AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

10/24/16

DREISSENID MUSSELS

TX: McMahon to expand study of invasive zebra mussels in Texas Lakes (10/7/16)

A professor emeritus in biology from The University of Texas at Arlington who is an esteemed expert in freshwater and marine invertebrates is expanding his research into the spread of invasive zebra mussels into Texas lakes. Zebra mussels’ invasion of North American water bodies has resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in ecological services, human recreation, and in mitigation and control of mussel fouling in potable water, power station and industrial raw water facilities. “A female zebra mussel can produce up to a million externally fertilized eggs within a single spawning season that develop into planktonic larvae,” said Robert McMahon, professor emeritus of biology and principal investigator on the new grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department….

MN: Boat lifts focus of 2 new zebra mussel reports (10/6/16)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Sybil Lake in Otter Tail County and Maud Lake in adjacent Becker County in northwest Minnesota. In both cases, the zebra mussels were found on boat lifts when they were removed from the water. According to the DNR, both incidents serve as good reminders for citizens to check equipment as they remove it each season.…

Related Story: Zebra mussels confirmed in Lower Cullen Lake and nearby Lake Hubert in Crow Wing County (10/17/16)

AB: Authorities up efforts in the battle to keep out invasive mussels (10/5/16)
The provincial government and irrigation districts are ramping up their efforts to keep invasive quagga and zebra mussels out of Alberta. Along with more watercraft inspections, the province is also stepping up enforcement — and boaters who fail to stop at an inspection station face a fine of up to $100,000 or 12 months in prison. As well, a new piece of legislation known as “Pull the Plug” was put in place this year. By law, all watercraft transported on Alberta roadways must have any plugs within the waterline pulled. Inspectors are spreading the word at inspection stations, with more than 16,000 people personally informed so far……

**MB: Ripple Effect: The Impact of Zebra Mussels (10/6/16)**

Winnipeg — They’re here and they aren’t going anywhere. Zebra mussels are already in three Manitoba waterways and are spreading at an incredible rate, which is one huge concern for Manitoba Hydro. “They proliferate exponentially so they can really take over an ecosystem and they attach to any hard surfaces including one another,” said Marcus Smith, senior environmental specialist with Manitoba Hydro. “So for mechanical systems that’s our primary concern here.” The crown corporation has multi-millions of dollars in infrastructure along Manitoba waterways. Infrastructure that is threatened by the stronghold of the invasive species……

**Rapid colonisation of a newly formed lake by zebra mussels and factors affecting juvenile settlement (10/14/16)**

Invasive non-native species are widespread in freshwaters but their capacity to establish in new lakes has seldom been assessed. In this four-year study (2006–2009), we used Side-scan Sonar and underwater video to illustrate how a 200 ha urban, amenity lake at Cardiff Bay (Wales, UK) was invaded extensively by zebra mussels *Dreissena polymorpha* (Pallas) within 2–3 years of creation in 2001. Veliger surveys and artificial substrates were used to assess conditions affecting juvenile settlement. Within 5–8 years of lake formation, all hard substrates at 0.5–7 m held mussel densities of 250–6600 m⁻² which, coupled with a crude estimate of habitat available, suggested a lake-wide population of at least 9–31 million adults. Veligers reached 8 (± 2 SE) to 14 (± 4) L⁻¹ during May–September when water temperatures were >14 °C, but densities and juvenile settlement declined at high discharge when lake flushing rates increased: settled densities in a drier year (2007) exceeded those in a wet year (2008) by 120× implying more effective colonisation under low flows and longer residence times. These data illustrate how rapid invasion by non-native species should be appropriately factored into planning and risk assessments for new water bodies, and potential effects on amenity, ecosystem processes and ecosystem services considered. Our data suggest that drought and low flow under future climates could be a particular risk factor affecting *Dreissena* colonization.

**Assessment of dreisseniid biodeposits as a potential food resource for invasive Asian carp (9/28/16)**
Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and bighead carp (*H. nobilis*) are poised to invade the Laurentian Great Lakes. Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and quagga mussels (*D. rostriformis bugensis*) have shifted nutrient pathways towards the benthos, partly through deposition of feces and rejected food particles called biodeposits. When biodeposit material was fed to bighead and silver carp, they fed on the material, but on average lost weight. Energy density between fed and unfed fish did not differ, but a few individual fish did gain weight on the biodeposits diet. Our results demonstrate that biodeposits might be considered a supplemental food for bigheaded carps.

**BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS**

**SD: Belle reservoir faced zebra mussel worry (10/8/16)**

.....State fishery director John Lott said GF&P employees have been inspecting and disinfecting boats when they come out of the water at Lewis and Clark Reservoir so the zebra mussels aren’t carried to other waters of South Dakota. At Belle Fourche Reservoir, dredging equipment that last worked at Lake Superior turned out to be carrying zebra mussels. Lott said the barges were shipped to Rapid City for power-washing and cleaning with chlorine disinfectants..... “Right now I don’t know if we could take to the Legislature a plan for how to stop this no matter how much money you threw at it,” Lott said. “I don’t know if money or more manpower is the answer.”

**MB: Province left thousands unspent in its information war on zebra mussels (10/19/16)**

The Pallister government missed the boat in its information war against zebra mussels by leaving more than $90,000 of its advertising unspent during the height of the boating season, the Free Press has learned.

**MARINE**

*Non-indigenous invertebrate species in the marine fouling communities of British Columbia, Canada (9/16/16)*

Marine fouling communities on artificial structures are invasion hotspots for non-indigenous species (NIS). Yet, little is known about NIS in fouling communities of British Columbia (BC), Canada. To determine NIS identity and richness in BC fouling communities, we deployed settlement plates at 108 sites along the coast of BC between 2006 and 2012. Of the 295 invertebrate taxa identified to species, 20 were NIS while an additional 14 were cryptogenic, including several global invaders. This study documents the range expansion of tunicates *Botrylloides violaceus* Oka, 1927 and *Botryllus*
*schlosseri* (Pallas, 1766), including the first known records on Haida Gwaii. NIS were detected within each of the six distinct geographic regions with the southern, more populated regions of BC (Straits of Georgia and Juan De Fuca) having the highest NIS richness and frequency of occurrence compared to the less populated northern regions. This study provides a contemporary baseline of invertebrate NIS identity and richness in fouling communities that will allow comparisons through time and a means to focus research and prioritize management efforts.

**European Union won't ban imports of American lobster (10/14/16)**

The European Union has decided the American lobster isn’t an invasive species after all, averting a ban on the live import of Maine’s iconic crustacean. The EU’s Committee on Invasive Alien Species told Sweden, the member nation that had sought the ban after discovering American lobsters off its coast, that it would not list *Homerus americanus* for technical reasons, even though Sweden’s argument had persuaded the forum of EU scientists who study alien species to pursue the listing just one month ago…..

**11 new invasive species detected in Canadian ports (10/13/16)**

A mussel never reported in Canada was identified in the port of Montreal, a soft shell clam never seen in the Arctic was discovered in the Hudson Bay in Churchill, Manitoba, and a barnacle that was not thought to occur north of San Francisco was detected in Nanaimo, British Columbia. These are invasive species and researchers from McGill University detected 24 of these non-indigenous species across 16 major ports in Canada, including 11 that were identified in previously unreported locations. Their findings were published in *Biodiversity Research*. “Invasive species represent one of the greatest threats to biodiversity globally, negatively impacting our environment and economy”, explains lead author Emily Brown, who conducted this research as a biology postdoc at McGill and is also affiliated with the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor. “Invasive species may first occur in a new environment as ‘rare’ species in very low numbers, and so there has been a push to develop methods that give us a greater chance of detecting invaders.”

**BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING**

**Liberia provides lead with BWMS proposal to IMO (10/21/16)**

The Liberian Maritime Administration is to introduce a proposal to the meeting of the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC70) in London on 24 October to allow certain ships additional time beyond 2020 to install adequate ballast water
management systems as required under the Ballast Water Management Convention, which comes into force in September 2017. The proposal, says Liberia, would ensure that enough adequate systems and sufficient dockyard space are available.....

Port Director’s View: Set uniform federal standard on ballast water to protect US waterways (10/19/16)

Among the stack of bills in Washington, D.C., awaiting congressional action by the end of the year is a piece of legislation both parties can and should endorse: a long-awaited, common-sense reform to this nation’s ballast water treatment regulations.....

