



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

12/21/15

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[TX: Zebra Mussels Found in Sherman's Lake Dean Gilbert \(12/18/15\)](#)

AUSTIN—Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Dean Gilbert in the city of Sherman's Pecan Grove Park....

[N.M. at risk of invasive mussel species \(12/15/15\)](#)

The proposed revisions to the water resource rules can be found on the Game and Fish website, wildlife.state.nm.us, and comments will be accepted until **Dec. 31**.

[Lake Powell: Thousands of dinosaur tracks need to be rescued \(12/9/15, w/video\)](#)

....Delgalvis believes the tracks are threatened by Lake Powell's wave action and by an invasion of tiny shellfish known as quagga mussels. At this point, it's not clear if recovering the tracks is feasible or if it would be permitted by the National Park Service.....

[Press Release: EarthTec QZ is Effective New Treatment for Zebra Mussels at Power Plants \(12/8/15\)](#)

Zebra and quagga mussels, two aquatic invasive species bio-fouling power plants, can now be controlled effectively with EarthTec QZ manufactured by Earth Science Labs.....

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS

[WA: Whatcom Boat Inspection Program continues success in fighting invasive species \(12/16/15\)](#)

In 2015, the Whatcom Boat Inspection Program conducted over 8,900 boat inspections at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to Whatcom County waters. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that live primarily in water, thrive in a new environment, and cause economic loss, environmental damage, and harm to human health. While the majority of boats inspected had been properly cleaned, drained, and dried, AIS inspectors intercepted 187 boats transporting vegetation and 218 boats that were wet or were found to have standing water. These boats were of particular concern because standing water can host and spread the microscopic larvae of damaging aquatic invasive species, such as zebra or quagga mussels.....

[Wyoming still free of invasive mussels as Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program catches three boats carrying the invaders \(12/7/15\)](#)

Cheyenne - If they ever take hold in Wyoming's waters they will harm native species, municipal water supplies and agricultural activities. The Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program established in 2010 by the State Legislature is aimed at preventing new species from invading Wyoming's waters.

[Nebraska imposes boat launch fee \(12/11/15\)](#)

Fishermen and boaters who launch from waterways in Nebraska will be required to pay a new fee to help the state's effort to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species beginning in 2016. Don Gabelhouse, fisheries division administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, said the state legislature created the Aquatic Invasive Species Program this year, which allowed the commission to begin regulating the spread of non-native species in the waterways. He said an Aquatic Invasive Species Fee, to be collected from resident and nonresident boaters, will help fund the program next year....

[CT: Towns consider blocking seaplanes from Lake Waramaug \(12/14/15\)](#)

.....A recent request to land a seaplane on the lake has raised concerns of safety and invasive species entering the water....

BALLAST WATER

[Ballast-borne marine invasive species: exploring the risk to coastal Alaska, USA \(12/16/15\)](#)

Abstract: The relatively uninvaded coastline of Alaska currently faces a heightened risk of novel biological introductions as a result of increasing regional vessel traffic, emerging Arctic trade routes, and proposed coastal and nearshore development. Alaska currently receives the majority of its ballast water discharge in the port of Valdez (86%), largely from crude oil tankers engaged in coastwise trade. These crude oil tankers were exempted from managing and reporting ballast water prior to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Vessel General Permit (VGP). Here we present a comprehensive statewide risk assessment of ballast-borne marine invasive species throughout coastal Alaska, and the first study to characterize the risk from the ballast water vector following inclusion of ballast water reporting by the VGP. We examined ballast water discharge volume, environmental similarity between source and discharge regions, ballast water age, and marine invasive species richness in source regions annually from 2009 – 2012 for the top 15 ports/discharge locations in Alaska. The majority (80%) of the more than 54 million metric tons of reported ballast water discharged during this time period was sourced from the west coast of North America, including highly invaded port systems such as San Francisco Bay, California and Puget Sound, Washington. Overall about 38% of the ballast water discharged to our focus locations was managed using ballast water exchange. We conclude that the risk of invasion is highest for the ports of Valdez and Drift River Terminal and lowest for the ports of Klawock, Skagway, and Tolstoi Bay. This analysis and risk matrix can inform further fine-scale assessments of ballast water management activity and identify areas of Alaska most likely to benefit from focused management effort.

[Opinion: Ballast water mismanagement \(November 2015\)](#)

.....The 2013 VGP had adopted, almost completely, the standards established in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention). What had looked like a settled and deliberate process for encouraging Final adoption of the BWM Convention has suddenly been derailed. Nations and other stakeholders that had calculated that the coming into force of the Convention would largely provide for a uniform international regime may now have to go back to the drawing boards. The major incentive for nations that have been planning to ratify the BWM Convention has been eliminated, as it is unlikely that the ultimate US regime will be consistent with that Convention.....

