MT: Mussel emergency response transitions to implementation phase (1/19/17)

The Montana Mussel Response team will transition from an emergency response, under the incident command system, to long-term implementation under Fish, Wildlife and Parks, with input from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council, officials announced Thursday. The Mussel Response team, established after a natural resources emergency declaration by Governor Steve Bullock in November, has set forth recommendations for containing aquatic invasive mussels in Montana in 2017 and beyond. The incident command will dissolve on Jan. 20, while the natural resources emergency declaration ends on Jan. 18…

Invasive mussel response team lays out recommendations with $5M annual cost (1/16/17)

New aquatic invasive species detection and containment program recommendations would cost more than $5.1 million annually and include mandatory inspection of out-of-state watercraft at double the number of inspection stations [Note: See Map at end of this document]. The state of Montana's Mussel Response Team testified before the Joint Committee on Long Range Planning Monday, telling lawmakers that vital changes in recreation are necessary after the first detection of invasive aquatic mussel larvae last year…

Related: Invasive Mussel Framework Implementation Strategic Recommendations (1/16/17)

Missoulian Editorial: Build on budget common ground (1/15/16)

Last week Montanans pulled two bright bits of news out of the cold, dark depths of an ominous situation. First, temporary boating restrictions at two Montana reservoirs were
lifed after it was determined that the water temperatures had dropped low enough to thwart any reproduction of invasive aquatic mussels. Second, Montana’s House Appropriations Committee agreed to give the state $1.9 million in additional spending authority so that Montana can fight the newly discovered invasive species, which were detected in the state for the first time last November.…

…CSKT Natural Resources Department Head Rich Janssen estimates the local economic impact of an infestation at $90 million a year. That’s counting not only the harm done to the hydropower facilities on Flathead Lake, but to irrigation equipment many agriculture businesses depend on for their water, and fishing and tourism-related industries too. Imagine a once-inviting beach clogged with sharp-edged shells. We do not want that devastation to happen in Montana. We cannot afford to scrimp on a response; Montanans of all interests must support an immediate, sweeping, sustained campaign to stamp out this threat…

Other Montana Stories:

Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework Released (1/19/17)

KTVH: Mussel Response Team ends emergency response and enters implementation phase (1/19/17)

KPAX: Planning in Montana invasive species fight continues (1/14/16)

Emergency boating restrictions lifted from Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs (1/10/16)

Related Montana Links

- Follow Montana Mussel Response on Facebook
- Email inquiries to musselresponse@mt.gov
- Mussel response hotline: (406) 444-2440
- MT website: musselresponse.mt.gov

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS

One person's efforts to reopen Colorado lakes to seaplanes is providing a case study for those who are working to expand general aviation

…..Supporters have also gathered facts in anticipation of what will be a fight with Parks and Recreation at the legislative committee level. They have experts on invasive species risks and how those are dealt with for seaplanes in other states. The will be showing the training course put together by the Seaplane Pilots Association and AOPA for seaplane
pilots on inspecting their airplanes for invasive species and preventing their transportation. They will be pointing out that pilots, unlike boaters, are used to inspecting their craft before each operation—that there’s nothing magic about adding an invasive species inspection to the preflight—so a pilots can complete training to conduct such inspections and do so before landing on Colorado waters. They will be seeking testimony or affidavits from regulatory officials in other states as to how they have successfully prevented transportation of invasive species by seaplanes and how pilots self-certify such inspections…

CO: Boating, fishing at Ruedi Reservoir could be imperiled by invasive species (1/13/17)

….Colorado Parks and Wildlife has identified the Aquatic Nuisance Species as a major threat to reservoirs and lakes in Colorado (http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/ISP-Zebra-Quagga.aspx), but the agency pulled its funding for boat inspection programs this year. **State officials cite the loss of dedicated tax funds.** Parks and Wildlife was contributing $10,000 per year for the boat inspectors at Ruedi Reservoir. The U.S. Forest Service stopped contributing to the program in 2015. Its contribution was $15,000 annually….

