and not a direct result of the regulation. Additionally, the cost of compliance for these operators is similar to the costs of operators in other states that have similar invasive aquatic species management programs, including Oregon and Washington.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment

The Department anticipates positive economic impacts to the creation of jobs within the state, the creation of businesses within the state, or the expansion of businesses within the state as a result of these regulations to manage invasive mussels. The proposed regulations do not impose costs that would create an adverse economic impact that would affect jobs in the affected sector, the boating industry.

The Department's list of businesses that volunteer to implement the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and decontamination may incentivize the creation or expansion of businesses or jobs in this industry in California. However, businesses do not need to be on the Department list in order to provide conveyance inspection or decontamination services to the public. Since being on the list is voluntary, the Department does not anticipate any adverse economic impacts or imposed costs that would affect jobs in the boating industry.

While the proposed regulations provide no benefits to the health and welfare of California residents or to the safety of the state's workers, they do provide benefits to the state's environment. The proposed regulatory updates reflect today's reality and include a component of proactivity to be inclusive of new invasive mussel threats that may not be present in California, or the United States, currently.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business

The Department anticipates some cost impacts to a representative private person or business as a result of these regulations. The proposed regulations impose costs that would create an adverse economic impact that would affect an individual or business, as the proposed regulations include a requirement to self-inspect conveyances when removed from the water and a requirement to schedule a Department inspection for conveyances that have been in infested waters for more than four consecutive nights.

The Department estimates that the value of the recreation time lost as the following:

- Reporting requirement: estimated 1 hour per report, 500 reports x 1 hour x \$3.79/hour = \$1,895/year
- Self-inspections: 15 minutes per watercraft, ~ 13 million launches x 0.25 hours x \$3.79/hour = \$12,317,500/ year

- Quarantine: 200 boats (watercraft that are moored for over 4 consecutive nights) x 23 days for average quarantine x \$90.97/day (200 boats initially, 100 annually for the two years after) = \$418,462 for first year and \$209,231 per year after.
- The value of recreational days is \$90.97 (or \$3.79/hour), which is adjusted for inflation from US Forestry Service's value of \$69 in 2018 ([Understanding the value of recreation | US Forest Service](#)).

AB 149 would create cost impacts through the creation of invasive mussel infestation prevention fees due in the 2026 calendar year. The fees will be administered by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways, and are subject to adjustment for inflation for each subsequent year. Thus, this fee creation is an impact caused by the legislation and not a direct result of proposed regulation.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State

It is expected that the proposed regulations will have the following fiscal impact on the Department's budget:

- 9 full-time Lieutenant Specialists for \$162,689/year to conduct inspections for the Department. These are new and the Department does not have funding in the current budget appropriated for them and would need to have funds allocated to fill them. Total fiscal impact is \$1,464,201 annually.
- Program costs for 2 Environmental Scientists at 50% of annual time (\$114,957 for combined time) and 6 Environmental Scientists at 25% of annual time (\$172,435.50 for combined time) at \$114,957/year for B classifications. These positions already exist and the time requirements can be absorbed into the Department's existing budget via Prop 4 funding for the next three years.

Combined, the total annual fiscal impact is approximately \$1,636,636.50, with \$1,464,201 requiring new funding.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies

AB 149 requires any agencies that operate water supply system(s) to work with the Department to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive mussels within the system. While these provisions may induce economic and fiscal costs to entities or agencies that operate waterways, they are impacts caused by the legislation and not a direct result of the proposed regulation.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts

There are no programs mandated on local agencies or school districts with this proposed regulation. With the passage of AB 149, the mandate of the Department for reviewing plans to prevent and manage infestations of invasive mussels (not just dreissenid mussels) represents a mandate requiring compliance by entities or agencies that operate waterways; however, these impacts are caused by the legislation and not a direct result of the proposed regulation.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code

None. While AB 149 contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs would be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted therein. For purposes of this Department regulation, such determinations of mandates are considered to be impacts caused by the legislation and not a direct result of the proposed regulation.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs

None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

The Department anticipates some effects of the regulation on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state as the regulation creates a pathway for businesses to voluntarily pursue Department listing to perform conveyance inspection and decontamination, thus imposing no new costs on these businesses that would impact the creation or elimination of jobs in that sector. Businesses do not need to be on the Department list in order to provide conveyance inspection or decontamination services to the public. Since being on the list is voluntary, the Department does not anticipate any adverse economic impacts or imposed costs that would negatively affect job creation in the boating industry.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

