



## ***AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS***

***09/21/15***

### ***DREISSENID MUSSELS***

#### **[Calif: Without funds, San Justo mussels would extend long stay \(9/1/15\)](#)**

A \$3 million eradication of San Justo Reservoir's zebra mussels will take one to two years to execute once initiated, and it might not commence for several more years because there are no funds dedicated to the project. It has been nearly eight years since the discovery of invasive zebra mussels at [San Justo Reservoir](#), prompting a closure of the popular fishing hole that doubles as a water source for the San Benito County Water District's customers. More than a dozen officials Monday discussed scenarios that could involve an eradication process—using the natural potash substance chosen six years ago—extending well into the 2020s. Federal officials are wrapping up their environmental impact review three years after the water district finished its own local EIR. Next, involved agencies must devise an eradication plan and obtain funding before they can treat the water.....

#### **[BC: Mussel invasion costly \(9/4/15\)](#)**

By now, we've heard the horror stories about what an infestation of quagga or zebra mussels could mean in Okanagan Lake. From the cost of repairing and replacing lake infrastructure to environmental repercussions, the yearly cost would be in the millions of dollars. Julia Lew with the Southern Nevada Water Authority brought her knowledge of the mussel's impact to the Okanagan Basin Water Board's annual meeting.....

#### **[Researchers to try to map genome of zebra mussel \(9/15/15\)](#)**

University of Minnesota scientists Tuesday announced they will try to be the first in the world to map the entire genetic sequence of *Dreissena polymorpha*, aka the zebra mussel, the invasive mollusk spreading across waters in Minnesota and the country. But unlike

the Human Genome Project, which aspires to benefit humanity, the U's project could spell bad news for zebra mussel-kind. "Like all species, zebra mussels have weaknesses that can be exploited for control, and we want to find those," Michael McCartney, the project's lead researcher and a professor at the University's Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, said in Tuesday's announcement. The center is teaming up with the U's Genomics Center on the effort.....

[Lake Piru, CA Invasive Quagga mussels surviving the drought \(9/6/15\)](#)

Santa Clarita Valley residents are not the only ones surviving the drought locally - so are the invasive zebra and quagga mussels at Lake Piru, a spokesman for the lake park said. As water levels continue to drop at [Lake Piru](#), quagga and zebra mussels attached to docks and walls are dying with exposure to the sun but not enough to eradicate the pest, Lake Piru Recreation Area Senior Park Services Officer Clayton Strahan told The Signal recently.....

[Treatment used on algae at Blackridge Reservoir may help Utah combat 'STD of the sea' \(9/6/15\)](#)

HERRIMAN, Utah -- After shutting down Blackridge Reservoir earlier this summer due to algae, the city of Herriman found a way to treat the algae problem while at the same time killing off invasive quagga mussels found in lakes across Utah.....

[KS: Searching For Zebra Mussels In Wellington Lake \(9/3/15\)](#)

Biologists and aquatic species experts will be checking more than a dozen lakes and reservoirs across Kansas this month.....

[Which Utah school has fewest STDs? Colleges tested in DWR Quagga Bowl 2015 \(9/11/15\)](#)

It's on! The showdown is underway... Which Utah school will emerge with the fewest STDs?

[USACE Omaha District: Zebra Mussels discovered at Lewis and Clark Lake \(9/17/15\)](#)

.....The Omaha District Corps of Engineers is working with other federal, state, and local agencies to develop a coordinated response to the discovery. Agencies are currently investigating the extent of the infestation below Gavins Point Dam and increasing boat inspections around Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River. South Dakota and Nebraska have implemented regulations requiring that boats must be drained

of all water prior to leaving a launch area and have drain plugs removed while in transit.....

## **BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS**

### [MLA: B.C. not doing enough to guard against zebra and quagga mussels \(9/18/15\)](#)

MLA Macdonald: It only makes sense, economically and environmentally, to keep zebra and quagga mussels out of BC's lakes and rivers by checking every single boat entering the province from other jurisdictions.....