Panama accedes to global treaty to halt invasive aquatic species (10/19/16)

Panama has become the latest State to accede to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), bringing the proportion of global shipping tonnage covered by the treaty to 53.28%, with 53 Contracting Parties.....

ONR Sponsors Anti-Fouling Hydrogel Research (10/13/16)

The U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR) is sponsoring work by Dr Xuanhe Zhao, an associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, into the development of new hull fouling technologies. Zhao and his team have created an adhesive hydrogel that can help barnacle-fighting coatings stick to metal hulls better and longer, retain moisture and not dry out and avoid the use of toxic chemicals and other pollutants. Currently, the Navy uses copper-based paints and coatings to kill barnacles or prevent them from latching onto hulls. While effective, these toxic materials leach into the water, negatively impacting aquatic life. The Navy is seeking environmentally-friendly coatings that can keep hulls clean and reduce fuel costs.....

Ultrasonic Antifouling Could Cut Operating Costs (10/5/16)

Ultrasonic technology is well accepted as part of modern class certification and ship management, with applications from non-destructive testing to thickness gauging to fire extinguisher inspections. But it has the potential to save money in another way, says Capt. Sven Fromm, managing director of Isle of Man-based Clever Marine. Clever Marine delivers repair services, inspections and full-scale technical ship management solutions for its clients, leveraging long-standing relationships with OEM suppliers to keep down costs. After many years of experience with ultrasonic inspection methods, the firm also developed an interest in the use of high frequency sound for purposes of antifouling – traditionally a problem addressed with biocidal coatings, or through mechanical or chemical cleaning.....
The 2016 BWMTech Conference was held Sept. 26 to 28, 2016 in Miami. The conference brought together ship owners, maritime stakeholders, manufacturing company representatives and regulators to discuss various elements of ballast water management regulators. For those unable to attend, Maritime Commons is providing a condensed version of the remarks made at the conference by Coast Guard officials. While these remarks are not necessarily ‘as delivered,’ they provide the key information passed during the presentations….

AQUACULTURE

Industry sustainability report says B.C. salmon farmers are modernizing and advancing (10/18/16)

Salmon farmers in B.C. are achieving third-party certifications as fast, or faster than any other region in the world where farms are raising Atlantic Salmon, according to the BC Salmon Farmers Association Progress Report released on Oct. 14 at the association’s business summit in Campbell River on Friday. The report shows that salmon farmers are continuing to develop programs and practices that increase the understanding of modern salmon aquaculture practices and provide greater transparency for the public…..

[Editor’s Note: According to the report - “Salmon farming companies in B.C. continue to invest in farming systems resulting in improvements in key indicators such as escapes. In 2015, 3 salmon escaped from farms into the marine environment.”]

Canadian court rejects environmental group’s appeal in AquaBounty lawsuit (10/24/16)

A Canadian federal appeals court has ruled in favor of genetically-engineered salmon producer AquaBounty Technologies, dismissing an environmental group's lawsuit. On Oct. 21 Canada's Federal Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by the group Ecojustice on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre and Living Oceans Society against Canada's Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. AquaBounty was also named in that suit, the firm said in a release…..

BC: Ocean-based salmon farms targeted in B.C. MP's private member's bill (10/11/16)
B.C.’s land-based Atlantic salmon farm is still struggling to break even three years in, even after being gifted $10 million in government and philanthropic cash to build and operate the facility and selling fish at a premium price.

**Related Story:** [Feds must end push for ocean aquaculture (10/17/16)]

**BC: ONG sues minister for putting wild salmon at risk (10/14/16)**

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has been sued by a non-government organisation for not testing BC farmed salmon for a virus that has spread in Norway and Chile before allowing them to be transferred into ocean pens alongside wild fish. The lawsuit was filed by [Ecojustice](https://www.ecojustice.ca/) lawyers, on behalf of independent biologist Alexandra Morton, seeking a court order to force the minister to comply with the Fishery (General) Regulations and apply the precautionary principle when approving fish transfer licences.

