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AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

7/6/16

DREISSENID MUSSELS

NE: Lake Zorinsky suspect for larval zebra mussels (6/29/16)

> **OMAHA, NE -** A recent water sample taken from Lake Zorinsky has tested positive for veligers, the microscopic larval form of zebra mussels. Additional water samples continue to be analyzed and shoreline surveys are being conducted. There are no current indications that the zebra mussels are a threat to the dam's infrastructure. At this time, there are no plans to lower Lake Zorinsky or use any chemicals to treat the lake for zebra mussels. Zebra mussels do occur in Nebraska and there are reproducing populations in the following waterbodies: Offutt Air Force Base Lake (in Bellevue, NE), Lewis and Clark Lake (near Yankton, SD) and the Missouri River downstream of Lewis and Clark Lake (down to Blair, NE)….
>
> **Related Story:** Zebra mussel larvae have been found **again** in Zorinsky Lake (6/30/16)

Three more Texas lakes affected by Zebra Mussels (7/29/16)

> ATHENS— Three more Texas lakes are being added to the list of lakes affected by zebra mussels. Lake Livingston, Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Worth [downstream of Eagle Mountain Lake] all tested positive for zebra mussels. As we head into the Independence Day weekend, these new findings serve as a good reminder to boaters to "Clean, Drain

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and Dry" their boats, trailers and gear every time they travel from one lake to another to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species…..

Related Story: Officials move to protect water plant with arrival of zebra mussels (6/30/16) …… The offspring from just one mussel can create half-a-billion more…… and The mussel that once cost local taxpayers $300 million is still spreading (6/29/16)

MB: Gull Lake resident worries lack of zebra mussel protection puts lake in danger (7/5/16)

More than a month after a locked gate was removed from a boat launch in Gull Lake, resident Shane Zakaluk wonders what zebra mussel protections are in place. "My primary residence is at Gull Lake. If we have zebra mussels, my property value is going to be negligible, and I'll have lost my home and life savings to the issue, so it's a big concern," Zakaluk said…..

Toxicity of potassium chloride to veliger and byssal stage dreissenid mussels related to water quality (6/23/16)

Natural resource managers are seeking appropriate chemical eradication and control protocols for infestations of zebra mussels, Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas, 1769), and quagga mussels. *D. rostiformis bugensis* (Andrusov, 1897) that have limited effect on non-target species. Applications of low concentrations of potassium salt (as potash) have shown promise for use where the infestation and treatment can be contained or isolated. To further our understanding of such applications and obtain data that could support a pesticide registration, we conducted studies of the acute and chronic toxicity of potassium chloride to dreissenid mussels in four different water sources from infested and non-infested locations (ground water from northern Idaho, surface water from the Snake River, Idaho, USA, surface water from Lake Ontario, Ontario, Canada, and surface water from the Colorado River, Arizona, USA). We found short term exposure of veligers (< 24 h) to concentrations of 960 mg/L KCl produced rapid mortality in water from three locations, but veligers tested in Colorado River water were resistant. We used probit models to compare the mortality responses, predicted median lethal times and 95% confidence intervals. In separate experiments, we explored the sensitivity of byssal stage mussels in chronic exposures (>29 d) at concentrations of 100 and 200 mg/L KCl. Rapid mortality occurred within 10 d of exposure to concentrations of 200 mg/L KCl, regardless of water source. Kaplan-Meier estimates of mean survival of byssal mussels in 100 mg/L KCl prepared in surface water from Idaho and Lake Ontario were 4.9 or 6.9 d, respectively; however, mean survival of mussels tested in the Colorado River water was > 23 d. The sodium content of the Colorado River water was nearly three times that measured in waters from the other locations, and we hypothesized sodium concentrations may affect mussel survival. To test our hypothesis, we supplemented Snake River and Lake Ontario water with NaCl to equivalent conductivity as the Colorado River, and found mussel survival increased to levels observed in tests of veliger and byssal mussels

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in Colorado River water. We recommend KCl disinfection and eradication protocols must be developed to carefully consider the water quality characteristics of treatment locations.

