



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

7/20/16

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[TX: Zebra mussels have arrived in Tarrant County. Now what? \(7/15/16\)](#)

....There can be costly consequences when zebra mussels arrive. The city of Denton and the North Texas Municipal Water District, which is based in Wylie and serves a number of Dallas suburbs, have both spent millions of dollars because of zebra mussels. During the height of the drought in 2009, the North Texas Municipal Water District couldn't move water from Lake Texoma because it was determined it would be violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits moving invasive species across state lines. Getting the water flowing again required an agreement among Texas and Oklahoma, with an assist from Congress.

The district also spent \$300 million to build a new 46-mile pipeline to bypass Lake Lavon and pump the water directly into its water treatment plant, where any mussels would be killed. The pipeline opened in June 2014. Denton may eventually spend close to \$5 million dealing with zebra mussels in its pipelines that run from Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Lewisville. Denton first encountered zebra mussels in Lake Ray Roberts, where the razor-sharp shellfish got into a quarter-mile pipeline from the reservoir to Denton's water treatment plant.

.....At Lake Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain, TRWD will look at a variety of steps to protect pipelines, said David Marshall, TRWD's director of engineering and operations support. "We'll look at re-coating," Marshall said. "You can add a coat where they won't accumulate in the lift systems. We'll be changing maintenance procedures and

anticipating they will get in some pipelines. That could include running chlorine year-round through the pipelines.”

[SK: U of S developing early-warning system for invasive zebra mussels \(7/17/16\)](#)

A University of Saskatchewan research project is using DNA testing to check for unwanted visitors in the province’s water bodies. Invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels cost industries and governments millions of dollars each year. Since their introduction from the Black Sea into the Great Lakes in the 1980s, preventing the spread of these tiny invaders has been a costly uphill battle.....

[MN: Crow Wing County Board: Twice the taxes to treat AIS \(7/13/16\)](#)

Some residents on Ruth Lake in Emily are asking to pay higher taxes. The Crow Wing County Board received a petition Tuesday from the Ruth Lake Improvement District requesting a change in its per property assessment, from \$90 to \$180 annually. The funds would be used toward costs associated with Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussel control on the lake....

[MB: PCs delayed mussel fight despite heads-up \(7/15/16\)](#)

It wasn’t until last week that the Pallister government quietly started its seasonal fight against zebra mussels, despite notice from the civil service the program was ready to begin in mid-May. This means the government may have missed an opportunity to communicate with boaters and inspect their watercraft during heavy lake traffic in June, explained Scott Higgins, a research scientist with the International Institute for Sustainable Development. "You want to be out there when the boats are moving and having contact with the boater," Higgins said, adding once the lake temperatures reaches about 10 C, the zebra mussels can become active.....

[Study: Superoxide Kills Invasive Quagga Mussels Through KRIA Ionizer With EcoSOAR Technology \(7/13/16\)](#)

A new study conducted over 17 days at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery in Arizona shows that the molecule compound superoxide can lead to elevated mortality rates for quagga and zebra mussels. In the study, mortality rates reached as high as 74 percent for adult quagga mussels treated with superoxide and as high as 87 percent for larval-stage mussels called veligers.....

[Manitoba Sustainable Development "unreasonable" in freedom-of-information response failure \(6/7/16\)](#)

The provincial ombudsman says Manitoba Sustainable Development acted unreasonably when it failed to respond to a freedom-of-information request about

unsuccessful efforts to prevent zebra mussels from colonizing Lake Winnipeg. In a report dated July 4, the Manitoba Ombudsman upheld a complaint against the provincial department formerly known Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, which was asked to provide documents about the provincial efforts to use potash to control zebra mussels. In 2014, the province spent \$500,000 on an experiment that involved the application of liquid potash to four Manitoba harbours in an effort to kill zebra-mussel infestations.....

[Quagga mussel infestation changing Lake Powell scenery \(7/6/16\)](#)

....Besides Lake Powell, the only reservoir that is "suspect" for quagga mussels in Utah is Deer Creek State Park in Heber. The Department of Wildlife Resources hopes to keep it that way....