**FISH**

**Study Indicates Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout Population Stable (10/21/16)**

.....In 1966, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game placed a moratorium on fishing for bull trout in tributaries (with the exception of the Clark Fork River), and a predator removal program for lake trout using trap and gillnets was initiated in 2006. “Demographic Characteristics of an Adfluvial Bull Trout Population in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho,” was published online October 7, 2016 in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management.

**AB: City is concerned about invasive species of fish showing up in urban storm water ponds (10/12/16)**

Weeks after Okotoks eradicated rogue fish in its ponds, Calgary is facing the same problem. And it’s not simply an issue of dumping unwanted guppies — there are reports of people intentionally stocking the catchment ponds to allow for fishing. "We're conducting an assessment right now to let us know the extent of the problem. We only have anecdotal evidence, like people calling 311. We believe there's goldfish and koi, but we could end up having rainbow trout in there as well," said Chris Johnson, leader of drainage operations in the city's water services department.

**NWPCC: Complexities Of Measuring Effects Of Predation On Basin Salmon: Science Advisors Recommend Metrics (10/14/16)**
..Predator control efforts in the Basin include California sea lion predation on adult salmon and steelhead, Caspian tern, double-crested cormorant and gull predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead, pikeminnow predation on juveniles, and Northern Pike predation in the upper Columbia River basin, particularly in Lake Roosevelt where the pike exist but do not yet feed on anadromous salmonids. “At first glance, developing a metric to evaluate the consequences of predation on salmonid populations might seem straightforward,” an October 4 Council memorandum says. “Predators take individuals from a population and cause a corresponding decline in salmonid abundance. However, it can be misleading to assume that mortality at each life stage accumulates additively over the salmonid life cycle if other factors compensate for this mortality.”

Boise pond shut down after discovery of invasive minnow (10/12/16)

BOISE -- Redwood Park Pond in Boise will be shut down starting immediately as Idaho Department of Fish and Game officers work to eradicate an invasive species of fish discovered inside it. The pond will be dosed with a substance toxic to fish to kill off rosy red shiner, a type of minnow from the Midwestern US that is popular in aquariums. The shiner were illegally added to the pond, officials say. Fish and Game officials say rosy red shiner are not native fish and have not been found anywhere else in Idaho. They want to keep it that way, according to Fish and Game fisheries manager Joe Kozfkay.

OTHER

MT: Fish kill parasite spreads to multiple Montana rivers (10/20/16)

.....With winter around the corner the parasite can still spread and cause damage. Scott Opitz FWP fisheries management biologist "A lot of these parasites and invasive plants and things are still viable and easy to transfer through the winter months," said Scott Opitz, FWP Fisheries Management Biologist. That's why it's important to clean gear thoroughly. "Whether it's a small parasite that we can't see like a snail or plant, any of those things could be the next invasive species that we're moving to a new water," said Leah Elwell, Invasive Species Action Network Program director.....

WEEDS
MN: Watershed tackles flowering rush in 4 Becker County lakes (10/3/16)

Stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species can seem like an uphill battle but one Minnesota group is claiming success keeping non-native flowering rush in check in four Becker County lakes. Minnesota spends millions of dollars every year trying to slow the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil and other non-native invaders with mixed results. The experience with flowering rush could offer lessons on how to manage those other threats, chief among them that a scientific approach and persistence can lead to success….

DNR coordinating new starry stonewort treatment method in West Lake Sylvia (10/20/16)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association on an aggressive new treatment method for the invasive algae starry stonewort in West Lake Sylvia in Wright County. This week’s treatment is the first time the diver-assisted suction harvest, or DASH, method has been used in Minnesota. Earlier this month, DNR invasive species staff confirmed a half-acre of sparse to moderate growth of starry stonewort at the public access to West Lake Sylvia. The public access, which also provides access to adjoining East Lake Sylvia, will be closed for about a month during the treatment. An alternative public access site has been made available at Camp Chi-Rho, located on a peninsula directly east of the temporarily closed public access. The DNR is working with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association to provide signs and directions to the temporary access……

Related Link: USGS starry stonewort (Nitellopsis obtusua) fact sheet and map HERE

UT: BLM, local groups work to eradicate invasive ravenna grass at Mill Creek (10/13/16)

Ravenna grass — currently dormant at this time of year — grows along the banks of Mill Creek east of Moab. Several local groups are working to eradicate the grass, which is considered an invasive species that chokes out many native plants. Surrounding the basketball court next to Star Hall, around the Center Street Gym and in yards around Moab, tall feathery plumes of the common ornamental plant known as ravenna grass bob in the wind. Though beloved by landscapers, ravenna grass has escaped to Mill Creek and other streams, where it is crowding out native plants, local official say…..

