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NEWS RELEASE

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For Release Immediately

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NEW BOAT INSPECTION, LAUNCH RULES TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 1

Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV – New regulations requiring that boats be launched only at facilities where qualified aquatic invasive species inspectors are present will take effect November 1 at Lake Tahoe.

The rules, which were approved unanimously by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board (TRPA) Wednesday, also require that vessels launching at the lake be decontaminated should inspectors determine they are at risk of introducing invasives such as the quagga or zebra mussel or other species.

These mollusks have invaded lakes across the nation, including the west, with serious environmental and economic consequences. They are carried over land between water bodies via watercraft that are not adequately cleaned, drained and dried.

TRPA is working with agency partners, the boating community, marinas and other ramp/launch owners and operators to develop an implementation and finance plan for this program. The goal is to inspect every boat that enters the lakes of the Tahoe Basin while not curtailing access or impacting businesses dependant on boating activities.

The agency is also working to mobilize more volunteers to help ramp up the inspection program adequately by the November 1 implementation date.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Dennis Oliver at 775-589-5235, or email doliver@trpa.org.

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