Safety of the molluscicide Zequanox® to nontarget macroinvertebrates (6/23/16)

…… The results showed no significant effect of Zequanox on survival of either species. Survival of *G. lacustris* exceeded 85% in all concentrations at all three sampling time points. Survival of *Hexagenia* spp. ranged from 71% (control) to 91% at 8 h, 89–93% at 24 h post-exposure, and 70–73% at 96 h post-exposure across all treatments. We saw no evidence of pathology in the visceral organs of treated animals. Our results indicate that application of Zequanox at the maximum approved concentration and exposure duration did not cause significant mortality or treatment-related histopathological changes to *G. lacustris* and *Hexagenia* spp.

IA: Threats to Iowa Great Lakes still surface (6/21/16)

SPIRIT LAKE, Iowa - A few years ago, a single live zebra mussel was discovered in Upper Gar Lake. Then two dead mussel shells were found on a hoist pulled from East Okoboji Lake. The population of this invasive species, which compete with native fish and mussels, clog pipes and cut swimmers' feet, exploded in East Okoboji Lake last year….

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS

Utah water enthusiasts counted on to help combat 'destructive' quagga mussel (7/1/16)

HEBER CITY — Every once in a while, a vehicle hauling a boat or personal watercraft whizzed by and the overhead lights of law enforcement flipped on. The errant driver on U.S. 40 southeast of Heber City was nabbed for blowing by a quagga mussel checkpoint, set up to protect popular boating destinations like Strawberry, Deer Creek and Jordanelle reservoirs. Since late May, the Utah Division of Wildlife Services has been requiring water enthusiasts with boats or personal watercraft to pull over to a checkpoint to make sure precautions have been taken to decontaminate their equipment.

6,100 boats inspected as B.C. leads the fight against invasive mussels (6/28/16)

OSOYOOS – British Columbia remains free of invasive mussels, thanks to ongoing efforts that have seen more than 6,100 watercraft inspected so far this year – already surpassing the number of inspections in all of 2015.

Related Story: Inspection stats show stronger mussel defence needed, says Okanagan Water Board (6/10/16)

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Calif: Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino plan for stronger measures to ward off invasive mussels (6/24/16)

> …."Aside from the drought, the threat of invasive mussels taking hold in either of the two lakes is one of the most significant issues facing our region today," said state Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, who called the reservoirs "prime targets for infestation," given their popularity among boaters…. The program will be supported by $600,000 in state grant funds collected through a statewide, annual $8 boat registration fee. Already, officials are beefing up staff training at the larger Lake Sonoma under a campaign to screen incoming boats for quagga and zebra mussels."

SD: Aquatic Invasive Species Checks Increase (6/23/16)

> ….If a boat is inspected and found to be in violation of the law, the boat owner will be subject to a Class 2 misdemeanor and an $85 fine….

New AIS rules in place for Montana recreationists (6/21/16)

> Boaters in Montana have a couple of new rules to abide by this summer geared toward fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species. Beginning May 21, boaters are now required to remove all vegetation from their vessels upon removing it from any surface water and before leaving the boat launch site. Additionally, drain plugs and any valve or device to prevent water from draining out of bilges or livewells must be removed before leaving the boat launch site. If the vessel doesn't have a plug, reasonable measures must be made to dry or drain all compartments or spaces that hold water…..

MD: Launch Steward Program Interdicts Zebra Mussels at Deep Creek Lake (6/13/16)

> The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels, an invasive species of shellfish, attached to the propeller and outboard motor of a pontoon boat attempting to launch at Deep Creek Lake State Park. Launch stewards, conducting voluntary boat inspections, identified the mussels earlier this month on a vessel last used on the Monongahela River, where zebra mussels are established. The stewards were able to intercept the boat prior to launch, and removed all visible zebra mussels for examination and inspection.

MARINE

Washington Sea Grant: The Crab Team Project

> The Crab Team project was launched in 2015, in response to a Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) mandate to monitor for European green crabs along inland

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Washington shorelines. By using citizen science, we are achieving a much greater scale of monitoring than would otherwise be possible, and expanding what we know about the community of organisms that live in salt marshes and pocket estuaries. The Crab Team has two main goals:

1. Detect European green crab at the earliest possible stage of invasion to increase the ability to control population and reduce green crab impacts.
2. Build a long-term dataset on green crab and other mobile organisms living in soft sediment habitats to improve the understanding of Washington's pocket estuaries and salt marshes, and track green crab impacts.