CO: Green Mountain Reservoir faces another test in battle against invasive species (1/22/17)

…For its part, the Bureau of Reclamation acknowledges awareness of this growing problem, but does not itself conduct or organize recreation or related facilities on the bodies of water it possesses. Instead, it merely authorizes approved activities as managed by partner agencies, such as Larimer County at both Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake in Northern Colorado, and therefore expects those entities to cover these associated costs. CPW still intends to provide training to staff at Green Mountain’s Heeney Marina in 2017, and do its best to assist with monitoring at a reduced rate. The state agency is also presently in discussions with the Forest Service, as well as other organizations, to see what amount of collaboration might be possible to continue the nuisance species prevention programming in future years.

Meanwhile, at a governmental level, the idea of a bill this legislative cycle requiring a permit in the form of a vessel sticker, say, at a cost of $5 per kayak and $25 per larger boat, has been floated. But as of yet, no one in the General Assembly has stepped up to sponsor such a proposal, even as summer fast approaches. “One of the benefits of a sticker program where you pay money is it creates awareness that this is a problem,” said Stiegelmeier. “It’s just something people don’t know that much about, and it’s really important. **And right now, we have no money at all**…”

CO: Dolores Water Conservancy reports on mussel control plan (1/11/17)

…..Funding for the state’s ANS Program, designed to prevent infestation by these species, was cut in May of 2016, so Curtis said his district is trying to improve on its...
current mussel management plan through more public outreach and boat inspection…The district plans to put up gates at the reservoir’s boat ramps during the boating season this year. The gates will be staffed by inspectors during the day and locked at night. From May to October, the main boat ramp will be open seven days a week, but the House Creek ramp will only be open four days a week during peak season…

**BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING**

*Do not delay installing BWMSs urge industry bosses (1/23/17)*

Confusion about the deadline for implementing ballast water management systems has put the brakes on some shipowners ordering the equipment – but they must not delay, say industry experts….

*Study: Do Floating Wind Farms Spread Invasive Species? (1/19/17)*

Research begun by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will examine how floating wind farms could provide a new route for invasive species to spread across the oceans. The movement of marine species from their native territory to other regions where they can have devastating effects on local ecosystems is regarded as one of the greatest threats to ocean biodiversity. Policies to combat the problem have so far focused on preventing the transportation of aquatic or marine organisms in the ballast water or on the hull of cargo ships…


The report covers the activities and accomplishments of the MISP between July 2014 and June 2016. The report also summarizes next steps to continue to fulfill the Commission's mandate of moving the state expeditiously toward eliminating nonindigenous species discharges into state waters.

*Invasive Species & Ship Hull Biofouling (1/16/17)*

Commenting on a presentation delivered at the World Ocean Council’s Sustainable Ocean Summit in December, in which IMO Marine Environmental Division’s Technical Officer Dr Theofanis Karyannis revealed that hull biofouling could be more damaging than ballast water transfer, Subsea Industries’ Chairman Boud Van Rompay said: “The transfer of IAS in ballast water has been addressed with the ratification of the BWM Convention, but currently there is no legislation to prevent the transfer of IAS on ships’ hulls though fouling, only guidelines.”
The IMO’s International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (the “Convention”) will enter into force on 8 September 2017. The Convention seeks to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another, by the establishment of standards and procedures for the management and control of ships’ ballast water and sediments. As of 11 January 2017, there are 54 Contracting States to the Convention representing 53.30% of the world’s global tonnage….

New Zealand Accedes to Ballast Water Convention/ Biofouling Rules Set for 2018 (1/11/17)

…Additionally, New Zealand has new rules on hull biofouling that will become mandatory in May 2018. The rules stipulate requirements for all vessels arriving in New Zealand to have a clean hull. The requirements can be met by:

- cleaning the vessel hull before arrival in New Zealand (less than 30 days before arrival)
- doing continual maintenance on the hull
- treating organisms on the hull (for example, with heat or chemicals) to kill them or make them sterile.

The majority of marine invasive species in New Zealand are considered to be introduced by biofouling rather than ballast water. More information is available [here](#).

