DREISSENID MUSSELS

1. Lake Whatcom (WA) Aquatic Invasive Species program completes successful first season (1/3/13)

In an effort to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to and from Lake Whatcom, City and County staff conducted 1,794 boater surveys and visual boat inspections at the Bloedel Donovan Boat Launch and the Sudden Valley Marina between July 14 and September 30, 2012………………..

2. California inspection station protects agriculture, angers drivers (01/06/13)

YERMO, Calif. - When a truck with a boat pulled into the right lane of this high desert outpost's border inspection station, it was literally hands on deck for Greg Du Bose. And on the sides of the hull, the stern, the intake and exhaust pipes, the outboard motor's propeller and the short ladder next to it……..

WEEDS

1. 2012 Montana Department of Agriculture Annual Report on Aquatic Invasive Species

During 2012, the Montana Department of Agriculture strived to prevent and reduce the threat of aquatic invasive species throughout the state. The following key efforts and needs of the department addressed in this report are:

1. Aquatic plant monitoring throughout the state
2. Containment of existing aquatic invasive species populations
3. Support of aquatic invasive species control work
4. Ways to increase program effectiveness

The annual report is available online at:
http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Weeds/AquaticWeeds/ (scroll down) (thanks to Celestine Duncan for providing this information)

MARINE

1. Tsunami Debris

1. WA Coast Dock Removal Planning (1/7/13)

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park agreed today that the removal of the derelict dock from a remote part of Washington’s pristine coastline located in the Olympic National Park is important to the resource protection goals of both the Sanctuary and the Park………..

For further information on the dock go to:
http://marinedebris.wa.gov/incidents/ForksDock.html

2. Biologists checking tsunami dock for invasive species (1/4/13)

SEATTLE -- Washington State and federal biologists were back out on a remote section of Washington’s coast this week getting more samples of plants and animals that hitched a ride across the Pacific on a floating dock thought to be debris from the March 2011 Tsunami that hit Japan……………..

2. The California State Lands Commission Postpones Performance Standards (1/7/13)

The California State Lands Commission posted a notice stating that the proposed changes to Article 4.7 - Performance Standards Regulations for the Discharge of Ballast Water for Vessels Operating in California Waters - have not yet been adopted. Commission staff intends to reintroduce a revised draft of the proposed regulations and all associated rulemaking documents in the near future. Note: The proposed rulemaking included amendments to the ballast water sampling port requirements and would establish protocols to assess vessel compliance with California’s performance standards for the discharge of ballast water.

Further information on Article 4.7 go to:
FISH


Abstract: In the San Francisco Estuary, predation of the threatened delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus* by the invasive Mississippi silverside *Menidia audens* has been hypothesized but unconfirmed in the wild due to difficulties in reliably identifying egg or larval fish remains in gut contents. This study describes the use of TaqMan assays to examine the gut contents of wild Mississippi silversides for the presence of delta smelt DNA. The species-specific delta smelt assay was found to be highly sensitive and, in feeding trial experiments, capable of detecting delta smelt DNA in Mississippi silverside gut contents up to 36 h postingestion for some individuals. A substantial percentage (41%) of the 37 Mississippi silversides caught in the wild with midchannel trawling were positive for delta smelt DNA in their gut contents. Conversely, none of the 614 Mississippi silversides caught in the wild in nearshore beach seining contained delta smelt DNA in their gut contents.

OTHER


Another new year is upon us, complete with a significant percentage of the population vowing to implement new years’ resolutions, from lifestyle changes that take off the extra pounds gained from holiday festivities and age, to those pledging more time to volunteer and help those in need……………

2. Study Says No Evidence For Claims Of Global Increase In Jellyfish Past Two Centuries (1/4/13)

Scientists have cast doubt on the widely held perception that there has been a global increase in jellyfish. Blooms, or proliferations, of jellyfish can show a substantial, visible impact on coastal populations – clogged nets for fishermen, stinging waters for tourists, even choked cooling intake pipes for power plants – and recent media reports have created a perception that the world’s oceans are experiencing trending increases in jellyfish……………

3. Ontario Invasive Species Education & Outreach Compendium Materials & Resources in Ontario 2012

The Invasive Species Centre (ISC) in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) conducted a web-based Invasive Species
Education, Outreach and Plant Management Survey from December 2011 – January 2012. The objective of this survey was to gather information about education and outreach materials and methods for invasive plant management across the province. The survey results were organized into two compendiums, one on invasive species education and outreach and the second on invasive plant management activities.

GRANTS

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grant and Partnership Programs for Invasive Species

This workbook contains basic information on programs in USDA that could be used to fund and support invasive species related projects. This list should be a helpful place to start a search for sources of technical and financial resources for invasive species activities but may not include all potential invasive species funding opportunities. Please use this workbook to help in your important and vital work in safeguarding and enhancing natural, recreational and agricultural resources.

MEETINGS/WEBINARS

FEBRUARY

12th Annual Eastern Washington / North Idaho Regional Lakes Conference.

This lakes conference is hosted by the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, Spokane Community College Water Resources Program, and the Washington State Lake Protection Association. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and experiences of residents and lake associations in an effort to learn more about our lakes and watersheds. Please distribute to others who may be interested. With twelve years running and 140 people in attendance last year it was only through the generous support of our sponsors that this conference (with lunch provided) has remained free to attendees. Thanks to sponsors this conference is FREE.

Date/Time: Saturday, February 9th 2013; 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Spokane Community College. Lair - Student Union Building, N. 1810 Greene Street, Spokane WA, 99207

RSVP by Jan. 31st to: BiJay Adams, bijay@libertylake.org, (509) 922-5443 ext. 230

MARCH
International Didymo Conference

March 12-13, 2013 in Providence, Rhode Island.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week March 3 – 8, 2013

Please mark your calendars for events in Washington, DC and around the country. State, federal and local and tribal officials meet with NGO’s, industry and stakeholder groups addressing invasive species to examine laws, policies and creative approaches to prevent and reduce invasive species threats to our health, economy, environment and natural resources including special places.

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting -- Save the Date!

Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’Alene, ID.
March 25 to 27, 2013

2nd Annual Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop

The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area planning team is pleased to announce that a date has been selected for the 2nd annual Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop. We’ll be holding the event in Stevenson, WA from 09:00 to 16:00 on March 21, 2013. This workshop will have an invasive plant and noxious weed focus and will also provide resource managers and control practitioners information to detect aquatic invasive species and exotic pests. For further information contact: Justin Bush, Program Coordinator Skamania County, Noxious Weed Control Program, (509) 427-3941; bush@co.skamania.wa.us, http://www.skamaniacounty.org/noxious-weeds/

APRIL

The Invasive Species Centre is hosting the 18th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, April 21-25, 2013 at the Sheraton-on-the-Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

The Preliminary Program for the 18th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species is now available (last updated 12/17/12) at the ICAIS conference website www.icais.org. The program is still subject to change, so please check the website for updates. Note that the cut-off date for hotel reservations is March 21, 2013 so be sure to reserve early to ensure your accommodation http://www.icais.org/html/info_accomm.html