[SD: Strange critters, plants in Angostura, river \(7/6/16\)](#)

.....However, Smith noted that quagga mussels in [Angostura](#) are a bit of an odd story: GFP has not been able to confirm that these mussels actually live in the lake.....

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS

[Colorado funding cuts make reservoirs more vulnerable to invasive species \(7/6/16\)](#)

.....Luckily for CPW, which has through the years built an ANS model today copied by many other states, it kept a reserve fund of unspent cash on hand from prior years for its program and will use that to get through the rest of the year. What happens from there, though, is at this point anyone's guess. A simple lack of available funds moving forward doesn't address the purpose of many of these state programs, however, nor the importance that they be preserved. In the case of the ANS initiative, CPW hit an all-time high in 2015 for the number of boats it discovered that possessed mussels with 24. Already this year, inspectors are on pace to break that record, so CPW and U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet's office mobilized a number of stakeholders on Tuesday, July 5 in Denver for an initial meeting to find ways to work together, locate new funding sources, and carry on.....

[Editor's Note: Led by Invasive Species Coordinator Elizabeth Brown, the COPW watercraft inspection program is one of the preeminent programs in the US. Further information on the Colorado Program can be found [HERE](#)]

[CO: Inspectors catch mussels en route to Granby \(6/30/16\)](#)

....On Monday, June 27, a boat arrived at the Stillwater boat ramp on [Lake Granby](#) with a number of half-inch long mussels attached to its hull. Inspector Fred Ernst made the

discovery. As inspectors prepare for the massive increase in boat traffic over the Fourth of July weekend, the catch was a sobering wake up call about the importance of their work.....

[Washington Boaters Reminded to Clean, Drain, Dry Boats to Stop Invasive Species \(7/18/16\)](#)

OLYMPIA – As summer weather heats up in Washington and boaters prepare for more adventures on the water, the Washington Invasive Species Council would like you to remember: Clean. Drain. Dry. Invasive species are non-native animals, plants, microorganisms and pathogens that can out-compete or prey on Washington’s existing wildlife, harming the environment, human health and businesses. They come to Washington on car tires, on boat hulls and motors, on hikers’ boots, by wind and sea and many other ways. Some of the worst live in the water. “There are many ways that we accidentally introduce and move invasive species from one waterway to another,” said Justin Bush, executive coordinator of the Washington State Invasive Species Council. “The best way to prevent introductions is to remember the mantra ‘Clean-Drain-Dry.’.....

[UT: All boaters mandated to stop for Quagga compliance inspections \(7/18/16\)](#)

ST. GEORGE, Utah – The number of boaters who are stopping at mandatory quagga mussel inspection stations has improved since Utah's boating season started this year. But, according to the Division of Wildlife Resources, it needs to get better, especially at a station south of St. George..... From April 14 through July 10, a total of 2,330 watercraft stopped at the port. About 514 didn't stop.

[ID: Uptick in boater visits boosts risks \(7/5/16\)](#)

Idaho’s watercraft inspection stations are seeing a 40-percent increase in traffic this summer, according to the Bonner County Soil & Conservation District. “The reason? Idaho has spectacular water. And a lot of it,” said Molly McCahon of the district, which manages the inspection stations.....

[BC: Fighting the mussels](#)

A new initiative starts in the [Greater Vernon area](#) this weekend due to concern over the possibility of quagga and zebra mussels entering local lakes. Starting July 16, Vernon RCMP volunteers will be conducting vessel safety checks at Paddlewheel Park boat launch and will be checking vessels for the invasive mussels. "We are taking the opportunity, where we are doing vessel safety checks prior to the boat being launched, to visibly check for signs of invasive mussels," said Regan Borisenko, the City of Vernon's crime prevention coordinator. "We can run our hands over the boat to see if there is an issue. "We are also trained to ask questions to see whether the boat has come from a high risk area.".....

[Keeping Invaders Out of Wyoming Waters \(7/20/16\)](#)

.....State statute requires that all boats transported into Wyoming be inspected. These aquatic invasive species have been found in neighboring states, including Colorado, North and South Dakota, and Utah.....