### [B.C. continues fight against invasive mussels \(9/3/15\)](#)

B.C.'s new invasive mussel defence teams have made great strides patrolling highways throughout the province, searching for tiny molluscs on transported watercraft. Since May 2015, the teams have inspected over 3,200 boats, keeping B.C. safe from invasive quagga and zebra mussels. So far, inspections have taken place in 19 communities, from the Lower Mainland to Valemount, including Kamloops, Osoyoos, Midway, Castlegar, Cranbrook and Golden.....

**Related Story:** [Opinion: Beyond the Headlines Good, but not Great \(9/9/15\)](#)

### [WY: Watercraft inspections target invasive species influx \(9/2/15\)](#)

The pick-up truck hauling a jet boat had to be going 60 mph on WYO 120 heading towards Cody. Bradley Murphy, Game and Fish watercraft inspector, eyed the approaching vehicle and when he realized it demonstrated no sign of braking he began vigorously waving his arms. The message was clear. Murphy did everything but hold up a stop sign. The driver slowed, turned around and cruised into watercraft pit road like a flagged Indianapolis 500 car.....

### [AB: A Western Showdown With Mussels \(9/7/15\)](#)

COUTTS, Alberta — At an inspection station here on the border with Montana, a black dog in an orange vest briskly scoured the hull of a motorboat, her nose twitching as she investigated every crevice. Suddenly she found the scent: a quagga mussel. Wicket sat and looked expectantly at her handler. “Good dog,” said Aimee Hurt, who trained Wicket for a group called [Working Dogs for Conservation](#). She tossed a red rubber ball on a rope to her, which she attacked with gusto. “She’s not just a seeker” of mussels, she said. “She’s a destroyer because if she could, she’d chomp them.”.....

[MNDNR partners with local governments for record number of watercraft inspectors \(9/3/15\)](#)

The Department of Natural Resources has been partnering with local governments such as counties and cities to increase the number of watercraft inspectors at public water accesses in Minnesota. Inspectors are an important component in the effort to protect state waters from aquatic invasive species.....Under a law passed by the state Legislature in 2014, counties statewide were allocated a total of \$4.5 million in 2014, \$10 million in 2015, and \$10 million each year after that to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at access sites within the counties....

**Related Story:** [Minnesota must stop the spread of invasive species in our lakes \(9/10/15\)](#)

## **MARINE/BALLAST WATER**

[Coast Guard Makes Ballast Water Compliance Easier \(9/18/15\)](#)

On September 10, 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard issued [new ballast water compliance guidance](#) that simplifies and clarifies the process by which vessels can seek extensions to come into compliance with ballast water discharge standards.

[Unilateral regulation is damaging shipping, warns IMO secretary-general \(9/10/15\)](#)

Frustration grows as ballast water legislation blockages threaten to undermine the IMO's global regulation....

## **OTHER**

[Invasive crayfish in Oregon devastate native newts \(9/2/15\)](#)

At Crater Lake, the National Park Service is seeking solutions — but it could be too late....

[Replacing Pesticides With Genetics \(8/31/15\)](#)

.....At a university laboratory down the road, scientists are hoping to substitute sex for sprays. They have genetically modified thousands of diamondback moths, infusing them with DNA designed to kill female larvae. In August, the researchers began introducing the altered moths into outdoor cages in a field, where their mating habits will be monitored.....

[Transboundary Cooperation In The International Columbia River Basin: A Preliminary Assessment of Existing Arrangements and Future Prospects \(9/1/15\)](#)

This report is an assessment of the current state of transboundary cooperation between the United States and Canada within the international Columbia River basin on issues broadly related to water resource management. Current initiatives were identified and categorized into several management categories including: ecosystem function, fish passage & restoration, climate change, invasive species and/or toxics management, energy, and international river governance.....

## **WEEDS**

[New Mystery Thriller Novel Reveals Controversial Invasive Aquatic Plant Species \(9/3/15\)](#)

.....It was just a matter of time before the controversial invasive plant species, Arundo Donax became the subject of a conspiracy depicted in a fictional novel. In what appears to be the first fictional novel surrounding the controversial subject, such a conspiracy is at the heart of "Secrets of the River Cane" by author T.L. Seacliff.....