For Crab Team News go HERE

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

In-port ballast water treatment system now in production (6/28/16)

…..Damen's InvaSave is the world's first ballast water treatment (BWT) system intended to operate in ports and mobile operations. The fully containerized "plug & play" unit provides shipowners with a mobile and cost-effective alternative to retrofitting fixed BWT systems. It will also give port authorities the versatility to improve the services that they can offer ship owners…..

The Catch-22 with Global Ballast Water Regulations and Trojan Technologies' Efforts to Settle Them (6/29/16)

……"To date, no one in the world has received U.S. certification," said Williamson. "So ship owners globally are in this quandary of needing to buy this equipment—especially with the IMO getting close to ratification—but not knowing if this equipment will be ultimately accepted for use in U.S. waters. It's a nightmare situation for vessel owners."……

Ballast Water Exemptions Are Leaving Alaska Open to Invasion (6/24/16)

……..But the new permitting system still allows ships to skirt managing their ballast water if they are traveling within a single US Coast Guard-designated regional zone. Some of these regional zones, however, are huge. For Alaska, one zone encompasses nearly the entire state. That means that if an invasive species takes hold at one Alaskan port, it may get a free ticket to other ports. And this doesn't apply just to Alaska; this exemption exists throughout the country…..

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Trojan Marinex Awarded for Fighting Invasive Species by RRISC (6/20/16)

> Trojan Marinex has been named the winner of the 2016 Outstanding Private Sector Achievement award from the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC). The award goes to a private sector company that has introduced a product or service that has the potential to make a significant contribution to reducing the environmental and economic risks posed by invasive species. The award – recognizing Trojan's environmental stewardship and ballast water treatment technology – was presented on June 15, 2016 at the annual RRISC Congressional Reception in Washington, D.C.**...**

FISH

Common carp disrupt ecosystem structure and function through middle-out effects (6/20/16)

> …….The loss of water transparency, submersed vegetation and a shift in zooplankton dynamics were the strongest effects. Trophic levels furthest from direct pathway effects were also affected (fish life history traits). The present study demonstrates that common carp can exert substantial effects on ecosystem structure and function. Species capable of middle-out effects can greatly modify communities through a variety of available pathways and are not confined to traditional top-down or bottom-up processes. [*Note: Full article = $$$*]

Feeding Ecology of Native and Nonnative Salmonids during the Expansion of a Nonnative Apex Predator in Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone National Park (4/14/16)

> ……The shifts in Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and Lake Trout diets resulted in increased trophic similarity of these species through time due to their shared reliance on benthic amphipods. Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout not only face the threat posed by Lake Trout predation but also face the potential threat of competition with Lake Trout if amphipods are limiting. Our results demonstrate the importance of studying the long-term feeding ecology of fishes in invaded ecosystems. [*Note: Full article = $$$*]

New lionfish sightings in Turkey and Cyprus Marine Protected Areas (6/20/16)

> This concerns an invasive species in the Mediterranean with potential serious economic and ecologic consequences that has already caused damage in other regions such as the United States and the Caribbean….
>
> **Related Story:** Aliens Attack! Invasive Lionfish Arrive in Mediterranean (6/28/16)

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OTHER

Genetic reconstruction of a bullfrog invasion to elucidate vectors of introduction and secondary spread (6/28/16)

> …..In the Yellowstone, two identified haplotypes implied few introduction vectors and a significant relationship between genetic and river distance was found. Evidence for multiple invasions and lack of subsequent regional spread emphasizes the importance of enforcing legislation prohibiting bullfrog importation and the need for continuing public education to prevent transport of bullfrogs in MT. More broadly, this study demonstrates how genetic approaches can reveal key properties of a biological invasion to inform management strategies…..

Eat invasive species and save Oregon's natives (6/24/16)

> Tom Kaye loved the triple threat Louisiana crawdad dip alongside his fried frog legs and purple varnish clam chowder. And the bacon-wrapped starling kabob in a blackberry reduction "was to die for," said Kaye, executive director of the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis....

