# Sample Declaration of Emergency

**Governor X Forms Rapid Response Team to Address Aquatic Invasive Species**

Governor X issued an executive ordertoday declaring a statewide natural resource emergency for (state) water bodies due to the detection of the larvae of invasive aquatic mussels at (waterbody location). The signing of the Executive Order triggers the deployment of an interagency rapid response team to respond to the emerging situation.

“Aquatic invasive species are a serious threat to our state’s critical infrastructure and economy. The deployment of the multi-agency rapid response team will work quickly to identify and contain existing mussel populations, and prevent future introduction to other water ways,” X said. “The potential economic, ecological and recreational impacts for our state and our region must be addressed quickly and every effort must be taken to prevent the additional spread of this threat.”

X has directed the (list entities here) to form a coordinated Rapid Response Team to immediately respond to the situation.

“We’ve been working statewide and regionally for decades to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive mussels into our state,” said incident commander X, who is leading the rapid response team. “With these detections we’re quickly transitioning from prevention efforts to a control and containment strategy to protect our water bodies and others within region.”

Last month, aquatic invasive mussel larva was discovered in samples at X. Further testing at X confirmed the presence of mussel larvae. Ongoing sampling and testing efforts turned up water samples from (other locations) that were suspect for the mussel larvae. Additional samples from suspect water bodies are still being analyzed to provide further confirmation. Those tests results are expected within the next two weeks.

The location of the detections, the value of the fisheries and recreational resources, the proximity to critical state infrastructure such as hydroelectric dams, municipal water supplies, and irrigation structures require an effective and coordinated response.

“We have prepared for this event and has the response structure in place,” said X, a member of the response team. “With the support from the Governor and of regional invasive species partners, we are responding with an intense and coordinated effort.”