MARINE

[NB: Invasive green crab population reaches record high in Shediac Bay \(7/20/16\)](#)

The population of green crabs in [Shediac Bay](#) has exploded this year, says Jim Weldon, of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association. Weldon, the green crab project manager, has been monitoring numbers of the aggressive invasive species since 2013. "This is the highest numbers we've ever seen," he said....

[NS: Invasive green crab targeted by new ecotourism campaign \(7/13/16\)](#)

Tourists usually come to Nova Scotia for the lobster, but soon they may come for the crab. A new program launched this month by Parks Canada offers visitors the chance to help control the population of an invasive crab species. "Not only do they get to see it [the crab population] first-hand in the boats with us, but they can also help reduce the numbers of an invasive species that we're having issues with," said Gabrielle Beaulieu, a project manager with Parks Canada.....

[Some of the 'mind-blowing' amount of trash washing up on Alaska's beaches comes to Anchorage \(7/17/16\)](#)

One by one, people overturned massive, white, heavy-duty bags at the Port of Anchorage Saturday afternoon, spilling out their contents: a hodgepodge of debris that had found its way into the ocean, eventually landing on Alaska's remote coastlines. There were shoes alongside buoys and styrofoam. There was a collection of blue aluminum water bottles, apparently dumped into the ocean in a container spill, as well as metal containers marked with Japanese writing, likely debris from the deadly 2011 tsunami there.....

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Canada States Its Position on the MPN Method \(7/6/16\)](#)

The Government of Canada has stated its support for the use of the most probably number (MPN) method for determining the efficacy of ballast water treatment systems. The MPN method evaluates the ability of an organism to reproduce and hence its ability to colonize a new environment. As such, it does not provide a result equivalent to that of the U.S. Coast Guard's preferred method - vital staining. The U.S. Coast Guard decided to reject the MPN method in December last year. Since then, equipment manufacturers Trojan Marinex and DESMI Ocean Guard have submitted appeals, and the Chamber of Shipping of America has issued a letter of support for the MPN method.....

[Will Finland Tip the Ballast Water Convention Ratification Scales? \(6/28/16\)](#)

On June 16, 2016 the Finnish Government proposed that the President of the Republic adopt the International Convention for the Management of Ships' Ballast Water. It was also proposed that the President would ratify acts that lay down the provisions on the entry into force of the Convention. This was announced via a press release distributed by Finland's Ministry of Transport and Communications.....

[7/12/2016: Final action on ballast water management system appeals](#)

On Dec. 14, 2015, the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center denied requests from four ballast water treatment system manufacturers to use an alternative testing method for Coast Guard type approval of their ultra-violet based ballast water management systems. All four appealed the MSC's decision. All four requested that the Coast Guard consider an MPN-based method as equivalent to the required testing procedure. On July 12, 2016, the Coast Guard issued final agency action denying these appeals....

Related Story: [U.S. Coast Guard Denies MPN Appeals \(7/13/16\)](#)

[USCG: Alternate Management Systems Program Update \(7/12/16\)](#)

In November 2015, my staff published CG-OES Policy Letter 13-01, Revision 2, which provided guidance to vessel owners and operators seeking to extend compliance dates for implementing ballast water management (BWM) methods. It also cleared up much confusion surrounding the term "compliance date" by creating two different categories of compliance date: "original compliance date" and "extended compliance date." Since the publication of the new policy, the Coast Guard has granted nearly 6,000 extensions, surpassing the number of all previous extensions by over 200 percent. My staff continues to communicate with maritime stakeholders at conferences, conventions, and within the IMO to address the myriad complex challenges that surround regulation of ballast water. One of these issues concerns the use of alternate management systems (AMS) onboard vessels that have chosen to install them as ballast water management systems (BWMS).....

AQUACULTURE

[BC salmon farmers fund research projects \(7/19/16\)](#)

[The British Columbia Salmon Farmers Association \(BCSFA\)](#) is investing almost CAD\$420,000 (\$325,000) in seven research projects on wild and farm-raised salmon.

Over 30 researchers from 10 organizations are involved in the projects that aim to bridge knowledge gaps on the Canadian province's wild stocks and coastal environment. One of the projects will explore the effectiveness of a local fish species to “clean” sea lice from cultured Atlantic salmon, a first of its kind in BC. Another seeks to understand better the aquatic environment around salmon farms, and how wild marine species interact with the habitats that are created by the presence of a salmon farm.....