Navy's Aircraft Carrier Hull-Scraping Raises Puget Sound Pollution Concerns (1/10/17)

The Navy is scraping the hull of a decommissioned aircraft carrier docked at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard just outside of Bremerton. The goal is to prevent potentially invasive species from traveling with the ship when it’s towed to Texas to be dismantled. But the Environmental Protection Agency and others are concerned the scraping itself could be causing environmental harm. That’s because the hull of the ex-U.S.S. Independence is covered with copper-based paint, which Navy divers will be scraping underwater. Copper can be toxic to salmon and other marine life….
implementation schedule for the D-2 standard, in regulation B-3, has been relaxed by International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution A.1088 (28). This resolution is an agreement among Parties not to enforce the legal text of the Convention set out in the current regulation B-3, and instead to apply a schedule outlined in Table 1 below. The agreement also commits to an amendment to regulation B-3. The proposal will be circulated once the Convention enters into force and the process to amend the Convention will take approximately two years from September 2017, giving time for any party to object to any changes should they wish to do so. No parties are expected to object, since they have already committed to IMO Resolution A.1088 (28)…..

AQUACULTURE

Forbes: The Future of Food Is Wet and Salty (12/29/17)

…In the U.S., aquaculture has been an under-appreciated sector of the food landscape (or, rather, seascape). The U.S. seafood industry has been much more concentrated on ensuring the health and sustainability of wild-catch fisheries instead of innovating in seafood farming. We import much more of our seafood instead of growing it here. While the U.S. produces less than 1% of farmed seafood, it gets close to half of its seafood from aquaculture.…

Funding moves GM salmon closer to market (1/19/17)

The company behind the world’s first genetically modified salmon has joined the NASDAQ stock market and raised $25 million to help bring its product to market. AquaBounty Technologies, which raised the money through an equity subscription from Intrexon Corporation, its majority shareholder, has pioneered AquAdvantage Salmon, an Atlantic salmon that has been genetically enhanced to reach market size in less time than conventional farmed Atlantic salmon. Ron Stotish (pictured), CEO of AquaBounty, said: ‘AquaBounty’s listing on NASDAQ represents an important milestone for the company that will broaden our exposure to the US markets as we advance plans for commercial production of our pioneering, environmentally responsible approach to fish farming…

Michigan AG: Great Lakes net-pen fish farming not allowed (01/17/17)

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette says state law doesn't allow for net-like commercial fishing enclosures in the Great Lakes. In an opinion released Tuesday, Schuette said net-pen aquaculture operators would have to register with the state, and laws related to aquaculture don't permit registration of such facilities in Michigan's Great Lakes waters. Schuette says raising fish for commercial purposes is permitted in private waters, but the Great Lakes are part of the "public trust." The opinion came in response to
a request by Republican state Sen. Wayne Schmidt. The Associated Press emailed Schmidt seeking comment.....


OTHER


OLYMPIA – Who should you tell if you reel in a strange fish, find a new plant taking over in your yard or local park, spot a strange insect in your firewood or see a feral pig while recreating in the backcountry? Figuring that out just got easier with an updated app from the Washington Invasive Species Council that lets you report unusual sightings on your smartphone or computer. Within a few minutes of sighting an invasive species, a photograph, geographic coordinates and sighting information can be entered and made available immediately with an automated alert to the council and its network of experts...

KLCC: Is 'eDNA' The Next Big Thing For Wildlife Science? (1/23/17)

...Occasionally a big idea comes along that promises revolutionize the world – think about things like self-driving cars. For biologists – especially those who work with fish and other aquatic plants and animals – eDNA is one of those big ideas. The technology is starting to revolutionize how we protect native animals and ensure invasive species don’t take hold....

Can ozone be used to control the spread of freshwater Aquatic Invasive Species? (1/12/17)

……….. A review of the current literature was conducted to summarize data regarding the effects of O₃ on aquatic taxa including fish, macroinvertebrates, zooplankton, phytoplankton, microbes, and pathogens. In addition, we assessed the practicality of ozone applications to control the movement of aquatic invasive species, and identified data gaps concerning the use of O₃ as a non-physical barrier in field applications.

