

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, Alaska's indigenous plants color the great Alaskan landscape, the abundant wildlife contribute to the delicate balance of functioning ecosystems, and native species provide residents with bountiful, life-sustaining resources; and

WHEREAS, the introduction and spread of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial invasive species threaten Alaska's environment and economy by impacting the health and beauty of our valued agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS, invasive weeds and agricultural pests spread aggressively and are easily transported on equipment and recreational vehicles not properly cleaned, contaminated forage, and nursery stock. If not properly managed, weed infestations can result in agricultural crop loss, clogged waterways, degraded salmon spawning habitat, and displacing of migratory bird shelter and food sources; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is at the forefront of invasive weed prevention because of its geographic setting and restricted state entry points; and has the ability to eradicate invasive weeds found in our great state; and

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic species have a damaging effect on native marine and freshwater species assemblages by competing for food sources, preying on salmon, trout, and other valued organisms, and altering ecosystems needed to support healthy habitats required by native fish wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game work cooperatively with the public and other partners to manage invasive plants, animal, and aquatic species to protect Alaska's valuable resources and Alaskans' way of life.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim June 21-27 as:

### *Invasive Species Awareness Week*

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to educate themselves, contribute to cleanup efforts in your community, to raise awareness about the impacts of invasive species and how stop their introduction and stop their spread in Alaska .

Dated: June 17, 2015



*Bill Walker*

*Bill Walker, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*