

Building Consensus in the West: Developing a Model Legal Framework for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs

Stephanie Showalter Otts

Director, National Sea Grant Law Center, University of Mississippi School of Law

“Building Consensus in the West,” is an initiative of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. The goal of the WRP initiative is to develop a multi-state vision for watercraft inspection and decontamination (WID) programs. In April 2014, the National Sea Grant Law Center and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies released “Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by Recreational Boats: Model Legislative Provisions & Guidance to Promote Reciprocity among State Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs.” These Model State Legislative Provisions offer guidance to states with existing WID programs to create a foundation for multi-state reciprocity and outline a legal framework for the authorization of new WID programs. This presentation will provide an overview of the “Building Consensus” effort and the new model legislation and discuss how WID programs in the Great Lakes region compare to the model.