[Coast Guard decision on use of Most Probable Number method \(12/14/2015\)](#)

Today, the Coast Guard's [Marine Safety Center](#) informed four ultraviolet ballast water management system, or BWMS, manufacturers that the [Most Probable Number](#), or MPN, method is not considered as an [equivalent alternative to the testing method](#) prescribed in the Coast Guard's regulations pertaining to the [type approval of ballast water systems](#). A Coast Guard review concluded that the MPN test method is not equivalent because it

does not measure the [efficacy of the BWMS](#) to the performance standard required by the regulations. The regulations specifically require ballast water treatment systems to be evaluated based on their ability to kill certain organisms. Since the proposed MPN method assesses the viability of an organism to colonize after treatment, it measures to a different standard than that required by the regulations.

Related Story: [US Stands Firm on Invasive Marine Species \(12/16/15\)](#)

[Ballast water: Living Versus Viable \(12/9/15\)](#)

By Rear Adm. Paul Thomas, assistant commandant for prevention policy, U.S. Coast Guard: In the last blog, I compared the U.S. regulations with the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention. Here I will address the confusion about using living or viable terminology in the standard, and I will discuss the challenges with determining viability.....

[ABS: Uncertainty exists on the implementation of the Ballast Water Management \(BWM\) Convention \(12/14/15\)](#)

ABS considers that three areas of uncertainty exist concerning the implementation of the International Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention:

[Environmental DNA evidence of transfer of North Sea molluscs across tropical waters through ballast water \(7/6/15\)](#)

Maritime transport, in particular of ballast water, is considered to be one of the most important pathways of marine biological invasions worldwide. Here we provide the first molecular evidence of potential survival of the European mudsnail, *Peringia ulvae*, in ballast water on cross-latitudinal voyages. Ballast water from the RV *Polarstern* was sampled at its departure from the North Sea and again in tropical latitudes; DNA was extracted and amplicon-sequenced employing high-throughput sequencing methodology. Mollusc species were detected by cytochrome oxidase subunit I DNA barcode sequences. The increasing proportion of operational taxonomic units that were identified as *P. ulvae* after 2 weeks of navigation suggests that this species withstands the harsh conditions in the ballast tank. As such, *P. ulvae* has the potential to reach very distant, new marine areas where it eventually might establish itself as a nonindigenous species. We also discuss the potential of environmental DNA analysis for en-route biodiversity screening and species-specific risk assessments, as well as some current limitations of the approach. [Full Article = \$\$\$\$]

[Arctic Invasion - Invasive species are making it to the Arctic, they just can't survive there—yet \(12/8/15\)](#)

Potentially invasive species are already making their way to the Arctic, but for now it's still too cold for them to survive. Yet as new research shows [[Biological introduction risks from shipping in a warming Arctic Ware et al. 2015](#)], warming over the next

century could mean that many of the species that are today being flushed into the sea to die will instead start calling the Arctic home.....

MARINE

[NOAA Marine Debris Program -- Abandoned and Derelict Vessels \(ADV\)](#)

Choose a state from the pull-down menu below OR click on the map to see a summary of the status of ADV information by state. Be sure to click the link for "Get-in depth Information" to go to a state ADV summary page.....

[Bleaching and choking - it's hard being a coral in Hawaii \(12/21/15\)](#)

....Corals depend on sunlight for photosynthesis. When they get smothered with algae, they don't get any sunlight - and eventually die. That is what is happening in Kane'ohe Bay, off the coast of Hawaii's main island Oahu. Two invasive algae species from Southeast Asia have spread to here. The species were imported to Hawaii decades ago. People thought they might be a good resource for cosmetics and food additives. Scientists planted them into the bay, assuming that this wouldn't do any harm. "But they were wrong, it is a big problem," says Hank Lynch, who works for The Nature Conservancy. "This stuff is absolutely taking over the ecosystem." The algae spreads, growing fast and smothering corals. Some coral reefs are already completely overgrown with algae.....

FISH

[Montana's 10-Year South Fork Flathead Cutthroat Conservation Project – Purging Non-Native Fish – Proves Successful \(12/18/15\)](#)

It's been more than a decade since Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks rolled out a proposal to purge non-native fish from alpine lakes above the South Fork Flathead River drainage, for the purpose of restoring and protecting native westslope cutthroat trout populations for the long haul, and now it has the markings of a significant success story.....

Related Story: [Isolated Rearing Facility for Native Fish Key Component in Montana Effort to Reduce Hybridization \(12/18/15\)](#)

[Montana Adopts Unprecedented Mandatory Kill Rule for Walleye in Flathead Basin's Swan Lake, Swan River \(12/11/16\)](#)

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission on Thursday unanimously approved a regulation that will require anglers to kill and keep any walleye that are caught on Swan Lake, the Swan River and its tributaries in the northwest region of the state.