VT: Invasive 'rock snot' turned out to be a native – so why is it suddenly a problem? (6/28/16)

> An invasive freshwater algae with blooms so nasty they are called "rock snot" has provided an unusual (maybe even unique) surprise in the struggle against imported species: Scientific sleuthing found that it's not invasive after all, but has actually been lurking unnoticed in New England longer than humans have been here….
>
> **Related Story:** VT: Felt-Soled Wader Ban is Repealed (6/20/16)

Invasive species could cause billions in damages to agriculture (6/20/16)

> UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- Invasive insects and pathogens could be a multi-billion-dollar threat to global agriculture and developing countries may be the biggest target, according to a team of international researchers…..
>
> Study can be found HERE

Economics of Controlling Invasive Species: A Stochastic Optimization Model for a Spatial-dynamic Process (6/20/16)

> We analyze the dynamic process of invasive-species control in a spatially explicit and stochastic setting. An integer optimization model is applied to identify optimal strategies to deal with invasive species at a steady state. Optimal strategies depend on the spatial

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location of invasion as well as on stochastic characteristics of spread and control. Previous studies of invasive-species control have been stochastic or spatial, but not both. We model a landscape as consisting of multiple cells, each of which may be subject to border control or eradication within the cell. Optimal strategies from the model are characterized as eradication, containment, or abandonment of control. Representing the rate of species spread as stochastic rather than deterministic results in less-intensive control becoming optimal at equilibrium. The optimal strategy may switch from eradication to containment or from containment to abandonment. If an infestation occurs at the boundary of the region within which it may spread, it is more likely to be optimal to eradicate or contain the species, compared to an infestation in the interior of the region. If the effectiveness of border control is stochastic, then containment is not feasible in the long term, but it is still optimal as a temporary measure in some scenarios.

The role of anglers in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region (6/16/16)

The spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is an ongoing challenge in the Great Lakes region. Anglers play a pivotal role in preventing or contributing to the spread of these organisms. Anglers in the Great Lakes region were surveyed by mail during fall 2013 to assess their AIS-related awareness, knowledge, and concern as well as the actions they took to prevent the spread of AIS. Many anglers were aware of AIS, knowledgeable and concerned about them, and taking some actions to prevent their spread. However, certain actions, such as drying and disinfecting or rinsing equipment with hot water, were more difficult and were reported less frequently. Because many anglers already recognize the importance of taking action to prevent the spread of AIS, future outreach efforts may be able to deemphasize communication about the importance of taking action and focus more on strategies that will enable anglers to take these actions. [Note: Full article = $$$]

AQUACULTURE

AquaBounty seeks to intervene in challenge of FDA's approval of GE salmon (6/22/16)

AquaBounty, the maker of the world's first genetically engineered salmon, has asked a federal court to allow it to assist the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in defending a challenge to the F.D.A.'s authority to regulate GE animals….

WEEDS

AK: Efforts underway to eradicate invasive plants (6/28/16)

A group formed in May is trying to tackle the problem of invasive plants in the Ketchikan area. The Cooperative Weed Management Area partnership group hosted a presentation earlier this month to raise awareness of the issue and provide tips on how to identify and eradicate weeds threatening native plants.

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MN: New suite of research on aquatic invasive plants kicks off at MAISRC

Starting this summer, MAISRC researcher Dr. Dan Larkin is launching new research on four invasive plants of great concern in Minnesota: hydrilla, starry stonewort, curly-leaf pondweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil.

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
- 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.

Archived Invasive Mussel Collaborative webinar: Developing Innovative Control Technologies.

If you were unable to participate in the 6/21/16 webinar, or would like to review any of the material, the entire webinar is now available online HERE

JOBS/GRANTS

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 CWMAs, 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

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(NFWF), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

Fish Biologist: Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service

3 vacancies in the following locations:

- **Carterville, IL**
- **Wilmington, IL**
- Ashland, WI

The incumbent located at the Carterville Office will work largely on either habitat and native fish restoration or Asian carp management and control efforts. Incumbent may work with partners to develop and implement habitat restoration projects and/or sampling for a variety of species using nets and electrofishing. Incumbent will use teamwork, creativity, and partnering skills to help solve complex and evolving problems.

The incumbent located at the Wilmington Sub-Office will work on Asian carp management and control efforts. Incumbent may complete innovative sonar work in and around the Electric Dispersal Barrier and/or sampling for a variety of species using nets and electrofishing. Incumbent will use teamwork, creativity, and partnering skills to help solve complex and evolving problems.