Landowners’ Perspectives on Coordinated, Landscape-Level Invasive Species Control: The Role of Social and Ecological Context (1/11/17)

To achieve biodiversity gains, landowner engagement in coordinated invasive species control programs across private lands is needed. Understanding landowners’ perspectives toward such coordinated control efforts is crucial to facilitating engagement. We conducted in person and mail surveys of 68 landowners in and adjacent to the area of a proposed invasive predator control program in New Zealand. We find that, similar to previous studies, landowners consider the potential socioeconomic and ecological benefits of invasive species control and express a strong desire to enhance native
biodiversity. However, we also find that landowners take into account the complexity of the local social and ecological context in which a program will unfold in three ways: they consider (1) the level of contribution by other landowners and urban residents who are benefiting from collective control efforts; (2) the potential for the program to upset the local “ecological balance”, leading to increases in other pests; and (3) the probability that the program will be successful given the likelihood of others participating and control tactics being effective. We suggest that managers of coordinated invasive species control efforts may benefit from devoting time and resources toward addressing beliefs about social and ecological context, rather than solely providing financial subsidies and information about control tactics or the impacts of invasive species. [Full Article= $$$$$$

**AK: The Kenai Peninsula’s first exotic freshwater snail (1/12/17)**

Sometimes one thing leads to another. It was in fall 2012 as the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were eradicating exotic northern pike in Stormy Lake that we first found the aquatic invasive plant Elodea on the Kenai Peninsula. Four years later in July 2016, this time as we wrapped up eradication of Elodea from Stormy Lake, we noticed some large, unfamiliar snails. These turned out to be yet another aquatic invasive species known as the big-eared Radix, the European ear snail, or *Radix auricularia*. Unlike northern pike and elodea, which are native to some parts of North America, the big-eared Radix comes from Europe. This snail has now spread to New Zealand and much of North America, mostly through the aquarium trade. It is often transported on aquarium plants, on which the snails’ inconspicuous eggs easily hitch rides. A single egg of this self-fertilizing species is all that is required to start a new population. All Alaskan occurrences of *Radix auricularia* have been in populated areas. The only records had been from Fairbanks, where specimens were collected from Smith Lake on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus and from the Fairbanks International Airport floatplane pond.

**Evaluating simplistic methods to understand current distributions and forecast distribution changes under climate change scenarios: an example with coypu [nutria] (*Myocastor coypus*) (1/4/16)**

Invasive species provide a unique opportunity to evaluate factors controlling biogeographic distributions; we can consider introduction success as an experiment testing suitability of environmental conditions. Predicting potential distributions of spreading species is not easy, and forecasting potential distributions with changing climate is even more difficult. Using the globally invasive coypu (*Myocastor coypus* [Molina, 1782]), we evaluate and compare the utility of a simplistic ecophysiological based model and a correlative model to predict current and future distribution. The ecophysiological model was based on winter temperature relationships with nutria
survival. We developed correlative statistical models using the Software for Assisted Habitat Modeling and biologically relevant climate data with a global extent. We applied the ecophysiological based model to several global circulation model (GCM) predictions for mid-century. We used global coypu introduction data to evaluate these models and to explore a hypothesized physiological limitation, finding general agreement with known coypu distribution locally and globally and support for an upper thermal tolerance threshold. Global circulation model based model results showed variability in coypu predicted distribution among GCMs, but had general agreement of increasing suitable area in the USA. Our methods highlighted the dynamic nature of the edges of the coypu distribution due to climate non-equilibrium, and uncertainty associated with forecasting future distributions. Areas deemed suitable habitat, especially those on the edge of the current known range, could be used for early detection of the spread of coypu populations for management purposes. Combining approaches can be beneficial to predicting potential distributions of invasive species now and in the future and in exploring hypotheses of factors controlling distributions.

Anti-invasives campaigns target aquarium, water garden hobbyists (1/10/17)

A 12-year-old federal program designed to educate aquarium and water garden hobbyists about the risks of invasive aquatic species is falling short in the Great Lakes region, according to a recent study. Hobbyists’ behavior is of concern because of the danger of intentionally or accidentally spreading an invader. For example, the study said hobbyists may “transport aquatic hitchhikers that could provide a risk of invasion.”

How far do invasive species travel? (1/11/17)

As a result of the globalization of trade and transport, in the past decades, tens of thousands of species have spread into regions where they were not originally at home. Potentially serious consequences of this include the displacement or extinction of native species and the spread of health risks. Even though trade flows are known to represent an important path for the introduction of invasive species, this fact alone is not enough to explain the observed distribution patterns of species…..