[Sea Shepherd Investigates Canadian Salmon Farms 7/17/16](#)

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has teamed with Canadian biologist Alexandra Morton and actor/activist Pamela Anderson for Operation Virus Hunter, a new campaign investigating the lawfulness of the salmon farming industry in British Columbia. Operation Virus Hunter, which begins this month in Vancouver, will see Morton travel on board Sea Shepherd’s Martin Sheen over the course of several weeks, tracing the major salmon migration route that stretches from mainland Vancouver to the north end of Vancouver Island....

Related Story: [Celebrity activists launch B.C. salmon farm expedition \(7/18/16\)](#)

Reaction: [BCSFA Statement Re: Sea Shepherd Society Celebrity Campaign \(7/18/16\)](#)
and [Battling bogus claims \(7/19/16\)](#)

[Washington tribe joins legal challenge over modified salmon \(7/19/16\)](#)

SEATTLE (AP) — A Native American tribe in Washington state has joined a lawsuit challenging the federal government's approval of an Atlantic salmon genetically modified to grow faster. The Quinault Indian Nation on Friday joined the lawsuit that 11 other fishing and environmental groups filed against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and others in late March.....

FISH

[WA: Meetings scheduled on planned rotenone treatments of eastern Washington waters \(7/18/16\)](#)

Olympia – State fishery managers will host three public meetings in late July to discuss plans to treat several lakes and a stream in eastern Washington with rotenone, a naturally occurring pesticide commonly used to remove undesirable and illegally stocked fish species from lakes and streams.

Olympia: 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 22, in Room 175 of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St.

Ephrata: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 25, at the Grant County Public Works Department Building, 124 Enterprise St. SE

Newport: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 28, at the Create Art Center, 900 W 4th St.

[Calif: To Cull or Release? The Tournament Fishing Dilemma \(7/18/16\)](#)

Catch a fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and it very likely will not be a native species. Of the more than 55 fish species found in the Delta region, the majority are introduced, many deliberately so in an effort to support commercial and recreational fishing industries. Two non-native species in the group known as black bass – largemouth (*Micropterus salmoides*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) – have flourished as a result, leading to the Delta's inclusion among the [top bass lakes in the nation](#).

[BC: Lakes closed to control invasive species \(7/7/16\)](#)

Angling on two lakes in the Nicola River watershed will be closed as of Saturday, July 9, in an effort to prevent the spread of yellow perch. Biologists believe the fish, which are not native to the lake, were deliberately released by someone who wanted to create a local perch sports-fishery. The fish are very adaptive, have few native predators and reproduce quickly. Once perch are introduced into a lake, they out-compete native species for food and habitat. Windy Lake is 32 km west of Kelowna at the headwaters of the Nicola River drainage. Little Windy Lake is immediately upstream of Windy Lake. The closure will be in effect until further notice.....

[Holy carp! Another invasive carp threatens to invade U.S. \(7/15/16\)](#)

.....The Prussian carp was first discovered in a small lake in Alberta in 2006. Since then it has [spread](#) to nearly two dozen southern Alberta waterways and firmly established breeding populations. A recent [study](#) reported that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service considers northern states bordering Alberta to be at high risk of invasion. Other northern states and southern provinces are a good match for the climate preferred by Prussian carp. The Great Lakes region would likely support breeding populations if Prussian carp were introduced.....

[OR: Workers repaint 'no live fish' warnings along Rogue River \(7/16/16\)](#)

.....While dumping fish from other places happens more frequently in lakes and reservoirs, signing boat ramps on the river is all part of the larger message, said Dan Van Dyke of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "I'm just fed up with people illegally moving fish around," said Van Dyke, district biologist based in Central Point.

"Not only are there fishery impacts, there's the chance people could bring in a whole host of aquatic species."

[MT: Column: Pike fishing has some serious fans \(6/30/16\)](#)

.....Montana's fabled stream trout fishery is almost entirely about catching non-native rainbows, non-native browns and non-native brook trout, so why not some non-native northern pike management?...