[3-ton 'Marsh Monster' helping reclaim Great Salt Lake shorelands from invasive species \(9/13/15\)](#)

....The enemy is called phragmites, which is a non-native plant that is quickly taking over the shorelands, choking out local plants and destroying the habitat of hundreds of species.....

[Nebraska's Goose Lake WMA Closed due to Invasive Plant \(9/8/15\)](#)

LINCOLN, NEB. -- Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, located southeast of Chambers in southern Holt County, has been closed to public access by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission until further notice. The closure is necessary due to a heavy infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant, at the lake....

[MT adds 3 new invasive plants to Noxious Weed List \(9/3/15\)](#)

The State of Montana updated the Montana State Noxious Weed List to include three new plants and shifted the priorities of three existing weeds effective July 2015..... One new plant was added to the priority 1A list, Common reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*), which has been detected within the state.....Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*) and Parrot Feather Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum* or *M. brasiliense*) were added to the Regulated Plant List.

[AK: Invasive elodea found north of Nenana; first Interior sighting beyond Fairbanks area \(9/1/15\)](#)

FAIRBANKS—An aquatic weed previously thought to have invaded only Interior waterways around Fairbanks has now been spotted downstream of Nenana. Staff from two federal agencies confirmed last week that thick patches of elodea are growing in Totchaket Slough, a small side stream of the Tanana River about 12 miles from Nenana, according to the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District.

## FISH

[Work resumes to block Asian carp from Great Lakes \(9/7/15\)](#)

*Fort Wayne, Ind.* — Earth-moving crews who faced a summer-long rain delay have resumed work on an earthen berm through a northeastern Indiana marsh that's considered a possible pathway for Asian carp to reach the Great Lakes. This summer's persistent heavy rains and flooding delayed work on the 2 mile-long berm through Eagle Marsh by at least three months, said Duane Riethman, an engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the federal agency that's overseeing the project....

[Yellowstone: Battling the lake trout invasion \(9/19/15\)](#)

It seems strange to write about an "invasion" of a popular sport fish species such as lake trout. However, when mentioned while writing about Yellowstone Lake and the state of the cutthroat population, which has seen its numbers suffer for the last two decades, lake trout (which absolutely love to eat cutthroats) actually become an invasive species. Beginning in 1994, officials of the National Park Service found evidence of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake. Officials blamed the discovery on an "illegal" stocking of the lake trout by persons unknown.....

[WDFW suspends fishing limits on 6 Eastern Washington lakes \(9/11/15\)](#)

"There's no reason why anglers can't catch as many trout, perch and other gamefish as they can find before we treat the lakes," said Bruce Bolding, a WDFW fish biologist. "There are still some nice fish in those waters, along with the panfish and bullheads." All six lakes will close to fishing before state fish managers treat them with rotenone, an organic substance derived from plant roots that is approved for use as a fish pesticide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additional information is available on WDFW's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/>.

[New regulations displease some Oregon bass fishermen \(9/8/15\)](#)

.....ODFW has said the proposal is meant to lower the rate at which bass prey on native salmon and steelhead smolts, especially in the John Day River where rising water temperatures have lured smallmouth bass higher into the watershed....

[ODFW temporarily lifts fishing restrictions on 10 NE Oregon waters \(9/3/15\)](#)

Agency plans chemical treatments this fall - The goal of these rotenone treatments is to remove illegally introduced brown bullhead catfish, largemouth bass, black crappie and/or goldfish. According to Bratcher, many of these water bodies have been overpopulated by these illegally introduced fish, which compete with rainbow trout thus reducing fishing opportunities. In many cases these introduced fish have become stunted themselves due to overcrowding.

[Southern Alberta town hopes to rid storm ponds of invasive goldfish \(9/18/15\)](#)

There's something fishy about the storm water ponds in a town in southern Alberta. The town of High river says anywhere between 35 and 100 domestic goldfish have been spotted in the forebays of the storm pond system of Highwood Lake. It's asking people who can't care for their fish anymore to contact pet shops or veterinarians. Senior fish biologist Craig Mushens, who's working with the town to fix the problem, says the fish are an invasive species.....

**FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL  
LEGISLATION, ACTIONS**

[The Odds of a Shutdown Spike -- A budget expert puts the likelihood at 75 percent \(9/20/15\)](#)

...First and foremost, there is not enough time to reach a deal. Not only have none of the fiscal 2016 appropriations yet been signed into law, none have even passed both the House and Senate. With less than two calendar weeks (and far fewer days of potential legislative work) to go, the only way to keep the government from shutting down will be for Congress and the president to agree on a continuing resolution to fund the government for a short time while a larger deal is negotiated....

[Opinion: Ballast bill would harm Great Lakes \(9/13/15\)](#)

Had enough zebra mussels and other invasive species in the Great Lakes? The shipping industry thinks, "apparently not." We've known for decades that ships' ballast water has been the primary entryway for invasive species such as quagga mussels, "fish Ebola" and bloody red shrimp into the Great Lakes. Nonetheless, the industry's lobbyists have been working overtime pushing legislation that would exempt their ballast water discharges from the Clean Water Act. The exemption would shift the burden of invasive species

away from the shipping industry and onto fishers and others who benefit from a healthy Great Lakes.....

[*Note: While the author does not identify the legislation by name or number, it is assumed to be the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act ([S. 373](#)).]*

**Related Story:** [Opinion: Ballast water treatment standards protect the Great Lakes \(9/15/15\)](#)

### [Federal Policy Options Addressing the Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species Onto and Off of Federal Lands and Waters \(8/28/15\)](#)

The United States faces significant economic and environmental threats from invasive species. The prevention, management, and control of invasive species is a cross-cutting issue involving multiple federal agencies and requires a coordinated multi-agency response with tribal, state, and local jurisdictions. This paper provides guidance and policy options to increase coordination among the federal government and state and local partners to strengthen national efforts to prevent and contain the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). This paper summarizes a review completed by federal agencies of their current authorities and potential opportunities to prevent and control AIS on federal lands and waters. The paper focuses on AIS but more general authorities may pertain to terrestrial species as well. This summary and the underlying review may serve as an informational guide to identify existing laws, regulations, and policies that can be utilized by agencies or bureaus to address the movement of invasive species both onto and off of federally managed lands and waters; it does not represent a complete or definitive list of all federal legal authorities on invasive species nor is it intended to interpret or amend any federal legal authorities. Additional steps for consideration by participating federal agencies as well as partners within the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the National Invasive Species Council are identified at the end of this paper.

### [USFWS: New Strategic Plan Targets Current, Future Challenges to Fish and Aquatic Resources \(9/15/15\)](#)

The plan provides an overarching strategic vision that will guide the program's annual operations for fiscal years 2016-2020. For information about the plan go [HERE](#) and see Goal 3: Manage Aquatic Invasive Species

### [Senator Schumer Says Wildfires Should Be Treated Like Any Other Natural Disaster and Granted Eligibility for Additional Disaster Funding, Allowing Invasive Species Funding To Remain Intact \(9/16/15\)](#)

..... the Forest Service should have budgetary relief so that they can better combat wildfire emergencies while maintaining resources to counter the spread of invasive species, like the Emerald Ash Borer. Schumer said that by allowing the Forest Service access to federal disaster relief assistance, it would allow agencies responsible for

fighting wildfires to have more budgetary certainty to continue their efforts in fighting wildfires without disrupting any funding from crucial programs that fight invasive species, like the Ash Borer throughout Upstate NY. Schumer said wildfires should be treated like any other natural disaster and granted eligibility for disaster funding, **so invasive species funding remains intact**. Schumer said repeatedly borrowing funding from programs to cover shortfalls in other programs creates long-term structural budget issues and sets up unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. In order to avoid this “fire borrowing,” Schumer is cosponsoring and pushing legislation, the *Wildlife Disaster Funding Act of 2015*, [[S. 235](#)] which would allow the Forest Service access to disaster funding to pay for emergency wildfire costs. Specifically, this would include applying for disaster relief funds to cover the cost of wildfire fighting when their regular funds are exhausted. In addition to providing greater financial flexibility for wildfire programs, it would also preserve the funding stream for programs that attempt to eliminate invasive species like the Ash Borer. This legislation was introduced by Senator Ron Wyden [D-OR]. Schumer said fighting wildfires and preventing the spread of invasive species are both top priorities. Ultimately, this legislation would provide budgetary relief so programs like those that combat the Ash Borer in Upstate New York can remain intact through the fiscal year.....

