

## CONTINUING ISSUE: Invasive Species - Lacey Act

Water transfers are fundamental to the treatment and delivery of surface water to the customers of public water suppliers. Water transfers in the form of releases from reservoirs also play a crucial role in flood control operations. At times, these transfers may contain invasive aquatic species and possibly cause the transfer of such species to other water supplies, violating federal law.

**Impeded delivery of critical water supplies and flood control operations.** The federal Lacey Act prohibits interstate transfer of water that contains a listed species, even when that water is transferred to another water body where the listed species is already present. An exception to the Lacey Act should be enacted to allow critical interstate water transfers into and out of Texas and for interstate water transfers throughout the western states for water supply and flood control purposes. This exception would ensure that the application of the Lacey Act does not impact the delivery of critical water supplies to customers now or in the future and does not impede flood control operations.

**Insufficient funding for invasive species.** Every effort should also be made to dedicate sufficient funding to the management and control of aquatic invasive species. Texas water suppliers desperately need additional federal assistance to control zebra mussels in Lake Texoma, Lake Lewisville, Lake Travis, and other waters in the Red, Trinity, Brazos, and Colorado River Basins; as well as the invasive aquatic species Giant Salvinia in east Texas and salt cedar in north and west Texas.



### REQUESTS:

**Amend the Lacey Act to allow interstate water transfers for water supply and flood control purposes.** TWCA supports reasonable amendments to the Lacey Act, including H.R. 29 (Gohmert), that would ensure Texas and western state water managers can make interstate water transfers for water supply and flood control purposes.

**Support additional federal funding for research, development, and implementation of invasive species control programs.**