NY: Zebra mussels damaging Lockport water intake (11/3/16)

….Wednesday, the Common Council voted to seek bids for two sets of repairs to the North Tonawanda intake pipe. The city has an $800,000 grant in hand from the state Dormitory Authority which should pay for most or all of the work, Director of Finance Scott A. Schrader said…… Michael T. Marino of the Nussbaumer & Clarke engineering firm, a consultant to the city, said the new crib will be made of polyethylene. "Zebra mussels don't attach to it," he said…..

MN: Zebra mussels confirmed in Kimble Lake in Crow Wing County (10/28/16) and Adley Lake in Otter Tail County (11/7/16)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Kimble Lake in Crow Wing County and Adley Lake in Otter Tail County.

WI: Zebra mussels invade Lake Mendota (11/7/16)

….As recently as July, densities of adult zebra mussels in places Spear was monitoring were about 10-to-15 individuals per square meter, extremely low by standards of the Great Lakes region, Spear says, adding: “about as low as you’ll find them in systems where they’re known to exist.” However, “we saw a very strong recruitment event in mid-August,” Spear says, “which boosted densities from 10-20 per square meter, upwards of 200 per square meter in some places. If any decent proportion of these young mussels are left by reproduction time next year, I think we will definitely be seeing continued exponential growth of the population.”…..
MARINE

Prince Edward Island: Souris wildlife group battles invasive green crab (11/1/16)

An invasive species that has hit Eastern P.E.I. waters with a vengeance now has a new enemy. His name is Fred Cheverie — the watershed coordinator of the Souris and Area branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation. Cheverie is heading up an extensive 8-week research project to catch and document as many green crabs as possible in the Basin Head lagoon. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is funding the $18,000 pilot project. "The population has exploded here in Basin Head for sure," said Cheverie….

Related Story: Growing grass in the sea: Why replanting eelgrass is so important for P.E.I.(11/7/16): … "Our big fear and our big problem is if we go and put the eelgrass in an area where there are green crabs, we're kind of feeding them right?"

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

New invader found in Great Lakes (11/5/16)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Dan Egan): In 2008, the U.S. government followed Canada's lead and began requiring overseas ships sailing up the St. Lawrence Seaway to flush their ship-steadying ballast tanks with mid-ocean saltwater to prevent new species invasions of the Great Lakes. The shipping industry has hailed the program as a remarkable success, pointing out that no new invasive species have been discovered in the lakes since that time. That can no longer be said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said last week a new species has been discovered in the Great Lakes — the first since 2006 — bringing the tally of non-native organisms in the lakes to at least 186…..

MEPC Delays Ballast Water Treatment Decisions (11/1/16)

….For MEPC 71, there are now two suggestions: the original one putting the retrofit dates to be between 2017 - 2022 and the new proposal supported by the shipping industry to postpone the window by effectively two years to 2019 - 2024. Even with the options available, the Chairman of MEPC was very clear that all these suggestions were just that: suggestions. The real deal is when the text of Regulation B-3 will be changed to reflect the agreements (or non-agreements) during MEPC 72, to be held in March 2018…..

Related Story: More indecision on BWMS installation timeframe (10/31/16)
South Africa: Raising the flag on marine alien fouling species (10/10/16)

Harbours are known introduction foci of marine alien species. They act as recipients of new introductions and as sources for regional spread. We report on subtidal surveys of fouling communities from 14 harbours along the coastline of South Africa that were used to identify predictors of high alien species numbers in support of prioritisation of monitoring actions by authorities. The harbours varied in nature from large, international shipping hubs to small, regional fishing harbours and recreational marinas. Fouling assemblages were assessed using visual and scrape sampling to ensure the detection of large, mobile and small inconspicuous species. In total, 29 alien species were recorded, 15 of which were detected outside of their previously known ranges. The number of species recorded per harbour varied from five to 15. Results revealed that high numbers of alien species were associated with the presence of yachts and low primary productivity. Harbours which had yachts and occurred in areas with mean Chl a minimum levels lower than 0.21 mg.m-3 had the highest number of alien species, while harbours without yachts that were larger than 0.1km2 supported the fewest alien species. These findings suggest that the presence of yachts can be used to identify harbours with high numbers of alien species, particularly in regions with low productivity. While the applicability of these findings to other regions remains to be tested, this work suggests that harbours that fall within this category could be prioritised for monitoring of marine alien species.