An ecological invasion mimics a drunken walk (1/9/17)

A theory that uses the mathematics of a drunken walk describes ecological invasions better than waves, according to Tim Reluga, associate professor of mathematics and biology, Penn State. The ability to predict the movement of an ecological invasion is important because it determines how resources should be spent to stop an invasion in its tracks. The spread of disease such as the black plague in Europe or the spread of an invasive species such as the gypsy moth from Asia are examples of ecological invasions…

Invasive Species Could Cost Washington Businesses, Agencies $1.3 Billion (1/12/17)
OLYMPIA – A new report released today pegs the economic impact of 23 of the most damaging invasive species in Washington at $1.3 billion a year and a loss of 8,000 jobs, if there’s no prevention, according to the Washington Invasive Species Council. “Invasive species are plants and animals not native to Washington, and once they land here, they out-compete existing wildlife,” said Justin Bush, executive coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council. “They can wipe out crops, clog waterways, damage pipes and dams and completely change the landscape and the wildlife that live there. Left unchecked, invasive species can ring up huge costs for control, kill jobs and harm our economy.”

- Read the full economic analysis.
- Read a one-page fact sheet explaining the findings.

Related Story: Invasive Species Add Up To Big Losses For Washington (1/17/17)

TRAININGS/WEBINARS/CONFERENCES

2017 Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training -- WIT II

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and its 100th Meridian Initiative partners are announcing and sponsoring Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings as follows:

February 28 - 3/1           Lake Pleasant, Phoenix, AZ
April 11 – 12                  Lake Mead, NV

To Register: If you are interested in attending or sending someone to this class, please register online at http://www.westernais.org/register-for-training or contact “Quagga D” Davis at: quaggadee@cox.net or (702) 236-3814.

Calif: Watercraft Inspection Training - WIT I

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is sponsoring two one day Watercraft Inspection Trainings. Quagga Inspection Services and Santa Clara County Parks are hosting this one day event!

There are two dates available: March 28, 2017 – 8:00 am–5:00 pm; March 29, 2017 – 8:00 am–5:00 pm. Location: Anderson County Park Visitors Center, 19245 Malaguerra Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Go to http://www.westernais.org/level-i-upcoming-classes for more information.

PSMFC Webinar #4: Monitoring for quagga and zebra mussels -- February 16, 2017
Developing and maintaining a monitoring program to detect an introduction of dreissenids. **February 16, 2017, 10:00am-11:00am Pacific Time.**

Join the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and a panel of three experts: Denise Hosler (Bureau of Reclamation), Steve Wells (Portland State University), and Tom Woolf (Idaho Department of Agriculture), as they discuss considerations when developing an effective and comprehensive AIS monitoring program, with a focus on monitoring associated with quagga and zebra mussels using plankton tows, eDNA (PCR) and substrate sampling. Register [HERE](#).

**JOBS/GRANTS**

**MT: DNRC is currently accepting grant applications to fund high-priority invasive mussel related projects.**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) offers state-funded grants for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The goal of the grants is to protect the natural resources of Montana from severe and unacceptable damage from aquatic invasive species…

Applications are due **March 1, 2017, by 5 p.m.**

**USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Summer Field Opportunities**

USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine is looking to hire field employees with official duty stations in Billings and Helena, Montana for the 2017 summer season (Mid-May – Mid-August). If you know of anyone who is looking for summer employment, we would appreciate it if you would forward this email to them and if you could post the announcement in appropriate areas. The work will likely consist of:

- Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket surveys (possible grasshopper suppression activities)
- Noxious weed bio-control (collection/redistribution/monitoring of permitted bio-control insects)
- Surveys for various pests not known to be established in Montana and/or the U.S.

**For More Information Contact:** Lori Witham at [Lori.M.Witham@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Lori.M.Witham@aphis.usda.gov)

[Oregon State Sea Grant, Education Program Assistant 1](#) **(Closing Date: 01/24/2017)**
Oregon Sea Grant at Oregon State University (OSU) invites applications for a part-time (.50 FTE, approximately 20 hours per week) limited-duration Education Program Assistant 1. This position will assist with outreach to the recreational boating community and will be based out of the OSU Extension Service Education Center in Beaverton, Oregon (Washington County). Oregon Sea Grant is a catalyst that promotes discovery, understanding and resilience for Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems. As part of OSU Extension, Sea Grant’s outreach and engagement activities help inform and engage the public in learning, discussing, and acting on ocean and coastal issues. This program work will occur along the lower Columbia into the Portland metro area, and other inland boating venues. Regular in-state travel and occasional overnight travel are required. In addition, the position must be available to work weekends and some holidays. Duties include developing and implementing programs for recreational boaters that promote the use of CVA facilities (dump stations, pump-out stations, and floating toilets) to protect water quality. **Closing Date: 01/24/2017.**

