

Aquatic Invasive Species Management General Permit

Under the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act, a permit is required for the discharge of pollutants that may alter the biological or chemical characteristics of a water body. Since 2001, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has required that discharges of pesticides into waters of the state require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This is based on the *Headwaters v. Talent Irrigation District* federal court ruling.

This proposed permit addresses these legal requirements and regulates the discharge of pollutants. The permit will allow a limited use of the following chemicals to come into contact with surface waters in the state of Washington for the purposes of managing nonnative, invasive aquatic animals and nonnative invasive marine algae:

- Algaecides.
- Herbicides.
- Insecticides.
- Molluscicides.
- Piscicides.

This permit would allow for the treatment of early infestations and for small-localized projects that may lead to the eradication of the invasive species from individual sites, or for the containment of the invasive species to one area or site. State agencies will apply for coverage under this permit prior to implementing their invasive aquatic animal and marine algae control activities.

You can find the draft permit and fact sheet at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/invasive.html

Ecology will accept public comments on the proposed permit from May 5, 2010 until 5 p.m., June 11, 2010. All written comments must include the commenter's name and postal mail address. Where possible, refer to a specific section or text. Ecology will also accept oral comments during the public hearing on June 7, 2010. Ecology prefers you submit your comments electronically to Kathy Hamel at kathy.hamel@ecy.wa.gov. You may also send them U.S. mail to the address in column at right.

Ecology expects to issue a final permit Fall 2010.

Public Workshop and Hearing

Lacey

June 7, 2010

1 p.m.

Lacey Public Library

500 College Street Southeast



Invasive Crayfish
Photo by Guy Weist

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Special accommodations

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Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.