AQUACULTURE

Bloomberg: The $100 Million U.S. Government Fish Farm Nobody Wants (10/28/16)

…..The logistics of deepwater aquaculture require expensive boats, bigger anchors, and better planning to avoid endangered species, which makes it too expensive for small businesses, said Barry Costa Pierce, director of the University of New England’s Center of Excellence in the Marine Sciences. (In 2013, ocean aquaculture in the U.S. accounted for only $327 million, compared with commercial fishing’s $5.5 billion take.)

Related Stories: Lawsuits hold back fish farming in Gulf of Mexico (11/02/16) and Fishing and Public Interest Groups File Challenge to Feds’ Unprecedented Decision to Establish Aquaculture in Offshore U.S. Waters (2/16/16)

Suit brought against DFO for Allegedly Failing to Protect Wild Salmon (10/15/16)

…..Morton’s lawsuit charges the department with breaking fisheries regulations that say the minister can only issue a licence allowing fish farmers to transfer fish if they “do not
have any disease or disease agent that may be harmful to the protection and conservation of fish.”

**FISH**

Ecologists raise alarm over releases mosquito killing guppies (10/25/16)

The little guppy *Poecilia reticulata* has developed a big reputation. For decades, the fish has been championed as a mosquito fighter and dumped into ponds and ditches to eat up the insect’s larvae. But among scientists, it has a different reputation—as an invasive species with a remarkable ability to reproduce and spread. Now, as health officials in regions facing mosquito-borne viruses like Zika consider expanding use of these predatory fish, ecologists are urging them to think twice. In a [paper published online today in *Biology Letters*](#), a group of ecologists argues that the guppies—and other nonnative fish used for mosquito control—haven’t actually proven very effective mosquito fighters, but are known to pose ecological risks.

Yellowstone uses dead lake trout to kill more lake trout (10/26/16)

……..But using lake trout carcasses to kill their spawn has been perhaps the most promising technique to date used on Yellowstone Lake to kill the picivorous exotic char before they grow into swimming organisms that take a toll on native cutthroat trout. If the method proves viable on a large scale, it could be a key tool in the fight to help cutthroat stage a comeback and rebound to their historical numbers. In turn, park managers hope to restore a multi-level trophic cascade that could, in theory, result in grizzly bears eating fewer elk calves……

**OTHER**

University of Minnesota certifies first class of AIS Detectors (11/3/16)

Thirteen residents of Brainerd and elsewhere across northern Minnesota are now the state's first certified detectors for aquatic invasive species in Minnesota lakes. The AIS Detectors program is a new partnership opportunity developed by University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. It is training citizen scientists to identify numerous aquatic invasive species, including plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and starry stonewort, invertebrates such as zebra mussels,
and fish such as silver carp. Participants are also trained on identifying the native lookalike species that may be found in the same area.

Visit the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's website at www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detector to learn more about this program.

Rock snot algae discovered in southern Alberta waters (11/6/16)

…… “Some studies suggest that Didymo has actually been present here for a long time, but has gone unnoticed until more recently,” Peterson said. “It was first noticed in Alberta in 2003. The more researchers started looking for Didymo, the more they started finding it.” ….

Using Scenarios to Assess Possible Future Impacts of Invasive Species in the Laurentian Great Lakes (10/14/16)

…… We developed and evaluated a scenario-building process that relied on an expert panel to assess possible future impacts of aquatic invasive species on recreational fishing in the Great Lakes. To maximize its usefulness to policy makers, this process was designed to be implemented relatively rapidly and considered a range of species. The expert panel developed plausible, internally consistent invasion scenarios for five aquatic invasive species, along with subjective probabilities of those scenarios….. [Full Article = $$$$]

Global population divergence and admixture of the brown rat (10/19/16)

Native to China and Mongolia, the brown rat (Rattus norvegicus) now enjoys a worldwide distribution. While black rats and the house mouse tracked the regional development of human agricultural settlements, brown rats did not appear in Europe until the 1500s, suggesting their range expansion was a response to relatively recent increases in global trade…. [Full Article = $$$$]

Weeds

Tahoe: Headway made in fight against aquatic invasive plants (10/31/16)