Reaction: [Letter: Outdoor column seen as causing harm to native fish species \(7/10/16\):](#)

The June 30 edition of the Inter Lake published the most disturbing, indeed, disgusting, writing I have ever witnessed in print in Montana.....

OTHER

Idaho, Montana Update Websites

The MT and ID invasive species websites have been updated with new content and educational videos, including clips on Clean, Drain, Dry. See <http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/> and <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/ais/>

WEEDS

[AK: Invasive elodea species intrigues economist \(7/8/16\)](#)

Efforts to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant "Elodea" have had mixed results. Herbicides are being considered in Fairbanks, after mechanical means proved unsuccessful there, while on the Kenai Peninsula, the plant is all but gone. To date, the effects of the plant on Alaska's environment have been measured in terms of its impact on fresh water resources, but now an economist at ISER [Institute of Social and Economic Research] is working to analyze the risk, and the economic implications, of the plant's spread to salmon producing lakes....

[ON: Weevils no match for invaders: Eurasian milfoil still chokes Sudbury lakes \(7/19/16\)](#)

Despite a three-year, \$175,000 project, Eurasian water milfoil still remains in 18 Sudbury lakes. In 2011, the city introduced tiny water beetles, known as weevils, into six local lakes. The insect was introduced to eat away at the invasive species that squeezes out other plants, makes swimming and boating difficult, and generally clogs up lakes. Stephen Monet, the manager of environmental planning initiatives at the city, said the goal was never the complete elimination of the invading plant. "When you're using biological control agents like the milfoil weevil on a target organism like Eurasian Water

Milfoil, the aim is not to eradicate," he said. "That would be nice but it doesn't remove that plant completely from a lake. What it does is it can control its population."

[Habitats colonized by non-native flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus* in the Niagara River, USA \(7/8/16\)](#)

.....Emergence of *Butomus* from the sediment generally occurred from late-May to early-June, with peak coverage and height occurring in mid- to late-July. Coverage was generally minimal by mid-September. Rhizome bulbil production occurred on specimens as small as 25 cm in length and was first observed in mid-August when water temperatures were about 22.5°C. Although we did not investigate the ploidy status of *Butomus* in the Niagara River, the presence of these vegetative reproductive structures is consistent with reports of genetically diploid *Butomus* populations in North America. No linear correlations between the biomasses of *Butomus* and other species were detected, although the data suggest a possible limiting effect on the biomasses of other species in dense *Butomus* stands. Even if emergent *Butomus* was eradicated from shorelines and wetlands, submersed areas would likely act as a refuge from which *Butomus* could continue to distribute viable bulbils and rhizome fragments into the nearshore. Submersed *Butomus* is a potential ecosystem engineer because it can colonize barren areas with coarse substrates, reach high densities, and grow to a considerable height in the water column. Subsequently, deposition and retention of fine sediments may occur, potentially allowing other species to expand into previously unsuitable areas.

TRAININGS/WEBINARS

REGISTRATION OPEN: WIT II, Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training (FALL 2016)

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 1st for the following WIT II Classes:

- ~~October 11-12, 2016 – Lake Mead~~ **FULL !!**
- November 8-9, 2016 – Lake Mead

Openings are limited!!! Availability will close when class becomes full.

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.

JOBS/GRANTS

[US Forest Service, Golden, Colorado: Fish Biologist: Rocky Mountain Region, Region 2; Renewable Resources; Aquatic/Fisheries.](#)

Program area responsibilities include, but are not limited to: (1) fisheries habitat improvement and restoration programs; (2) interaction with multiple disciplines regarding potential influence on aquatic habitat from grazing, mineral and energy development, fire, invasive species, road construction, water diversion and regulation, timber harvest, and other management activities; (3) inventory of fisheries habitat quantity and quality, including stream and lake inventories and productivity; (4) aquatic endangered or sensitive species; and (5) development and maintenance of fisheries and aquatic-related partnerships, both internal and external; and (6) integration of plans, programs and budgeting with other programs of the staff group, Forests/Grasslands and WO. (7) compliance with/ understanding of, pertinent Federal or State laws or regulations, Executive Orders, Forest Service policies, directives, instructions, and applicable guidelines and agreements.