Closes Monday 7/11/2016

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

STATE

VT: Felt-Soled Wader Ban is Repealed (6/20/16)

MONTPELIER, VT – Many anglers will be happy to learn that a five-year ban on the use of felt-soled waders in Vermont has been repealed, effective July 1, 2016. Using felt-soled waders and boots was prohibited in 2011 out of concern about the spread of didymo, an algae also known as "rock snot," which was appearing as nuisance blooms in trout rivers throughout North America, including some rivers here in Vermont. The porous felt on boot bottoms helps prevent slipping on rocks, but it was considered a potential means of transporting the algae spores from one body of water to another….

FEDERAL

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House Passes "Save Our Salmon Act," (7/5/16)

On 7/5/16 the House passed H.R. 4582 (Rep. Jeff Denham, R-CA), the *"Save Our Salmon Act,"* by voice vote. The legislation will exclude striped bass from the fish doubling requirement and other provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, eliminating the ongoing federal conflict between protecting striped bass and endangered salmon in California…..

Gillibrand Announces Legislation To Protect New York's Natural Resources, Prevent Invasive Species From Entering The U.S. (6/24/16)

Ithaca, NY – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, today announced the *Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act,* legislation to protect New York's natural resources from the threat of invasive species. This legislation would prevent potentially harmful species from being imported into the country and across state lines…..

[*Editor's Note: We are still waiting to see text on this bill…stay tuned]*

WRDA voted out of Senate panel (4/28/16)

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and Barbara Boxer (D-CA), ranking member of the Senate EPW Committee, praised broad bipartisan support for the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016* [S. 2848] at the Senate EPW markup on 4/28/16. The legislation was reported out of the committee by a vote of 19 to 1.

Note: See page 72 of the bill. This "technical fix" language will allow the use of federal funds (USACE) to support watercraft inspection stations outside of the Columbia River Basin drainage:

> (b) Watercraft Inspection Stations, Columbia River Basin.— Section 104(d) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(d)) is amended—
>
> > (1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''stations in the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington'' and inserting ''stations to protect the Columbia River Basin''; and

S. 2848 Report Language can be found HERE, see page 77.

NOW WHAT: Senate: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, on 6/29/16 announced a letter being sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Majority Whip John Cornyn by 29 Republicans requesting the legislation be brought to the floor for consideration before the summer recess [*Which begins 7/15/16*]. Inhofe also spoke on the Senate floor calling for

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Senators to begin submitting amendments to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for 2016.

House: Rep. Bill Shuster moved a version out of his Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in May. Even if both bills pass their respective chambers this month, the Senate version contains aid for Flint, Mich. and other cities with lead water pipes, which could be tough for the House to swallow.

National GMO labeling bill brings both cheers and jeers (6/27/16)

There was praise and criticism both sides of the genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling debate late last week after the Senate passed a [procedural vote to proceed with a] compromise bill……Meanwhile, AquaBounty recently asked a federal court to allow it to assist the F.D.A. in defending a challenge to the agency's authority to regulate GE animals. A coalition of groups led by the Center for Food Safety filed a federal lawsuit claiming the F.D.A. lacks the authority to make rulings on genetically engineered animals, based on the argument that U.S. Congress first must provide "explicit statutory authority" to the agency…….

Now What: The bill should be voted on the week of 7/4/16.

Archived Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5032, **H.R. 5430**, and H.R. 5468 (6/23/16)

H.R. 5430 (Rep. Louie Gohmert)**,** To exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. *"Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2016";*

House Appropriations Committee Approves Fiscal Year 2017 Interior and Environment Bill (6/15/16)

For the **HOUSE** bill's report go HERE, and see the following:

PAGE 18 (USFWS) -- The recommendation includes $74,918,000 for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Klamath agreement is funded at $1,610,000, as requested. Asian carp control is funded at $8,400,000. Quagga and zebra mussel control is funded at $2,000,000, as requested. Sea lamprey administrative costs are funded at $711,000, as requested. Increases above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level include $250,000 for the National Fish Passage Program and $1,140,000 to implement State and interstate aquatic invasive species plans mandated by the National Invasive Species Act. The total amount allocated to the States for implementing such plans should be not less than $3,706,000.