**Seasonal Invasive Species Ecology Technician: Alaska**

An invasive species technician position is available with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands. This is a seasonal position (June through September) located at Fort Wainwright and Donnelly Training Area, Alaska. RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful candidates will assist with invasive species mapping on Army lands. Identification of invasive species and protocols used will be based on protocols from the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC). Main duties for this position include plant identification with field guides and botanical keys, off-trail hiking to field site locations, and plant collecting and cataloging. Other integral abilities include identifying probable vectors and pathways of invasives, interpreting aerial photos, locating plots with GPS units, entering data into databases, working in inclement conditions, camping in remote areas, traveling in fixed and rotary wing aircrafts, and operating ATVs and 4-wheel drive trucks. Candidate will use multiple survey techniques (vehicle surveys, point intercept, aerial cover estimation) during field work. Out-of-state applicants are encouraged to apply, though they should note that off-duty transportation and relocation costs are not provided. **Last Date to Apply: 02/17/2017.**

**Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council: Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Program Coordinator**

**Position Purpose:** The Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council’s (PNW-IPC) Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Citizen Science Invasive Plant Program is an action-oriented volunteer citizen science program that directly addresses the invasive species threat. Our mission is to improve the condition of native habitats in a measurable way. Our EDRR program provides support to local, state and federal land management agencies in their efforts to keep new invaders from establishing, and protect our natural resources.
Positions Details: The EDRR Program Coordinator position is a part time, flexible position, with up to 25-30 hours per week during the spring/early summer training season and down to 15 hours per week for the rest of the field season into the fall reporting season. Nov, Dec and Jan, this position requires very few hours.

How to Apply: Only electronic submissions will be accepted, please no paper submissions. Please email a cover letter and resume electronically to info@pnw-ipc.org with the subject: “EDRR Program Coordinator Position”. The position will remain open until filled. Applications will be reviewed starting February 1, 2017.

For more information about our EDRR program, visit our website at http://www.pnw-ipc.org/ Read our 2016 EDRR program annual report at http://www.pnw-ipc.org/docs/2016_PNWIPC_EDRR_Citizen_Science_Final_Annual_Report.pdf

NV/AZ: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Outreach Interns

Working collaboratively with Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA), the Great Basin Institute is recruiting interns to learn about and participate on multiple projects including resource management and education at LMNRA. During the main boating season (May-September), the intern will educate the boating public about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and water safety, as well as gain skills and knowledge of natural and cultural resources in the LMNRA. This position is assigned to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Kathrine Landing). This position will be performing a variety of duties including (1) facilitating visitor contacts to create understanding of park resources, aquatic invasive species, and boater safety and responsibility; (2) collecting data on water quality (e.g., water sampling); and (3) encourage visitors behavior to uphold the mission of the National Park Service. **Last Date to Apply: 03/20/2017**

Coos Bay, OR: Invasive Species & Restoration Project Manager

The Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) is seeking a dynamic, creative, entrepreneurial manager to lead its restoration efforts to restore salmon and improve water quality in the Coos watershed. The CoosWA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1994, with an annual budget of approximately $1,500,000 for assessment, restoration projects, and monitoring in the 610-square-mile watershed.

Position Description: The Invasive Species & Restoration Project Manager will work with public and private landowners to develop restoration projects, write grant proposals, implement restoration projects, supervise restoration crews, manage contracts, and implement a robust invasive species control project. **Salary and Benefits:** Competitive salary depending experience and qualifications in the range of $38,000-$45,000. Benefits include paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave; retirement plan; medical benefits; and training opportunities.
To Apply: Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts of undergraduate and graduate coursework (does not need to be official), and the names and contact information of three references. Please email as one document to jobs@cooswatershed.org by 5:00pm Pacific Time February 1, 2017. Position to be filled by April 3, 2017. For More Information Contact: Elizabeth Galli-Noble by phone, 541-888-5922 or (preferably) by email at enoble@cooswatershed.org

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL/LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

NWPCC Seeks Comments on 2017 Draft Research Plan (1/17/17)

The Northwest Power and Conversation Council invites comments on a draft revision of its Research Plan for the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Please send comments to Kendra Coles of the Council’s Fish and Wildlife Division. The document includes a “Non-native and invasive species theme: the relative impact and importance of these species.” Comments will be taken through Friday, March 3, 2017.