If interested, please respond to the outreach notice no later than **8/13/16**. For questions or additional information, please contact Steve Lohr at slohr@fs.fed.us or 202-205-1072.

[Lab manager/tech for freshwater & coastal ecology/eDNA laboratory at Cornell Univ.](#)

Provide high-level research support and lab management under minimal supervision in David Lodge's laboratory in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The Lodge Lab will conduct research in the ecology of global freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems, with a focus on applying environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis to the characterization of communities and populations of species of conservation relevance.

Contact Person: David Lodge, Contact eMail dml356@cornell.edu

Last Date to Apply: **08/31/2016**

[Postdoctoral Position in Aquatic Conservation Biology: Cornell University, New York](#)

A postdoctoral research position is available to pursue collaborative research that would inform the management and policy of freshwater and/or marine ecosystems, with a focus on invasive species and their interactions with other drivers of global change. Experience with environmental DNA (eDNA) or related genetic methods and/or coastal marine ecosystems would be especially valuable. The postdoctoral fellow would join an interdisciplinary team of researchers, and lead one or more efforts within an NSF Coastal SEES project that includes a global network of collaborators working in coastal environments. Subprojects might focus on one or more of the following: metagenetic

characterization of freshwater and marine communities with eDNA; quantitative analysis to forecast species dispersal and range changes caused by shipping and other vectors, and interactions with climate change; quantification of the ecological and economic impacts of invasions; and management and policy of invasive species at local, national or global scales.

Funding is available for at least two years. Applicant screening is rolling; the desired start date is as soon as possible (summer/fall 2016) but not later than spring 2017. Salary and benefits will be competitive. The postdoc would be supervised by David Lodge, who has recently moved to Cornell from Notre Dame (Lodge Lab website in transition).

Contact Person: David Lodge, Contact eMail dml356@cornell.edu

Last Date to Apply: **07/31/2016**

[Pulling Together Initiative 2016 Request for Proposals](#)

Pre-Proposal Due Date: **August 3, 2016** by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Full Proposal Due Date: September 29, 2016 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

OVERVIEW: The Pulling Together Initiative is inviting applications for competitive grant funding to be awarded in 2016. The program will award grants that will develop cooperative weed management areas (CWMA), support significant advances of existing CWMA's, develop or strengthen prevention and early detection/rapid response efforts, enhance education, and assist awareness projects to reduce or eliminate invasive plant species. The program is a partnership among the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

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

STATE

[State, Federal Agencies Launch Integrated, Multi-Pronged Effort to Help Delta Smelt Strategies Aimed at Improving Survival of Endangered Fish \(7/12/16\)](#)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Under a [comprehensive strategy](#) released today, state and federal agencies will work to rapidly improve conditions for endangered Delta smelt, which are close to extinction after several extremely dry years. The strategy represents a management shift for state and federal water and wildlife agencies, which are addressing multiple stressors on Delta smelt in a systematic way while studying the synergy of the actions. One action already underway is the release of water drained from Sacramento Valley farm fields into the Yolo Bypass to boost production of the zooplankton that smelt eat. Also planned is the treatment of invasive aquatic weeds in important smelt habitat in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.Factors implicated in the decline of the species include non-native predators and competitors, water project pumping, altered flow patterns, aquatic weeds that reduce water turbidity, pollution, and diminished habitat....

FEDERAL

[Gillibrand and Slaughter's Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act would give federal wildlife officials the ability the block importation of species that pose an imminent threat \(7/18/16\)](#)

Rochester, NY – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter, co-chair of the bipartisan House Great Lakes Task Force, today announced introduction of the *Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act* [[S. 3278](#)], H.R. 5895], legislation to protect New York's natural resources from the threat of invasive species.

According to the press release: "The legislation introduced by Senator Gillibrand and Rep. Slaughter gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service greater authority to regulate nonnative species and prohibit them from being imported or sold in the United States. The scope of "injurious Wildlife Taxon or Taxa" would include all wildlife, including invertebrates. It would also establish an injurious species listing process based on risk to natural resources, and would provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with temporary authority to make emergency designations for wildlife that pose an imminent threat."

