DREISSENID MUSSELS

MN: New tactic in the fight against zebra mussels will be tested on Lake Minnetonka (7/22/16)

The science lab is moving to Lake Minnetonka. To protect the waters of the Twin Cities’ largest and most popular lake from invasive species, researchers are using Minnetonka as the testing ground for a new study. Crews this week started testing low doses of a copper-based pesticide on zebra mussel larvae — called “veligers” — to kill them off and slow their spread……

Related: MAISRC conducting field evaluation of toxicity of low-dose molluscicide treatments for zebra mussel veligers

CT: Legal issue halts Candlewood Lake zebra mussel experiment (8/8/16)

….The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency conducting the experiment and asked Connecticut to add legal language to the management plan that would protect the federal government from liability if something were to happen during the experiment. But because Connecticut is a self-insured sovereign state, it isn’t allowed to do this without a legislative act. “Unfortunately what it did was prevent that agreement from being signed to get this done this summer,” said Larry Marsicano, Candlewood Lake Authority’s executive director and one of the experiment’s leaders……

MN: Zebra mussels confirmed in East Spirit Lake, Lake Osakis (7/25/16)

The Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in northwestern Minnesota’s East Spirit Lake in Otter Tail County and central Minnesota’s Lake Osakis in Todd and Douglas counties. On July 9, an East Spirit Lake user brought a one-quarter
inch zebra mussel to the DNR Fergus Falls office. A subsequent two-day search of four locations by DNR staff found one live zebra mussel one-quarter mile from the initial report. On July 20, DNR invasive species staff conducted dive and shoreline searches to investigate reported zebra mussel veligers (larvae) in Lake Osakis. They found two three-quarter inch adult zebra mussels….

**BC: Splash mob on Kalamalka Lake (7/24/16)**

Out on the lake, the mob shouted “Keep Kal Lake blue” as a drone equipped with a camera flew overhead….

**BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS**

**MN: Cameras could be the next weapon against aquatic invasive species (7/29/16)**

….Frazee said the Green Lake Property Owners Association purchased a power washer a few years ago for boaters to use to clean off their boats before leaving the lake. Now the group is helping install the inspection camera system called I-LIDS, or Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor, created by Environmental Sentry Protection. Frazee and Falk would like to see the same system installed throughout Kandiyohi County, including at the boat launches at Willmar and Foot Lakes….

**MI DEQ: Video gives tips on how to avoid spreading invasive species (7/21/16)**

Does your work take you to several outdoor sites in one day? Do you fish or hunt at different locations in the same week? If so, your actions could be considered high-risk for spreading invasive species around the state…..

**BC: Nine boats carrying invasive mussels stopped at B.C. border (7/29/16)**

Inspection stations along B.C.’s borders stopped nine boats carrying invasive mussels from entering the province over a six-week period…..According to Chris Doyle, the department chief of the B.C. Conservation Officer Service, as of July 27 close to 13,000 watercraft had been inspected. Of those, 439 were identified as coming from “high risk” areas….

**UT: Efforts to keep ‘STD of the Sea’ out of Sand Hollow continue (7/22/16)**

ST. GEORGE – The presence of quagga mussels, those tiny and unwanted water-borne miscreants, is currently undetected at Sand Hollow reservoir and state officials want to keep it that way. In order to keep the invasive mussels known as the “STD of the Sea” or “skiff-transmitted disease of the sea,” from infesting Sand Hollow and other reservoirs, mandatory inspection stations have long been set up in the state. One of these stations is at the Interstate 15 port of entry at the Utah-Arizona border…..
Wildlife Forever: Wake Surfers Vow to Clean Drain Dry (7/21/16)

……….. “We partnered with the Clean Drain Dry Initiative because wakesurfers care about taking all steps possible to prevent the spread of invasive species and spread the message to empty water ballast before taking boats out of the water,” said Andy Weigman from the Minnesota Wakesurfing Championship...........

Agencies and Boaters Step Up to Prevent the Spread of Quagga Mussels from Lake Powell (8/3/16)

Agencies and Lake Powell boaters are doing their part to prevent the spread of quagga mussels, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), from Lake Powell. After detecting quagga mussels in Lake Powell in 2012, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) have joined forces to keep Lake Powell boaters from inadvertently transporting quagga mussels to other water bodies throughout the west. "Currently, Lake Powell is the only lake in Utah infested with quagga mussels, and we aim to keep it that way," said Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Billy Shott. "Containing the problem at Lake Powell benefits lakes and rivers throughout the West." …

MARINE

Why Green Crabs Are Invading the East Coast (8/8/16)

In short, the health of the Maine economy largely depends on the health of the Gulf of Maine, and the marine species that have made it their home. But invasive species like green crabs are coming in and wreaking havoc.....