STATE

OR: Environmental Quality Commission adopts amendments to ballast water management rules (1/19/17)

On 1/19/17 per the final recommendations put forth by DEQ - the Environmental Quality Commission adopted amendments to ballast water management rules under OAR 340 Division 143 (see the agenda, with links to staff report and adopted rules). The new rules will become effective March 1, 2017.

In order to ensure sufficient communication to vessel operators, particularly regarding applicable ‘exchange + treatment’ requirements for voyages that have sourced low-salinity ballast, DEQ will be preparing various outreach materials in the coming days. In addition to revising factsheets and updating webpages, we will also be sending out notifications and relevant materials via email and relevant listservs. For further information contact: Rian Hooff, Ballast Water Program & Invasive Species Management Coordinator, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Rian.Hooff@state.or.us

NY: Governor Cuomo Announces $2 Million in Funding Available for Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control (1/19/17)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced $2 million in funding available through the Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant Program for municipalities, not-
for-profits, and educational institutions across the state. The program will support projects that target both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species throughout New York.

“This funding is critical to bolstering New York’s ability to control and remove invasive species that pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of our communities,” Governor Cuomo said. “These grants will provide the resources needed to preserve and protect our diverse environment, while ensuring the safety of New Yorkers in every corner of the state.”

The New York State Environmental Protection Fund is providing the $2 million in funding for eligible projects. Grants range from a minimum of $11,000 to $100,000, with a required 50 percent match. The deadline for grant applications is March 24, 2017. For a full list of eligible and ineligible projects, please view the Request for Application in the Grants Gateway.

SD: Game and Fish biologists offer more regs against zebra mussels (1/13/17)

…One of the proposed new rules is aimed squarely at boats with internal ballast tanks. It would, if approved, require all boats with a compartment containing more than a gallon of water to be decontaminated after being used on a “containment water.” “One gallon is the limit at which we know it’s not just residual water,” Smith said. The designation “containment water” would be created in another of the proposed new rules. The rule creating the designation would define what the term means and create a list of containment waters. Another proposed new AIS rule would create voluntary local boater registries for containment waters. The registries would allow boaters who plan to only use their boats on containment water to avoid having to decontaminate their boats every time they hit the lake….

Related Story: Opinion: Other agencies need to listen to Game, Fish and Parks on aquatic invasive species control (1/20/17)

WA: Legislature asked to fight invasive species (1/12/17)

OLYMPIA — An advisory group representing fisheries, recreation, agriculture and hydropower is asking the state Legislature to pass a bill in 2017 enacting new ways to finance efforts to prevent zebra and quagga mussels, plus other risky aquatic species, from invading Washington. Created by the 2015 Legislature, the Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Advisory Committee is recommending a package of user fees from recreational boaters, commercial watercraft, out-of-state boaters, commercial transporters of watercraft and seaplane owners. Washington ranks No. 11 among 12 Western states on spending for aquatic invasive species prevention…
**Note:** The 2015 Washington State Legislature directed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Recreation and Conservation Office to develop options for long term funding for the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species. The result was an April 2016 report that can be found [HERE](#). The stakeholder group developed four consensus funding recommendations that fell into the categories of “Shared Investment”, “General Fund”, “Fee Based, User Funding”, and “Public Private Partnerships”.

**Legislation:** Co-sponsors for an AIS bill are currently being sought. Stay Tuned!!

**HI: State ready to implement biosecurity plan (1/10/17)**

The state has finalized its first interagency and comprehensive biosecurity plan to protect Hawaii’s agriculture, environment, economy and health. In the past, individual federal, state, and local agencies tried their best to address and manage the issues related to biosecurity within the context of their own agencies. Gov. David Ige says, “This plan will provide a 10-year framework to prevent invasive species from entering our borders, detect them once they have entered the state, and better manage the established invasive species that are already within our state.”…

**Related Story:** [Funding critical to fight invasive species (1/22/16)](#)

**FEDERAL**

**Final rule: Uniform National Discharge Standards for Vessels of the Armed Forces-Phase II Batch One (1/11/17)**

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) are promulgating 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 zone. When implemented, the discharge performance standards will 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 final rule are the following: aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), chain locker effluent, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, gas turbine water wash, non-oily machinery wastewater, photographic laboratory drains, seawater cooling overboard discharge, seawater piping biofouling prevention, small boat engine wet exhaust, and weldeck discharges. **DATES:** This final rule is effective on February 10, 2017.