Reaction: [Great Lakes Commission applauds legislation to better prevent introduction of invasive species \(7/18/16\)](#)

[U.S. House passes GMO labeling bill \(7/14/16\)](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S. —The U.S. House of Representatives on July 14 passed bipartisan legislation [[S. 764](#)] that would federally preempt a potential patchwork of differing state laws regarding the labeling of human food and animal feed containing biotechnology-enhanced ingredients with a 306-117 vote. The U.S. Senate passed the bill on July 7 with a 63-30 vote.

The legislation is a bipartisan compromise that was developed on June 23 by the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, a Republican, and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat.

The bill now needs to be signed into law by U.S. President Barack Obama [[who appears ready to sign the bill](#)].

Reaction: [U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski \(R-Alaska\) and Dan Sullivan \(R-Alaska\) oppose the legislation](#), saying that wild Alaska salmon needs to be differentiated from genetically engineered salmon or the industry will face the risk of some consumers avoiding salmon altogether (also see [Murkowski Urges Senate to Mandate Labeling of GE Salmon - Opposes Bill That Calls for Voluntary Labeling \(7/7/16\)](#))

[House Passes Fiscal Year 2017 Interior and Environment Bill \(7/14/16\)](#)

The House on 7/14/16 approved the fiscal year 2017 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. The legislation includes funding for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, and various independent and related agencies.

For a summary of the bill is [HERE](#), text of the bill is [HERE](#)
For the bill report go [HERE](#) and see pages PAGE 18 (USFWS) PAGE 24 (NPS) for AIS/quagga/ zebra language.

Senate: On 6/16/16 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Department of the [Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill](#), by a 16 to 14 vote along party lines. Bill [HERE](#) and report [HERE](#). See pages 9, 26 and 34 of the report AIS language. The full Senate has yet to act on its version.

NOW WHAT: According to *The Hill* (7/14/16): “Congress is expected to pass a short-term spending patch to avoid a shutdown on Oct. 1, just weeks before the November elections. That comes despite pledges from Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to return to a “regular order” appropriations process. Neither chamber managed to pass more than a handful of the 12 annual appropriations bills this year. There’s already some disagreement over how long the short-term stopgap funding bill should last. Some House conservatives want it to run into 2017 so that a lame-duck session of Congress doesn’t have to consider the matter after the elections. Other lawmakers, including appropriators, think the stopgap should only last through the end of this year.”*Stay Tuned*

Related Stories: [House Interior Appropriations Bill Passes With Anti-National Ocean Policy Amendment \(7/18/16\)](#) and [Bishop: Interior Appropriations Bill Combats Obama Administration’s “Limitless” Regulatory Overreach \(7/14/16\)](#) and [Polluter-friendly Interior bill crosses House finish line \(7/14/16\)](#)

VIDA: Senate/House Defense Authorization bills to Conference, VIDA Still Alive

[S.373](#), the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, was introduced by Sen. Rubio, Marco (R-FL) on 02/04/2015. Similar legislation was also introduced into the House [H.R.980](#) by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA).

[H.R.4909 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017](#) was passed on 5/18/16 and included language mirroring VIDA. Report language can be found [HERE](#). The Senate version of the NDAA ([S. 2943](#)) passed the Senate on 6/14/16. Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill did not include VIDA language.

REACTION: Many in the shipping industry including groups like the [American Waterway Operators](#) support VIDA. However, the States of California, Oregon and Washington, the [Great Lakes state legislators](#), [the White House](#) and [conservation](#)

[groups](#) have raised concerns about the VIDA legislation in this and the last congress. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies have weighed in against the VIDA language.

NOW WHAT: It appears that VIDA is still in-play as the National Defense Authorization Act conference committee begins the task of merging the House and Senate bills. Congress is in summer recess until September....*stay tuned*.....Also see [Committee Leaders Express Confidence in Policy Bill's Success, but Recognize Stumbling Blocks \(7/8/16\)](#)

For further information on the concerns over VIDA contact Allen Pleus, WDFW, Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov .

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

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. [Click here for details](#).

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](#)

2017

February

[Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM, February 7-8 2016.](#)

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.