In 2010, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), in collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program, began treatment of approximately six acres of aquatic invasive plants in the nearshore by Vikingsholm in the iconic Emerald Bay. The control methods included bottom barriers, which kill plants by eliminating light, and diver-assisted suction removal, which physically removes plants and roots. After four years of comprehensive treatment, Emerald Bay remains free of aquatic invasive plants….
Biologists Battle Giant Salvinia Blocking Lake Access for Duck Hunters, Waterfowl (10/25/16)

AUSTIN – At North Toledo Bend Wildlife Management Area, giant salvinia covers about half of the WMA’s 500-acre wetland impoundment, blocking boat access for duck hunters and keeping migrating waterfowl from food and habitat. The problem would be worse without steady work to fight back the invasive floating fern, efforts that got a boost this year by recording funding from the Texas Legislature.

Hundreds of duck hunters will come to North Toledo Bend this winter, and they’ll still be able to hunt birds, but the giant salvinia problem does limit their options. According to WMA staff, it can literally depend on “which way the wind is blowing,” as floating mats of salvinia blow across the lake.

“In recent weeks the wind has been blowing from the east causing the western part of the WMA to be solid salvinia, with other smaller patches throughout the impoundment ranging in size from 10-15 square feet to several acres, and most of the sloughs or creeks have had some extent of salvinia in them,” said Bob Baker, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist at North Toledo Bend…

TX: In the Growing Battle Against Invasive Plants, Texas Lags Behind Other States (10/26/16)

…..That illustrates another challenge with regulating invasive plants. *Arundo donax* is in the cross hairs of regulators, still it's used as a landscaping feature on many properties. "In a greater sense, there’s nobody policing invasive species,” said Smith of Texas A&M-Kingsville. “I’ve heard people ask and talk about, ‘Well if you saw a developer planting a particular state-listed invasive plant, who do you call?’” The Texas Department of Agriculture, which maintains the list of invasive plants doesn't have any enforcement powers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department can send game wardens to stop people from selling and transporting banned plants, but that doesn’t happen often…..

TRAININGS/WEBINARS/CONFERENCES

International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) - ICAIS 2017 Call for Abstracts

The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) is the most comprehensive international forum to address new and emerging issues related to aquatic invasive species. The Technical Program Committee invites the submission of abstracts for presentations and posters addressing the broad range of aquatic invasive species issues affecting freshwater and marine environments. Abstracts are to be submitted in Microsoft Word to the Conference Administrator before December 15, 2016.
MT: ISAN: Fishing & Boating Program Coordinator

Invasive species Action Network (ISAN) is seeking to hire an individual to serve as the staff lead for implementing a variety of invasive species prevention programs that involve the fishing and boating communities. The position is based at ISAN’s office located in Livingston, MT. This is a full time position that is funded for at least 18 months with the expectation that it will be a permanent position.

Application Deadline – November 20, 2016

ISAN will work toward filling the position in a timely fashion after the application period ends. We expect the successful applicant will start in early 2017. For additional information please email bob@stopans.org

Field Biologist-Invasive Species: Guam

Three Field Biologist-Invasive Species (Research Associate I Special) positions are available with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML). These positions are located at the U.S. Naval Station, Guam.

Last Date to Apply: 11/13/2016

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

FEDERAL

Proposed rule: Uniform National Discharge Standards for Vessels of the Armed Forces—Phase II Batch Two

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) propose discharge performance standards for 11 discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel of the Armed Forces into the navigable waters of the United States, the territorial seas, and the contiguous one. When implemented, the proposed...
discharge performance standards would reduce the adverse environmental impacts associated with the vessel discharges, stimulate the development of improved vessel pollution control devices, and advance the development of environmentally sound vessels of the Armed Forces. The 11 discharges addressed by the proposed rule are the following: catapult water brake tank and post-launch retraction exhaust, controllable pitch propeller hydraulic fluid, deck runoff, firemain systems, graywater, hull coating leachate, motor gasoline and compensating discharge, sonar dome discharge, submarine bilgewater, surface vessel bilgewater/oil-water separator effluent, and underwater ship husbandry.

Comments must be received on or before December 6, 2016.

Udall, Gregoire said to be on Clinton's short list for Interior secretary (11/7/16)

Hillary Clinton's presidential transition team is eyeing six top candidates to lead the Interior Department if she is elected, including former Colorado Sen. Mark Udall and former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, according to a person who has spoken to the transition team.....

