



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

NEWS

12/1/16

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[Governor Bullock Forms Rapid Response Team to Address Aquatic Invasive Species \(11/30/16\)](#)

Governor Steve Bullock issued an [executive order](#) declaring a statewide natural resource emergency for Montana water bodies due to the detection of the larvae of invasive aquatic mussels at Tiber Reservoir and suspected detections at Canyon Ferry Reservoir and the Milk and Missouri rivers. The signing of the Executive Order triggers the deployment of an interagency rapid response team to respond to the emerging situation.....

Related Story: [Governor declares invasive species emergency \(11/30/16\)](#)

[MT: Samples from Missouri River, south of Townsend, suspect for mussel larva \(11/23/16\)](#)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continues the search for the presence of aquatic invasive mussels after recent test results found larvae in Tiber Reservoir and a suspect larva in Canyon Ferry. On Tuesday, water sample results from the Missouri River south of Townsend, near the [York's Islands Fishing Access Site](#), also came in suspect for aquatic invasive mussel larva....

Related Stories, Links:

[USGS NAS Alert For Tiber Reservoir](#)

[Lake County Commissioners approve additional funding for mussel prevention \(11/30/30\)](#)

[Organizations from Canada, U.S. joining forces to address looming threat of invasive species \(11/28/16\)](#)

[Canadians join search for invasive mussels after Montana detection \(11/25/16\)](#)

[Preliminary testing shows invasive mussel in Missouri River near Townsend \(11/23/16\)](#)

[Montana on High Alert After Mussel Discovery \(11/22/16\)](#)

[Officials from 4 states, 3 Canadian provinces gather in Boise, address new invasive mussel finding in Montana \(11/18/16\)](#)

[Invasive mussel larvae find in Montana prompts concern throughout Northwest \(11/18/16\)](#)

[Invasive mussel contamination threat closes Creston hatchery \(11/18/16\)](#)

[Mussels close in on Alberta irrigation districts \(11/17/16\)](#)

[*Christian Science Monitor*: How dogs sniff out invasive species of mussel in Montana \(11/13/16\)](#)

[Zebra mussels on the Canadian Shield: Are they a threat? \(11/15/16\)](#)

....So, if there is any good news at all on the zebra mussel front, it is the fact that they appear not to be a threat to the profusion of waterways and fisheries found on the Canadian Shield. If you are one of the millions of anglers who enjoy these lakes, or one of the businesses that relies on them, you can breath a deep sigh of relief....

[CO: Invasive mussels' risk limits access on McPhee \(11/15/16\)](#)

New gates on [McPhee Reservoir](#) boat ramps will be installed this year to help control access and prevent an invasive mussel contamination, managers said Monday. But at least one recreation business in Dolores says it will hurt his livelihood. The new plan will limit access for motorized boats to the McPhee and House Creek ramps, and only when boat inspection stations are open.....

[First time: Zebra mussels found in NW Wisconsin \(11/17/16\)](#)

With area lakes dotted with watercraft all summer, you knew it would only be a matter of time before one of Burnett County's lakes tested positive for zebra mussels. That [confirmation came from the Department of Natural Resources](#) earlier this fall when the

agency confirmed Big McKenzie Lake in eastern Burnett and western Washburn County had tested positive for the invasive species.....

[Zebra mussels, still not found in southwest Minnesota, explode in Iowa Great Lakes \(11/29/16\)](#)

SPIRIT LAKE, Iowa — When the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources updated its infested waters list earlier this month, counties in southwest Minnesota remained clear of one of the most damaging aquatic invasive species there is — zebra mussels. The small freshwater mussel has infested 121 Minnesota water bodies, including 26 this year alone. While that number represents less than 2 percent of Minnesota’s more than 11,000 lakes, the preference would be that this threat didn’t exist.

Neighbors to the south in the [Iowa Great Lakes](#) are well aware of the problems caused by the sharp-sided mussels, which attach to everything from rocks and boat lifts to lost water goggles and ladders on water slides.

MARINE

[Calif: Dive Team Heads Underwater to Begin Investigation of Controlling Invasive Species \(11/23/16\)](#)

PALOS VERDES, CA — Los Angeles Waterkeeper, a marine watchdog group, conducted an investigation Wednesday into the effectiveness of removing invasive algae to restore habitats along the Palos Verdes coastline. The investigation specifically studies the non-native algae species *Sargassum horneri*. In 2003, *Sargassum horneri* was introduced to Long Beach Harbor in the form of biological pollution from commercial shipping vessels. Commonly called the “devil weed,” sargassum originates from Japan and Korea, but it has spread as far south as Baja, Mexico and north to Santa Barbara.....

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Ship owners drive down BWMS costs \(11/29/16\)](#)

On a recent visit to Vancouver, three owners reported progress on bringing down the cost of compliance. Containership owner and manager Seaspan Corporation has been operating ballast water management systems under joint industry projects with system manufacturers for the past five years, helping suppliers to develop their units, CEO Peter Curtis told *The Motorship*. The company currently operates such ‘beta-type’ retrofitted units on four vessels. Curtis said: “It’s a case of us learning what we need – will one work across the whole fleet, are some better for retrofitting and are some more prone to technical issues? Bulk carriers and tankers have a bigger problem as containerships don’t change draft as much, so we’ve been able to downsize what we have to retrofit quite

substantially – they don't need to operate to the full capacity of two ballast pumps but partial capacity on one pump. That's a huge change.”