To Help New England Fisheries, Cooking Up Invasive Green Crabs (7/25/16)

.... Vesey hopes someday he can do something more with these little critters than just soup…

Keep an eye out for invasion of European green crab in Puget waters (7/27/16)

Scientists say they need help keeping a hungry green invader out of Whatcom County waterways and the Puget Sound. It’s called the European green crab, and it isn’t wanted in Washington state because it is an aggressive eater of plants and critters its size and smaller. Considered one of the world’s worst invasive species, Carcinus maenas could prey on native shore crab, compete with native fish for food and hurt the shellfish industry here, according to marine researcher Washington Sea Grant at the University of Washington.
Sweden’s Request to Ban American Lobster in the EU Risks Violating the Rules of the WTO (7/21/16)

On February 29, 2016, the Swedish Government requested that the European Union impose a ban on imports of U.S./Canadian live lobster (*Homarus americanus*). Sweden argued that *Homarus americanus* is an “alien invasive species” to the EU because it is not native to the EU, because it poses serious risks to European lobsters through the spreading of disease, and because once the American lobster is established, it will be impossible to eradicate…..

New book details ‘killer algae’ victory (7/31/16)

……..Divers first discovered the bright green *Caulerpa taxifolia* in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in the summer of 2000, where it may have grown from a few strands left by someone who dumped the contents of an aquarium into a nearby storm drain. While technically an algae, Caulerpa looks like seaweed and is often called seaweed………

**BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING**

Population attenuation in zooplankton communities during transoceanic transfer in ballast water (8/2/16)

Successful biological invasion requires introduction of a viable population of a nonindigenous species (NIS). Rarely have ecologists assessed changes in populations while entrained in invasion pathways. Here, we investigate how zooplankton communities resident in ballast water change during transoceanic voyages. We used next-generation sequencing technology to sequence a nuclear small subunit ribosomal DNA fragment of zooplankton from ballast water during initial, middle, and final segments as a vessel transited between Canada and Brazil. Operational taxonomic unit (OTU) diversity decreased as voyage duration increased, indicating loss of community-based genetic diversity and development of bottlenecks for zooplankton taxa prior to discharge of ballast water. On average, we observed 47, 26, and 24 OTUs in initial, middle, and final samples, respectively. Moreover, a comparison of genetic diversity within taxa indicated likely attenuation of OTUs in final relative to initial samples. Abundance of the most common taxa (copepods) declined in all final relative to initial samples. Some taxa (e.g., Copepoda) were represented by a high number of OTUs throughout the voyage, and thus had a high level of intraspecific genetic variation. It is not clear whether genotypes that were most successful in surviving transit in ballast water will be the most successful upon introduction to novel environments. This study highlights that population bottlenecks may be common prior to introduction of NIS to new ecosystems.

Australia’s New Ballast Water Management Requirements (8/9/16)

Members are advised of recent developments concerning ballast water regulations in Australia. The Australian government has announced via the International Maritime
Organisation (IMO) that from 16 June 2016, new requirements for ships engaged in international voyages will be enacted under the auspices of the ‘Biosecurity Act 2015’. …

KR Opens New BWMS Testing Facility (8/2/16)

The Korean Register (KR) – an IACS member classification society – has announced that it has significantly expanded its land-based test facilities for Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) by opening a brand new specialist facility…..

Boxed ballast system to begin sea trials (7/27/16)

……Speaking to Ballast Water Treatment Technology yesterday (26 July) he said that its containerised system, dubbed the BWC Seaforth, has unique features, including a real-time testing device that checks the water as it is discharged and stops discharging if it finds the water is non-compliant with the IMO and USCG discharge standard. “No other system does that,” he said…..

Cruise Lines Readying for Ballast Water Treatment (7/28/17)

Passenger vessels typically have low-volume ballast requirements, but they are subject to the same installation complexities and compliance uncertainty as the shipping industry at large when it comes to the implementation of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention…..

AQUACULTURE

'Perfect storm' brought sea louse epidemic to BC salmon (7/20/16)

High ocean temperatures and poor timing of parasite management likely led to an epidemic of sea lice in 2015 throughout salmon farms in British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Strait, a University of Toronto-led study has found…. 