[Efforts to halt Asian Carp invasion of Great Lakes hit roadblock \(12/16/15\)](#)

.....“Severing a critical part of the nation’s water transportation network is too high a price to pay for a solution that is not guaranteed to stop the spread of invasive species,” said Tom Allegretto, president of American Waterways Operators, which represents barge and tugboat companies.....

OTHER

[Dangerous Giant African Snails Discovered at Port of Oakland \(12/16/15\)](#)

U. S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture specialists discovered two live Giant African Snails - considered one of the most dangerous snails in the world - at the Port of Oakland in early December while examining a cargo shipment of wooden pallets from American Samoa.

[Want to help control invasive species? Eat a bullfrog \(12/3/15\)](#)

Armed with a flashlight and a spear under the cover of night, Tom Kaye creeps toward his targets on the edge of a pond near Corvallis, Oregon. “There’s the one we’re going to go after first,” he said. “I can see some twinkling eyes and then there’s several all the way up the shore.” Invasive American bullfrogs have taken over the pond, and that’s bad news for native species.....

[Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species in the Columbia River \(12/17/15\)](#)

At its December meeting, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council was briefed on the region's efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into the Columbia River Basin. Steven Bollens of Washington State University's School of the Environment and Tim Counihan of the U.S. Geological Survey Columbia River Research Laboratory presented recent research on Asian copepods in the Columbia River and reviewed a Bonneville Power Administration cost-shared project to enhance the region's ability to detect, and prevent the spread of, invasive quagga and zebra mussels. Asian copepods, small plankton-like crustaceans, have already invaded parts of the basin's waters. They can affect the health of the food web in such a way that makes future invasions, perhaps by mussels, more likely.....

WEEDS

[Texas Ramping Up Fight against Aquatic Invasive Species \(12/18/15\)](#)

...The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders, has been battling against the spread of aquatic invasive plants such as giant salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla for decades with limited success. Research into various management options has shown promise toward controlling the spread of these plants, but come with a price tag that until now has been out of reach....

[AR: Duck hunters encouraged to leave invasive plants behind \(12/11/15\)](#)

With the second segment of waterfowl season now open, hunters will take to the water in search of mallards and memories. They may be harboring a few stowaways that can leave a lasting mark on Arkansas waters. Invasive plants and other exotic species can hitch rides on duck boats and waterfowl hunting equipment, spreading to new areas and destroying wildlife habitat.

JOBS/POSITIONS/GRANTS

OR: OISC is accepting nominations for Council at-large seats

SALEM, OR... The Oregon Invasive Species Council is seeking nominations for five at-large member seats that are up for election at the end of December. Nominations and questions about the process should be directed to Jolene Littlejohn jalene@littlejohnenvironmental.com. Please include the individual's name, title, phone, fax, e-mail, and mailing address as well as a brief description of their qualifications (self-nominations are acceptable). In addition, the Council requests a statement from the person being nominated that explains their interest and contributions they are willing to make to the Council. Letters of support for the nominee are helpful. The deadline for nominations is **December 31, 2015**. The council will welcome the new appointees at the spring 2015 meeting.

[MN: DNR seeking watercraft inspection interns for 2016 season \(12/17/15\)](#)

Applicants must have a valid Minnesota driver's license, be enrolled in a natural resources or related program and be eligible to receive college credit for the position. To view a complete job description or apply online go to <http://tinyurl.com/zvlfcem> or contact Adam Doll at 651-259-5056 or adam.doll@state.mn.us with any questions.

Trainings/Webinars

Spring 2016: Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and its 100th Meridian Initiative partners are announcing and sponsoring Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings for Winter/Spring 2016 for the following dates

- * 2/16-2/17, 2016 Lake Mead
- * 3/1-3/2 Lake Powell
- * 3/15-3/16 Lake Mead
- * 4/26-4/27 Lake Mead

Trainer: “Quagga D” Davis (quaggadee@cox.net)

To register and for further information go to: <http://www.westernais.org/upcoming-classes>