CONGRESS

Congress returns for the “Lame Duck” session beginning 11/14/16

WRDA negotiators urged to include watershed projects (11/4/16)

The conference committee working on the Water Resources Development Act [S. 2848/H.R. 5303] got a plea [Thursday] from lawmakers pressing for the inclusion of watershed restoration projects in the legislation. The 58 members of the Senate and House are asking for WRDA to include five bills that authorize or facilitate restorations for Lake Tahoe, the Great Lakes, the Delaware River Basin, Long Island Sound and the Columbia River Basin. "These landscapes play important roles in their region's water supply, economic vitality, and environmental health, while contributing significantly to the national economy," the lawmakers wrote. "Combined, they impact approximately 30 percent of the states in the nation, covering tens of thousands of square miles and safeguarding drinking water for tens of millions of U.S. citizens." [Source: Reprinted from Greenwire with permission from Environment & Energy Publishing, www.eenews.net: 202/628-6500].

Details on AIS related portions of the two bills:

S. 2848:
• Includes a required Comptroller General report (see Page 550) to “review of the implementation and effectiveness of watercraft inspection stations… in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs.”

• Section 4002 (page 138) expands the watercraft inspection program section to include the Platte and Arkansas River Basins

• Includes (page 350) Lake Tahoe Restoration Act language (S. 1724), including $45 million in funding for the TRPA’s AIS and watercraft inspection program.

• Includes Great Lakes Restoration Initiative language (S. 1024), including a $300 million authorization (See page 335), some of which can be used for “the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species”.

**H.R. 5303:**

• Contains similar Great Lakes language and funding (page 104) but does not have the Tahoe language.

• Contains “clarifying” watercraft inspection station location language (Section 175, Page 87): “In carrying out this section, the Secretary may establish, operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington at locations, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with such States with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and main by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also assist the States referred to in this paragraph with rapid response of any Quagga or Zebra mussel infestation.”

• Contains additional quagga/zebra early detection and rapid response language (pages 87 and 88)

**MEETINGS**

**NOVEMBER**

The Next [ANSTF](#) Meeting will be in Falls Church, VA November 8-10, 2016
The Fall Willamette Aquatic Invasive (WAIN) meeting is going to take place on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm.** The meeting will be held in Salem at the City of Salem’s Pringle Hall Community Room, located at 606 Church Street SE. Stay tuned for more details about this upcoming meeting and an agenda. For further information contact Marci Krass @ marci@willametteriverkeeper.org

**Lake Roosevelt Forum 2016 Conference:** November 15 & 16, 2016. The Davenport Hotel Spokane, Washington, the agenda includes two invasive species sessions.

**PNWER's Annual Economic Leadership Forum,** Grove Hotel, Boise Idaho. Invasive Species Session: Thursday, November 17.

**DECEMBER**

The next meeting of the 100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday December 6 & 7 at the **Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station**


**Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC): December 6–8, 2016 (Washington, DC)**

**Restore America’s Estuaries/Coastal Society meeting December 10-15, 2016, New Orleans.** Includes Workshop V. Managing Invasive Species in Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects: A Participatory Workshop to Identify Trends, Innovative Approaches, and Research needs. **Online Registration Is Now Open Click here to register** Be sure to register before Oct 31 to take advantage of early bird rates!

**2017**

**JANUARY**


**FEBRUARY**

**Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM, February 7-8 2016.**
Canada: Meet peers from across Canada at the National Invasive Alien Species Forum in Ottawa, Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2017

MARCH

4th Annual Ballast Water Management Summit -- March 6-8, 2017 in Long Beach, CA

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society / Western Society of Weed Science: March 13-16 in Coeur d’Alene, ID. http://www.wsweedscience.org/annual-meeting/

Call for Abstracts: Iowa Invasive Species Conference 2017; March 28-29, 2017; Honey Creek Resort at Rathbun Lake, Moravia, IA

SEPTEMBER

Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species: September 12-24, 2017 – San Diego, CA

OCTOBER

Save the Date: ICAIS - October 22-26, 2017 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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Past issues of AIS NEWS can be found @ http://www.westernais.org/ under the “News” tab.

Happy Thanksgiving