



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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June 24, 2008

Marine Stores and Tackle Shops
in Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Mendocino and Del Norte Counties

Re: Education and Prevention of Invasive Species (Quagga Mussel and New Zealand Mudsnaill)

Dear Marine Store and Tackle Shop Owners/Operators:

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) supplies drinking water to the majority of Humboldt County's population. HBMWD's source of supply is beautiful Ruth Lake in southern Trinity County. The District has a vested interest in maintaining the quality and health of this water supply resource. Boaters and anglers have a vested interest in Ruth Lake too given the valuable recreational opportunities afforded there.

Unfortunately, lakes and water supply reservoirs throughout the country have been, and continue to be, infested by several dangerous and damaging invasive species – most notably the Zebra or Quagga mussel, and the New Zealand Mudsnaill. We would like to enlist your support in helping educate the boating and angling community regarding measures they can and must take to help prevent their spread to Ruth Lake and other northern California lakes and reservoirs.

Background:

The introduction of the quagga mussel to California just last year, and its fast and aggressive spread in southern California is perhaps the most serious and urgent threat. The quagga mussel is primarily transported on boats and trailers. The mussels are very small and are prone to attach themselves to any hard surface on the boat, motor or trailer. The larvae unfortunately are so small they cannot be seen. Once introduced into a lake or reservoir, they multiply very quickly – one mussel may release 40,000 eggs and up to 1,000,000 in a spawning season. Once introduced into a water body, exponential growth of the mussel population may occur. Once this happens, they adversely affect water supplies (by clogging pipes and infrastructure), coat piers, and ruin boat motors. Perhaps most significantly, they may upset the biological food chain and entire ecological balance in the infested lake (and in the worst case, they may "kill" the lake).

Once introduced into a water body there is no known method to eradicate them. Therefore, the best strategies are boater and community education, and prevention.

HBMWD, in partnership with the Ruth Lake Community Services District, is initiating an educational campaign in our community to raise awareness of this important issue. We will also be working together on developing a plan aimed at preventing their introduction into Ruth Lake.

Our Request To You:

We view you as important partners in the educational effort given your relationship and interface with the marine and angling communities. We request your support in raising awareness and helping educate them. To support you in this endeavor, the following resources are available:

- 1) The California Department of Fish and Game's website which has a wealth of information:
 - <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/> for the Quagga mussel
 - <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail/> for the new Zealand Mudsnail
- 2) The California Department of Water Resources website also has information on the zebra and quagga mussels: <http://wwwdes.water.ca.gov/zmwatch/>
- 3) "Don't Move a Mussel" DVD produced by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Copies are available by calling them at (503)595-3100, or for download on the internet at:
 - http://www.100thmeridian.org/Video/DMAM2008_QT.asp/
- 4) Protect Yours Water website at: <http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net>
- 5) Multiple hard copies of the following material for posting at your store and distribution to your customers:
 - a. Frequently Asked Questions - Quagga/Zebra Mussels
 - b. Quagga/Zebra Mussel Fact Sheet
 - c. "Don't Move a Mussel" information card (3 1/2" x 6 1/2")
 - d. "Don't Move a Mussel" flyer (8 1/2" x 11") including boat inspection picture
 - e. "What Boaters Can Do to Stem the Spread of Invasive Quagga/Zebra Mussel"
 - f. Frequently Asked Questions – New Zealand Mudsnail
 - g. New Zealand Mudsnail Watch (wallet-sized card).

Additional copies of these materials may be obtained either from the website or from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and thank you in advance for helping get the word out to the boating and fishing communities. Working together, we hope to prevent the introduction of these invasive species into beautiful Ruth Lake and other northern California Reservoirs.

Sincerely,



Carol Rische
General Manager

Cc: HBMWD Board of Directors and Ruth Lake CSD Board of Directors
Humboldt County and Trinity County Board of Supervisors
HBMWD Wholesale Customers
Connie Stewart, Zuretti Goosby, and Liz Murguia
Tom Felt, Ruth Lake CSD Manager
Tom Hudson, Jerry Boberg and Julie Ranieri, US Forest Service
Randy Benthin, Breck McAlexander, and Michelle Gilroy, CA DFG
Barry Van Sickle and Brian Newell, HBMWD
Dennis Halligan, Stillwater Sciences