TRAININGS/WEBINARS/CONFERENCES
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.

View the full Call for Abstracts; Click here to download the ICAIS 2017 Abstract Preparation and Submission Guidelines. Click here for the Microsoft Word template to use to submit abstracts.

Learn more about ICAIS at www.icais.org.

PSMFC Archived Webinar Western Aquatic Invasive Species Webinar Series (10/14/16)

The webinar was held 10/14/16 by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and described online databases associated with regional watercraft inspection and decontamination stations, state and provincial aquatic invasive species coordinators, and water quality monitoring! Go HERE to see the recording.

Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference: AIS Session, November 15 – 16, Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA

Aquatic Invasive Species: Northwest defenses are becoming more sophisticated. Join us at the LRF Conference to learn more about regional defenses and successful practices to prevent and deter aquatic invasive species in our waters. Register Now.

Aquatic invasive species, particularly zebra and quagga mussels, continue to be of great concern in the Northwest. One need only look to Lake Mead, the Great Lakes or the Mississippi River to see their horrific effect on dams, irrigation pumps, boats and the general environment. Besides being unsightly, the costs of mitigation and lost economic development runs into the millions of dollars annually.

The Northwest and British Columbia has, thus far, largely been spared. That's partly good fortune, and partly the result of agencies across sixteen states and two Canadian provinces working collaboratively to leverage resources and forces to set up effective defenses. Lisa DeBruyckere, who has been working with and co-facilitating the Building Consensus consortium, sums up the effort this way, "The work the western states and Canadian provinces have done during the past five years to coordinate and collaborate is a model for how regions can work together to prevent the spread of invasive species."
California - ballast water fee proposal

The California State Lands issued a notice stating that it is proposing to amend the regulations of Article 4.5, Marine Invasive Species Control Fund Fee. Comments on the proposal must be received by 7 November.

FEDERAL

CISP files multi-species listing petition with US Fish & Wildlife Service – per Lacey Act

According to Peter Jenkins President of the Center for Invasive Species Prevention (CISP):

The Center for Invasive Species Prevention (CISP) filed a formal Petition on September 23rd, with the U.S. Department of the Interior, entitled Petition - To Amend 50 CFR §16.13 to List 43 High Risk Fish, Crayfish, and Mollusk Species as Injurious Species under the Lacey Act.

For history and background about this filing, please see our website, www.cisp.us, at the top blog post of yesterday entitled: CISP files multi-species listing petition with US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) – per Lacey Act. As the blog explains the genesis and scientific basis for the Petition is a very useful collection of risk assessment summaries prepared by the FWS itself; 150 of them are posted on the agency's website: https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/species_erss_reports.html

Those High, Low and Uncertain risk summaries may be useful for other entities interested in reducing trade in invasive aquatic species. Our hope is that the FWS will publish the 43 Species Petition in the Federal Register, take public comment on it, make any adjustments needed and then list the High Risk species, thereby restricting their international importation into the U.S. and interstate commerce.
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.

CONGRESS

Congress returns for the “Lame Duck” session beginning 11/14/16…..Stay Tuned !!!

MEETINGS

OCTOBER


Idaho: The next IISC meeting is scheduled for October 27th from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture office in Boise. For further information contact Tom Woolf Thomas.Woolf@ISDA.IDAHO.GOV

NOVEMBER
36th Annual Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society November 1 - 4, 2016; Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Canada. The Call for Abstracts is Now Open! Submission Deadline: May 6, 2016.

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

16th Ballast Water Management Conference; Date: 9th November 2016 - 10th November 2016 Location: Antwerp - Belgium

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

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


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


Canada: Meet peers from across Canada at the National Invasive Alien Species Forum in Ottawa, Feb 28 - Mar 2!

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

______________

TO UNSUBSCRIBE/SUBSCRIBE to the AIS NEWS email sphillips@psmfc.org

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