The Department does not anticipate any cost impacts to the creation or elimination of businesses within the state as a result of these regulations. The proposed regulations do not impose costs that would create an adverse economic impact that would affect businesses in a way that spurs their creation or elimination, as the primary effects of the regulation are centered on individuals who leave their conveyance moored for over four consecutive nights. The proposed provision regarding entities wishing to be Department listed for the inspection and decontamination process may lead some businesses, like outdoors outfitters, to voluntarily pursue that training in order to provide an additional service as a loss leader to increase their sales, but it is unlikely that this would stimulate a level of demand significant enough to spur the creation of new businesses. Businesses do not need to be on the Department list in order to provide conveyance inspection or decontamination services to the public. Since being on the list is voluntary, the Department does not anticipate any adverse economic impacts or imposed costs that would negatively affect boating industry or related businesses that wish to enter into the inspection and decontamination market.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State

The Department does not anticipate any cost impacts to the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state as a result of these regulations. The proposed regulations do not impose costs that would create an adverse economic impact that would affect businesses in a way that would cause them to expand or shrink their operations within the state, as they do not need to be on the Department list in order to provide conveyance inspection or decontamination services to the public. Since being on the list is voluntary, the Department does not anticipate any adverse economic impacts or imposed costs that would negatively

affect boating industry or related businesses that wish to expand their operations into the inspection and decontamination market.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

The Department does not anticipate impacts on the health and welfare of California residents.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The Department does not anticipate impacts to worker safety as a result of the proposed regulations.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

The Department anticipates benefits to the state's environment, as the proposed changes not only update the regulations to reflect today's reality but also include a component of proactivity to be inclusive of new invasive mussel threats that may not yet be present in California or the United States.

It is the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. Toward that end, the Department regulates animals that pose a threat to native wildlife, the agriculture interests of the state, and public health and safety, defined in Section 671 as "detrimental animals."

The proposal includes management of conveyances removed from invasive mussel infested waters. Managing conveyances will contain invasive mussels from spreading thereby preventing irreparable impacts to natural resources, increased maintenance costs in perpetuity to manage biofouling of infrastructure, and protection of public safety via water security, flood protection, and hydropower generation.

Additionally, the proposal includes a new Department list of conveyance service providers that meet the Department's standard for conveyance inspection and decontamination. This allows the Department to direct quarantined conveyance owners or operators to a list of private businesses or non-profits that offer decontamination services that achieve the Department's standard, and ensures that proper decontamination will occur to successfully remove the invasive species.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

None

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Unless otherwise specified, all section and subsection references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), “Department” refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This proposal amends sections 650, 672, 672.1, and 672.2 to expand the scope of the existing regulations to encompass all invasive mussel species, thereby ensuring consistency with the revised Fish and Game Code (FGC) established by Assembly Bill 149 (AB 149). The proposed amendments incorporate components of prevention and containment to limit the spread of invasive mussels in California and to other states. Additionally, the proposal amends forms DFW 1014, 1015, 1016 and creates a new form DFW 1013.

The Department established an Invasive Species Program in 2000 to provide technical coordination and leadership on invasive species management in the Delta under CALFED. The discovery of quagga mussel in 2007 and zebra mussel in 2008 expanded the program statewide and added dedicated staff across the state to implement the Department’s new authorities (FGC, §§ 2301 and 2302, CCR tit. 14, §§ 672, 672.1, and 672.2) to work with water managers, coordinate with other departments, and lead outreach and education to the public with the collective goal to prevent the spread of dreissenid mussels.

Golden mussel was first detected in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in October 2024. Since its discovery, golden mussel has spread through water conveyance systems to southern California. Golden mussel can tolerate a wider range of environmental conditions than dreissenid mussels (quagga and zebra mussels) including less calcium, higher salinity, and warmer water temperatures. Nearly all waters of California are conducive for golden mussel establishment.

Golden mussel and dreissenid mussels are referred to collectively as invasive mussels. Invasive mussels have significant negative impacts on the environment, economy, and water infrastructure. Effective upon the Governor’s signature on September 17, 2025, AB 149 amended FGC sections 2301 and 2302, and created FGC section 2303. FGC sections 2301, 2302, and 2303 focus on reducing the impacts of invasive mussels on California’s environment, economy, and infrastructure. The bill expands the scope of the provisions related to “dreissenid” mussels to “invasive” mussels, defining “invasive mussels” as any nonnative detrimental mussel species capable of spreading in freshwater, as specified in FGC section 2118.

The proposed regulation changes are necessary to align regulations with current state law both in terminology and scope. The mission of the Department includes protecting natural resources for their use and enjoyment by the public, and these FGC sections specify the authority of the Department in carrying out that mission relative to invasive mussels, as well as water managers’ and the public’s responsibilities. These regulations support the statewide effort to contain all species of invasive mussels and prevent their overland spread, and subsequent negative impacts, to minimize further impacts to uninfested waters and water supply systems of the state.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed regulations would:

- Rename Section 672 from “Possession, Importation, and Transportation of Dreissenid Mussels” to “Invasive Mussel Definitions and General Provisions”.