First Nations block Sea Shepherd (7/21/16)

Over the last two days, first the Ahousaht First Nation, and now the Tlowitsis First Nation, have publicly stated that “Operation Virus Hunter” is not welcome in their territories. The expedition, along with a star-studded cast, including Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, announced their 6 week tour on Monday, where they will travel up the east coast of Vancouver Island, stopping at salmon farms along the way to conduct “audits”. But they will not be welcomed with opened arms in the traditional territories of the Tlowitsis or the Ahousaht First Nations….
First Nations group urges feds to stop expansion of fish farms (7/27/16)

The First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance is calling on the federal government to stop expansion of fish farming and include First Nations in its efforts to protect wild salmon. Open-net pen farming threatens the health of wild salmon stocks, chairman Bob Chamberlin said, and many farms were established without adequately consulting First Nations……

First Nations groups stand up to anti-farm salmon activists (8/7/16)

……The viewpoints can be widely disparate. Environmentalists, and some First Nations, see the more than 100 salmon farms on the coast as disease factories leaking harmful viruses, bacteria and sea lice into the ocean to the detriment of wild salmon. The industry, and the First Nations that partner with them, say they run tight operations that do not pose a danger to wild salmon. They also point to the economic importance of the industry and the jobs it provides, many of them in remote communities……

FISH

Efforts to reduce lake trout in Yellowstone working (8/3/16)

The expensive, determined effort to make cutthroat trout king of Yellowstone Lake again by diminishing the impact of lake trout is working. What was once a 90-10 percent dominance by the voracious lake trout is now closer to 50-50 in Yellowstone National Park’s signature body of water. “The cutthroat population has tripled,” said Cody’s Dave Sweet of Trout Unlimited about the last four years…..

AB: Okotoks ponds overrun by rogue goldfish (8/4/16)

The Drake Landing pond will be treated next week and during the week of Aug. 25 or 29. The Crystal Ridge pond will be treated the weeks of Sept. 5 and Sept. 19. The ponds will be fenced off before, during and for a few days after treatment…..

This once-hated fish is now a weapon against invasive species (7/29/16)

……"I don't think alligator gar are going to be the silver bullet that is going to control carp by any stretch of the imagination," said Rob Hilsabeck, an Illinois biologist who says the best hope is that carp will sustain an alligator gar fishery to draw trophy hunters…..

OTHER
Spiny waterflea an unwelcome invade (8/8/16)

"We know they've been in the province since 2009," Candace Parks, aquatic invasive species specialist with provincial sustainable development, said Monday, adding the threat isn't clear at this point.

State of Flathead Lake, MT: Good, but invasive species, train wrecks would change that (8/7/16)

Mysis shrimp, which many years ago turned the Flathead fishery on its head, now appear to be breeding twice a year and are showing up “where they are not supposed to be.” Nitrogen levels continue to rise dramatically. Algae that attaches to rocks along the shoreline is increasing.

State: When Humans Play God -- Biocontrol seems to be the height of human narcissism. It also works. (8/4/16)

……Still, there are some smashing success stories out there. Purple loosestrife, a plant that clogs up streams and rivers and has been declared a “noxious” invasive weed by 23 states, has been tamed by four species of European loosestrife beetles, which have been seen to eat up to 90 percent of the weed in some spots.

[Editor’s Note: Some readers may recall a hiccup in the beetle success story that happened down the street from the PSMFC offices last year: Some Relief for Oregon Neighborhood Facing Onslaught of Government Beetles (8/18/15). We are aware of no further problems in 2016.]

EU Releases Its First Invasive Species Blacklist (8/3/16)

Gray squirrels, raccoons and crayfish were among the prohibited species.

AK: Invasive crawfish spread into Kodiak watershed (7/30/16)

Tribal leaders in Kodiak are working to determine why crawfish, an invasive species, are spreading into the Buskin watershed.

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant: AIM—or aquatic invaders in the marketplace website

AIM—or aquatic invaders in the marketplace—are aquatic plants and animals available for sale that can negatively impact ecosystems, economies, or public health. These organisms are commonly found in the aquarium, pet, biological supply, live bait, water garden, live food, and aquaculture industries.

Portion of WDFW wildlife area closing for feral pig removal (7/28/16)
Ephrata – Starting Friday (July 29), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will close public access to a portion of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area in Grant County as part of a month-long effort to remove feral pigs from the area. The closure will be in effect through Aug. 31 on about 1,300 acres of the Desert Unit of the wildlife area.

Related Story: Bringing home the bacon (8/8/16)

Christian Science Monitor: How New Zealand aims to wipe out all rats and other invasive predators (7/25/16)

New Zealand has announced a plan to make the country free of rodents and other invasive species that threaten its natural species by 2050. Never before has such an ambitious program been tried for such a large area.