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PAGE 24 (NPS) -- Aquatic Invasive Species: —The Committee remains concerned about the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in the West. As of 2015, there were 10 western parks with established quagga/zebra mussel management or prevention programs. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Interior to continue developing and updating, using the best available science minimum protocols and training techniques for Federal, State, local, and private entities, a consistent standard of inspection and decontamination of recreational watercraft and equipment, as prescribed in the February 2010 Quagga/Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters. Further, consistent with fiscal year 2016, the Committee provides the Service with $2,000,000 for quagga and zebra mussel containment, prevention, and enforcement and directs the Service to prioritize the decontamination of watercraft and equipment leaving the watersheds of contaminated bodies, including Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Lastly, the Committee directs the Service to provide, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, a report on steps taken in recent years to address this pervasive threat to western watersheds.

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 language:**

> **Page 9** [Multi-Agency Directives] - Invasive Species —The Committee recognizes the critical importance of early detection and rapid response [EDRR] of invasive species as a strategy to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species and expects the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to prioritize EDRR and control of invasive species that imperil endangered, threatened, or candidate species. In particular, the Committee supports efforts to prioritize EDRR in areas with large populations of invasive species. Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this act, the agencies shall provide the Committee with a report on their efforts to prioritize EDRR as part of their expected program of work for fiscal year 2017, including detail on how the agencies plan to protect specific native species and natural resource values on public lands across the Nation.
>
> **Page 26** [USFWS]: Aquatic Invasive Species —$16,160,000 is provided for aquatic invasive species activities, an increase of $704,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and equal to the administration's request. Within this amount, $2,038,000 is provided for invasive species prevention.
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> Asian Carp —The Committee recognizes the importance of the work conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service to combat the serious threat of Asian carp to the ecosystem and fisheries of the Great Lakes and provides $7,900,000 to be used specifically on Asian carp activities. To prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, the Committee recommends the Aquatic Invasive Species program create a dedicated funding source to increase the intensity and geographic scope of efforts to combat Asian carp.

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Invasive Species—The Committee is aware that work is ongoing in several regions to address the threats posed by aquatic invasive species and directs the Service to continue to make available competitive grant funding for projects to eliminate these destructive, non-native species, which include Asian carp, quagga-zebra mussels, and variable-leaf watermilfoil. The Committee encourages the Service to support research, monitoring, and mitigation efforts, as well as efforts to disseminate such work, in all regions.

Page 36 [USGS] Ecosystems—……. The Committee also provides an additional $250,000 for the invasive species program to combat invasive species of national concern. The Committee expects the base funding of $5,620,000 to continue to be used to address Asian Carp issues in the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River.

NOW WHAT: According to *E&E Daily* (7/5/16): The House this week [week of 7/5/16] will prepare to debate its fiscal 2017 spending bill for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA. Lawmakers will have until Thursday midmorning to submit amendments to the $32.1 billion funding measure, Rules Chairman Pete Sessions (R-Texas) announced Friday. Floor votes on amendments and final passage will likely occur next week. [Source: *Reprinted from E&E Daily with permission from Environment & Energy Publishing, www.eenews.net; 202/628-6500*].

VIDA: Senate/House Defense Authorization bills to Conference

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. Most recently the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies have weighed in against the VIDA language.

NOW WHAT: "In the face of substantial differences over a variety of issues in the House and Senate versions of the fiscal 2017 defense authorization bill, the lead staff for

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the congressional committees that produced the two measures said the bills aren't as far apart as it may seem. (See Committee Staff Discuss Policy Bill Differences (6/23/16))"

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

Related Stories: Environmentalists: Proposal Could Add Invasive Species to Great Lakes (7/5/16) and Commentary: Ballast water rule changes will work (6/27/16)

MEETINGS

JULY

15th Ballast Water Management Summit Date: 13th July 2016 - 14th July 2016 Location: Singapore

PNWER 26th Annual Summit – July 17-21 Calgary, AB

ISAC - meeting on 12-14 July -- The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), sponsored by the Department of the Interior (DOI), will meet on 12-14 July in Washington, DC. Topics on the agenda include an update on progress of federal agency implementation of prior ISAC recommendations and strengthening federal/state coordination. 81 Fed. Reg. 40919 (6/23/16)

AUGUST

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

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.

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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.

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

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