- Replace all occurrences of “dreissenid” to “invasive” to align with the amended FGC code. The proposed regulations also add definition of “invasive mussels”.
- Require conveyance owners or operators to inspect the conveyance and drain all water after leaving a waterbody.
- Add a cancellation process for invasive mussel permits.
- Increase the maximum timeline for the Department to review and provide comments on submitted control plans to 180 calendar days from 60 business days and allow the Department 180 calendar days for review and to provide comments on the submitted control plan.
- Require control plans that were previously approved by the Department prior to December 31, 2025, to be revised to include all species of invasive mussels by September 30, 2027.
- Add “systematic” to describe the monitoring for a control plan. Systematically monitoring populations of invasive mussels is key to understanding their infestation within a waterbody and documenting any population changes.
- Add maintenance and operation for control plan activities that do not require a separate permit from the Department and further specify for possession, collection, transport, analysis, or research conducted within the water supply system.
- Establish the requirement that a waterbody must have no invasive mussel detections for five years through systematic monitoring conducted under an approved control plan in order to be removed from the list of mussel infested waters maintained by the Department.
- State that the systematic monitoring schedule will be defined by the Department, in consultation with the water manager.
- Change the prevention plan requirement from “waterbody” to “reservoir”.
- Add “other parties” to those that may be delegated conveyance quarantine authority and “portions of the authority” for delegation by the Department.
- Require that state agencies or parties issuing quarantines notify the Department immediately upon issuance of a quarantine by transmitting the quarantine notice via email to the Department.
- Require conveyances that have been in invasive mussel-infested water for more than four consecutive nights to be inspected by the Department upon removal.
- Require conveyance owners or operators to schedule an inspection with the Department a minimum of seven days in advance of the inspection and provide contact information for the Invasive Species Program. An exception is provided for conveyances that are stored onsite, not transported overland elsewhere, and relaunch at the same site. A conveyance does not present a risk of introduction to uninfested waters if it is removed from the water, not transported elsewhere, and relaunched at the same ramp.
- Outline the requirements for a business to be added and kept on a Department maintained list of businesses that inspect and/or decontaminate conveyances to the standard set by the Department, which is for conveyances to have no invasive mussels present. Businesses being

on this list is voluntary. The Department is not responsible for any costs of a business being listed. Additionally, businesses are responsible for training employees and meeting the Department standard of having no invasive mussels present on conveyances. Accepted methods are outlined and implementation of these methods will be detailed in the required Department training. Businesses must report any detections of invasive mussels to the Department immediately. The proposed regulation gives businesses the option to remove themselves from the list and outlines the requirements for a business to be added to the list, for a business to remain on the list, and for the Department to remove a business from the list.

- Amend form DFW 1014 and rename it to “Invasive Mussel Permit Application”, change “dreissenid” to “invasive” to align with current FGC, and change the date on the form to 09/01/26.
- Amend form DFW 1015 to change “dreissenid” to “invasive” to align with current FGC and change the date on the form to 09/01/2026.
- Amend DFW 1016 to change the date on the form to 09/01/26 for consistency with related forms DFW 1014 and DFW 1015.
- Add new form DFW 1013 to provide businesses a form to request to be added, removed, or submit changed information for the Department business list.

Finally, other minor changes are proposed for clarity and consistency.

Benefit of the Regulations

This proposal aims to apply to all invasive mussel species making regulations consistent with the amended FGC. The proposed regulation changes not only update the regulations to reflect today’s reality but also include a component of proactivity to be inclusive of new invasive mussel threats that may not be present in California, or the United States, currently.

The proposal includes management of watercraft removed from invasive mussel infested waters. Managing watercraft will contain invasive mussels from spreading thereby preventing irreparable impacts to natural resources, increased maintenance costs in perpetuity to manage biofouling of infrastructure, and protection of public safety via water security, flood protection, and hydropower generation.

Additionally, the proposal includes a new Department list of conveyance service providers that inspect and/or decontaminate conveyances to the Department’s standard. Being on the list is voluntary and businesses do not need to be on the list to provide conveyance inspections or decontaminations to the public. This allows the Department to direct quarantined conveyance owners or operators to the list of private businesses or non-profits that offer decontamination services that meet the Department’s standard. This will help ensure owners or operators receive adequate decontamination services and may lead to reduced quarantine time. Waterbody managers may also accept the services provided by those listed which will increase recreational boating opportunity for the public and reduce workload for individual waterbody managers implementing inspection or decontamination services.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations:

The Legislature has delegated authority to the Department to adopt regulations regarding prohibitions and management of invasive mussels (FGC, § 2301). The Department has reviewed existing

regulations in Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. Department staff have searched the CCR and have found that no other regulations set forth the requirements in the Department's proposed regulation. The Department has searched the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and, pursuant to California Government Code section 11346.2(b)(6), has determined that the proposed regulations avoid unnecessary duplication and do not conflict with federal regulations contained in the CFR.