Control and Management of Non-Native Invasive Fish

During this course, attendees will explore efforts to understand, control and manage invasive fish through early detection and assessment, with emphasis on control and management methods. This is critical as invasive species threaten the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems worldwide and are considered the second greatest threat to biodiversity loss in North America. Exotic species introductions (illegal and intentional) were a factor in 68% of fish extinctions in North America, and the rates of introductions have increased dramatically in the last 50 years impacting nearly every major watershed in the United States. Fisheries management programs have transplanted popular sportfish to provide recreational opportunities and many other aquatic organisms have been planted to enhance fish growth. Habitat loss and degradation, climate change and urbanization have also contributed to the establishment and spread of non-native fish. Regardless of the cause of species introductions, the establishment and proliferation of invasive species often results in the decline and potential extinction of native species, with invasive predators having the most dramatic effects. Controlling and managing non-native invasive fish is critical to the survival of freshwater fish in North America, and attendees of this course will gain an increased understanding of what can be done to minimize the negative impacts of invasive species. **Date(s): March 9, 2016: 8:30am - 4:30pm; Location:** University of Phoenix-Portland Area 13221 SW 68th Parkway, Ste. 500 Tigard, OR; Instructor: Joe Maroney; Tuition: \$345 / \$295* \$295 / \$245* (Before February 6, 2016).

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, ACTIONS

\$1.15 Trillion Omnibus Spending Bill Passes

On 12/18/15 President Obama signed the FY 2016 federal omnibus spending bill after it passed the House (316-113) and Senate (65-33). [Click here](#) for the bill (2009 pages).

AIS Items of interest in the omnibus are as follows:

Division D-Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (WRRDA /USACE): See page 21 [HERE](#), where the report language says the following

Aquatic Plant Control Program.-Of the funding provided for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$4,000,000 shall be for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants; within this funding, the Corps is encouraged to support cost shared aquatic plant management programs. Of the funding provided for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$4,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations, as authorized by section 1039 of the WRRDA.

Division G-Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (USFWS): See report language on pages 21 and 16 [HERE](#) --

Page 21: adds funding (~doubles) to [state ANS management plan](#) grants (from ANS Task Force/USFWS) ...

Page 16 -- Quagga and Zebra Mussel Control.-The Committees remain concerned about the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in the West and, consistent with fiscal year 2015, have provided \$2,000,000 for continued containment, prevention, and enforcement *efforts*. Further, the Committees direct the Service to provide, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, a progress report on steps taken in recent years to address this pervasive threat to western watersheds.

[Advocates win labels for GMO 'frankenfish' \(12/16/15\)](#)

The federal spending bill unveiled early Wednesday morning contains language forcing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finalize guidelines for the labeling of genetically modified salmon — a victory for advocates seeking mandatory labels on all foods made with GMO products....

Related Story: [Murkowski Works to Support Alaska's Fisheries and Protect Consumers through Omnibus Bill \(12/17/15\)](#)

Coast Guard Authorization Act Update

On 12/10/15 the House passed the [Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015](#) (H.R. 4188). The measure then went to the Senate, was amended with cruise-ship labor issues and passed by a voice vote. It was sent back to the House but it looks like House adjourned

before it could take the amended bill up. H.R. 4188 does not include ballast water management language as found in [S. 1611](#), which mirrors [S.373](#), the “Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). For further background see the [AIS News \(12/8/15, page 12\)](#).

Stay tuned.....

MEETINGS

JANUARY

[ICMB-IX - Hulls, harbours and other invasion hotspots](#): 19-21 January 2016, Sydney, **Australia**
The International Society for the Study of Marine Bioinvasions invites you to participate in the 9th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions (ICMB-IX), in Sydney, Australia. Abstracts should be submitted to the ICMB Scientific Steering Committee using the electronic form on the '[Call for Abstracts](#)' page.

FEBRUARY

INVASIVES 2016: Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM, will be held **Feb. 2-3, 2016** at the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond, BC. Everyone welcome! Enjoy two action-filled days of learning, networking and sharing with colleagues from across North America. Registration is open; be sure to enjoy early bird rates until Dec. 15th, 2015. See the [Draft Agenda](#) (as of July 28, 2015). [REGISTER](#)

National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2016: Save The Date! February 21 – 27, 2016. Check www.nisaw.org for the NISAW Toolkit for planning local events and the NISAW Event Locator – as well as more specific dates, details, event schedules, complete lists of partners and further developments and other potential events in Washington, DC!.

MARCH

International Maritime Organization (IMO) GloBallast R&D Forum and Exhibition on Ballast Water Management will be held from 16-18 March 2016. Conference website: <http://www.ballast2016.com/>

APRIL

[ICAIS: 19th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#) Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; **April 10-14, 2016**.

MAY

[The Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society](#) international conference Marine & Freshwater Invasive Species Ecology, Impact and Management, Buenos Aires, Argentina, **May 2-4, 2016**.

14th Ballast Water Management Conference: **Date:** 4th May 2016 - 5th May 2016 **Location:** Baltimore - MD - USA

OCTOBER

Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species: October 19-21, 2016 - Jackson, WY

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference: October 17-19 2016 La Crosse, Wisconsin.



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