**CONGRESS**

**Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) Returns (1/17/17)**
**S. 168**, the Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge (VIDA) Act has been introduced in the early days of the 115th United States Congress. Current sponsors by Sponsors: Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), and John Thune (R-S.D.).

Bill language is similar to past VIDA versions that has drawn opposition from numerous groups across the nation, including -- PSMFC, Western Governors Association, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, California State Lands Commission, Hawaii Department of Natural Resources and Lands, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Commission, Environmental Caucus of 21 groups from across the U.S., the American Fisheries Society Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), and Association of State Wetland Managers, among others.

For west coast state managed ballast water programs, concerns are that this legislation will remove states’ authority to regulate their own waters. State ballast water management programs on the west coast are the primary line of defense against ship-borne invasive species and need to retain some regulatory authorities and program activities that are critical to maintaining prevention efforts.

Many in the shipping industry including groups like the [American Waterway Operators](https://www.americanwaterways.org/) support VIDA. According to *E&E Daily*: Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) … has argued that state and federal regulations are inconsistent, and he has pushed for them to be replaced by one national standard. But in the past, states have argued that the threat of invasive species means they have the right to enforce state regulations on vessels' ballast water.


**What next:** The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold an executive session on Tuesday, January 24th at 10:00 a.m. (EST) to formally adopt the rules and budget resolution for the 115th Congress and consider the following legislative measures [including S.168]. A live video of the markup and additional information will be available on [www.commerce.senate.gov](http://www.commerce.senate.gov).

For Further Information on state management concerns related to VIDA, contact Allen Pleus, WDFW, [Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov).

### MEETINGS

#### JANUARY

The next meeting of the [Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council](http://www.montanawildlife.org/) is January 31, 2017
From 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. at the Montana Historical Society Auditorium, Helena.

**FEBRUARY**

**Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM, February 7-8 2016.**

**California State Lands Commission. Marine Invasive Species Program Workshop:**
Wednesday, February 22, 8:00am to 3:30pm, Shell Refinery Clubhouse, 1635 Pacheco Blvd, Martinez, California: PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. For more information or to register contact: jonathan.thompson@slc.ca.gov. **Registration must be submitted by February 17, 2017.**

**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/](http://www.wsweedscience.org/annual-meeting/)**

The next **Washington Invasive Species Council** Meeting will be held March 23, Olympia Natural Resources Building Room 172

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

An AIS session has been added to the list of potential sessions at the **Missouri River Natural Resources Conference (MRNRC) taking place March 21-23, 2017, at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, NE**

**ACI’s 17th Ballast Water Management Summit (3/29-30. 2017)** will provide essential, expert guidance to shipowner/operators on how to prepare for and manage the BWT Systems in terms of installation and technical operations, as well as advice on compliance, PSC and regulation once the convention is in place.

**APRIL**

The next meeting of the **Pacific Ballast Water Group** will be April 12 & 13 in Portland, Oregon. Meeting details [HERE](#).

**MAY**

We're heading to Detroit! Find out what's in store for IAGLR's **60th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research**, scheduled for May 15-19, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan. The theme for the
conference is *From Cities to Farms: Shaping Great Lakes Ecosystems*. Sessions include -- Physiology and ecology of dreissenid mussels: adaptation, impacts, and control.

**JUNE**

**Invasive Species Research Conference:** Calling all invasive species researchers and practitioners! Thompson Rivers University and the **Invasive Species Council of BC** are excited to co-host the 2017 Invasive Species Research Conference - Turning Science into Action, being held in beautiful Kamloops, June 20 - 22, 2017

**SEPTEMBER**

**Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species:** September 12-15, 2017 – San Diego, CA

**OCTOBER**

**REGISTRATON OPEN:** **International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS)** - October 22-26, 2017 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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