#### [Rep. Dan Benishek to Retire in 2016](#)

Rep. Benishek is the co-chair of the [house invasive species caucus](#)

#### **Boxer vows to block ‘devastating’ House drought bill**

According to *Greenwire*: “Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) promised yesterday [8/31/15] that she would block a House bill [[H.R.2898](#)] aimed at easing the effects of California’s drought. “That bill is devastating,” she said in response to a question. “It’s already a battle to save the endangered species given climate change. Now if we take water away from them, it’s going to only exacerbate the problem, so we need those 41 votes and we’ll stop it in its tracks.” [Reprinted from *Greenwire* with permission from Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC. [www.eenews.net](#). 202/628-6500]

[*Note: HR 2898 includes a nonnative predator fish removal program*]

## **IN MEMORIAM**

[Conservationist Zeke Grader, advocate for fish, dies](#)

Zeke Grader, a lifelong conservationist who loved wild fish, wild rivers and the good fight necessary to protect them, has died. He was 68. “You would probably not be eating a wild California salmon today if it were not for Zeke,” said his friend Tim Sloane, the executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations. “He was not afraid of speaking truth to power. He wasn’t afraid of anyone.”

## MEETINGS

### OCTOBER

[Save the Date: Society of Wetland Scientists PNW Chapter 2015 Regional Conference --](#)  
October 6th, 7th & 8th 2015, Red Lion Conference Center, Olympia, WA

**The Columbia River Basin Team of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative will meet **October 7&8, 2015** at the [Embassy Suites Portland Airport](#). Contact [sanderson@psmfc.org](mailto:sanderson@psmfc.org) for further information.**

[Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference](#): October 17-19 2016 La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**Oregon Invasive Species Council**: Please set aside **October 14th** in your calendars for the next OISC meeting. We will be meeting at 9am at Portland State University in the Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) building room 296. For further information contact Christian Parker [cparker@talloaks-environmental.com](mailto:cparker@talloaks-environmental.com)

[13th Ballast Water Management Summit](#): 21-22 October 2015, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

**ISAC**: The Fall 2015 meeting of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 through Friday, October 30, 2015, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library (NAL), 10301 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Rt. 1), Beltsville, MD 20705.

### NOVEMBER

[Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation](#) November 8-12 Portland, Oregon.

### 2016

### JANUARY

[ICMB-IX - Hulls, harbours and other invasion hotspots](#): 19-21 January 2016, Sydney, **Australia**  
The International Society for the Study of Marine Bioinvasions invites you to participate in the 9th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions (ICMB-IX), in Sydney, Australia.

Abstracts should be submitted to the ICMB Scientific Steering Committee using the electronic form on the '[Call for Abstracts](#)' page.

## **FEBRUARY**

Invasive Species Council of BC, **INVASIVES 2016: Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM**, will be held **Feb. 2-3, 2016** at the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond, BC. Everyone welcome! Enjoy two action-filled days of learning, networking and sharing with colleagues from across North America. Registration is open; be sure to enjoy early bird rates until Dec. 15th, 2015. See the [Draft Agenda](#) (*as of July 28, 2015*). [REGISTER](#)

## **APRIL**

[ICAIS: 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#) Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; **April 10-14, 2016. CALL FOR ABSTRACTS** Submit abstracts in electronic format to the [Conference Administrator](#) before **September 23, 2015**

## **MAY**

[The Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society](#) international conference Marine & Freshwater Invasive Species Ecology, Impact and Management, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May **2-4, 2016**.

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