Pacific invasive species battlers protect Pacific islands (8/8/16)

…The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) met on 1–5 August in Samoa to share their best practices for invasive species management on Pacific islands…

Range expansion of the invasive hydroid in Colorado River reservoirs (6/3/16)

*Cordylophora caspia* colonies have significant biofouling potential at hydropower facilities, which can increase maintenance and cause system failure. In 2015, *C. caspia* colonies were observed at dams along the Lower Colorado River system in Lake Powell UT, Lake Mead NV/AZ, Lake Mohave AZ/NV, and Lake Havasu AZ/CA. The hydroid was serendipitously found on settlement plates deployed for invasive dreissenid mussel monitoring. Species identification was confirmed by taxonomy and molecular analysis, and phylogenetic reconstruction was performed to identify the relationship of sequenced COI fragments relative to those from *C. caspia* specimens collected at other geographic locations……

WEEDS

BC: Local Invasive Species Society warns Castlegar residents to avoid planting invasive aquatic plants (7/24/16)

Thanks to a report from a concerned citizen, the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) has identified and commenced control efforts on an infestation of invasive fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) in Champion ponds near Castlegar…..
Conservation Program Manager California Invasive Plant Council, Berkeley, CA

The Conservation Program Manager will plan and implement projects focused on invasive plant management, with project types including: regional mapping and treatment plans; land manager trainings; risk assessment for Cal-IPC’s invasive plant inventory; and outreach to restoration volunteers.

To Apply: Submit resume and cover letter to info@cal-ipc.org by Aug. 15, 2016.

California: 2016/2017 Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program

DBW is pleased to announce the activation of the Online Grant Application System (OLGA) for the 2016/2017 Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program. Minimum qualifications to apply for the grant are:

- You must own/manage a reservoir where recreational activities are permitted
- The reservoir must be un-infested with the dreissenid mussel and;
- The reservoir must be open to the public

The grant is for funding to complete a Vulnerability Assessment and/or develop a Prevention Plan. If these have already been developed the funding can be applied towards management activities such as, but not limited to; inspection program staffing, decontamination units, re-paving of inspection locations and wash-down lanes, materials and regional-scale programs.

CA Dept of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways can help walk you through the process and offer technical assistance with the development of the prevention plan and vulnerability assessment.

- Award amounts for each project may range from $200,000 to $400,000. The total funds available for 2016/2017 Fiscal Year are $3,875,000.

OLGA will be active on August 1, 2016 at 8:00am and will promptly close at 5:00pm PST on September 15, 2016. Please submit your application as soon as possible to avoid being locked out of the OLGA program when it closes. Below are links to the Solicitation Notice, OLGA, and the Grant Guidelines.

Solicitation Notice  OLGA  Grant Guidelines

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding the application process, please contact: Edward Hard, edward.hard@parks.ca.gov; 916-327-1865
FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

FEDERAL

***Congress Returns September 6, 2016****

National Invasive Species Council Management Plan (7/11/16)


Charter fishing groups demand further federal action on Asian carp (8/3/16)

Charter fishing groups want federal officials to act further to prevent an invasive species from entering the Great Lakes as they fear dire consequences to their businesses. A coalition of charter boat captains from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River is asking Congress to do more, saying additional action is needed to stop the spread of Asian carp….

Strategies emerge after GMO labeling law passes (8/8/16)

….Depending on how USDA decides to implement the new law [S. 764], GE salmon “may require broad disclosure at the shelf level or possibly may be excluded entirely from regulation, simply because the animal is modified by way of genes occurring in nature, rather than those engineered in a laboratory,” said Gregory Morrow, principal in Squire Patton Boggs’ litigation practice and former executive vice president, chief legal officer and corporate secretary at Contessa Premium Foods….

Senate Backers Want WRDA Ready To Rock In September

Sens. Jim Inhofe and Barbara Boxer didn't succeed in getting the latest WRDA bill considered on the floor ahead of summer recess, but they are pivoting quickly to Plan B: Action in early September. Inhofe's staff is laying the groundwork now, and reached out to fellow Republicans on Friday for amendments so they can start developing their manager's amendment and tee up issues for the floor, according to an email obtained by ME. Although the bill passed the committee on a broadly bipartisan vote, this step is Republican-only. Inhofe's staff said they would only share amendments with Democrats with permission from the sponsor. [Source: Morning Energy 7/18/16].
[Editor’s Note: For more on WRDA go to page 11 HERE]

MEETINGS

AUGUST

Oregon Invasive Species Cook-off 2016 Saturday August 27, 2016, Corvallis, OR

SEPTEMBER

Oregon Invasive Species Council 2016 Summit and Awards Luncheon on Tuesday September 13th in Salem.

OCTOBER

http://aissummit.mnlakesandrivers.org/summit-at-a-glance/

Washington Lake Protection Association Annual Conference: Oct 5-7 in Bellingham, WA.
http://www.walpa.org/annual-conference/

The Northern Rockies Invasive Plants Council is holding a conference October 17-20, 2016, in Boise, ID.

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

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference: October 17-19 2016 La Crosse, Wisconsin. Abstracts are now being accepted through the UMISC website.

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

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

DECEMBER

100th Meridian Initiative -- Columbia River Basin Team Meeting: December 6 & 7; Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station.
2017

FEBRUARY


MARCH

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

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