[Pest's impact on Lake Erie a mystery \(11/15/16\)](#)

It has happened again. Lake Erie has been hit with a new invasive species, and one tiny in size, with a yet to be determined clout. At this point, we know that a nonnative zooplankton is present in the lake, and it was very likely transported here and introduced into Erie via the ballast water of an ocean-going freighter. This potential miniature monster is less than a millimeter long, and tinier than an ant, but it represents another potential threat to the delicate food web of the Great Lakes....

Related Story: [Hey, don't look at us for critter sneaking into lake, trade group says \(11/18/16\)](#)

[Fuel Costs Drop with New Generation of Coatings \(11/8/16\)](#)

Cost-conscious shipowners are always looking to cut fuel consumption, especially when day-rates are low. This demand drives innovations in hull coatings, as less fouling means less drag – but better coatings have historically come at a cost, either for the owner or for the environment. In decades past, organotin-based paints kept the flora and fauna off at an affordable price, but they also had negative effects on aquatic life in general. These coatings have long since been banned and replaced by paints containing copper-based biocides, which conform to regulations but are typically less effective than the organotins of yesteryear.

FISH

[AU: Environmental DNA monitoring and management of invasive fish: comparison of eDNA and fyke netting \(11/23/16\)](#)

....Our results show that eDNA is an effective tool for the detection of single or multiple species to complement the traditional approaches using physical capture. As with all survey methods, the eDNA approach suffers from imperfect detection. We conclude that eDNA survey results are more powerful when used in conjunction with other survey methods as a way to enhance detection rates and increase confidence in the monitoring results.

AQUACULTURE

[Alberta fish farmers fear for livelihoods as whirling disease quarantine continues \(11/22/16\)](#)

There are currently more than 45,000 kilograms of rainbow trout at Bob Allen's trout farm — but he isn't allowed to sell them thanks to a deadly fish parasite found in Canada for the first time last summer. His operation on the western outskirts of Calgary is one of the fish farms in Alberta under investigation for suspected whirling disease, which affects trout and salmon, and can cause infected fish to swim in a whirling pattern and die prematurely. Allen faces the possibility of going out of business.....

OTHER

[BC: Invasive bullfrogs are bullies of the pond \(11/27/16\)](#)

...Without alligators, water snakes and other natural predators to keep its numbers down, bullfrogs thrive in their new homes. They spend their time competing against each other to be Top New Pond Predator Thought Least Likely to Succeed. In 2013, Victoria biologists Kevin Jancowski and Stan Orchard identified the stomach contents of more than 5,000 bullfrogs captured in the Greater Victoria area over five years. The researchers found remains of insects, fish, turtles, garter snakes, waterfowl, other frog species and bullfrog young and tadpoles. They also found remains of songbirds and small mammals.....

[Scientists go huge with first aquatic species map of West \(11/27/16\)](#)

...The map eventually will include everything from insects to salmon to river otters. It's possible because of a new technology that can identify stream inhabitants by analyzing water samples containing DNA. The technology also can be used to identify invasive species.....

[Why Doubt Invasive Species Impacts? \(11/25/16\)](#)

[Invasive alien species](#) are now found on every corner of the planet and [rank higher than climate change](#) as a current threat to endangered species. So then why, despite all the [scientific evidence of negative impacts](#) from invasive species, would people be resistant to taking action against them? In two scientific papers released this week myself and colleagues have tried to understand why invasive species have such a low public profile compared to climate change, and furthermore why some elements of society would even try to deny that there is even a problem.....

[Humans make a mess, but invasive species get the blame \(11/27/16\)](#)

.....This, in part, is why conservationists were alarmed this past summer when odd species of turtles were [spotted in Quincy](#) and [Western Massachusetts](#). It's why park

officials in Des Moines are [trying to weed out non-native honeysuckles](#) and Florida conservationists are trying to [persuade chefs and supermarkets to serve up lionfish](#). It's why the United States and the European Union have been [fighting a trade dispute about Maine lobsters in Sweden](#).....

WEEDS

[Distribution and Drivers of a Widespread, Invasive Wetland Grass, *Phragmites australis*, in Wetlands of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, USA \(11/11/16\)](#)

The introduced grass *Phragmites australis* (hereafter *Phragmites*) is one of the most widespread invasive plants in North American wetlands. *Phragmites* has been extensively studied in some regions of North America, such as the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes. However, little research has evaluated the extent of *Phragmites* invasion in the Intermountain West and the environmental drivers that have promoted its spread, particularly in the critically important Great Salt Lake (GSL) wetlands. Here we use high-resolution multispectral imagery to map the current distribution of *Phragmites* around GSL. We then identify factors associated with *Phragmites* presence in GSL using a species distribution model using the Random Forest algorithm. We contrast these findings with what is known about *Phragmites* invasion in other regions. We estimate that *Phragmites* occupies over 93 km² around GSL. *Phragmites* was more likely to be found in wetland areas close to point sources of pollution, at lower elevations with prolonged inundation, and with moderate salinities. Results from our study will assist wetlands managers in prioritizing areas for *Phragmites* monitoring and control by identifying likely areas of prime *Phragmites* habitat. [Full Article = \$\$\$'s]

[BC: Invasive parrotfeather snarling Somenos \(11/17/16\)](#)

Still worried about the creeping menace of an invasive plant called parrotfeather, Craig Meredith has again called on North Cowichan council to take action. He alerted North Cowichan in 2015 that the weed had been found in Somenos Creek and said last week, “during the last 11 months the plant has been allowed to continue to grow with no firm plans, as far as we know, on how it can be arrested before it spreads into the lake.” Meredith wrote to council saying, “Earlier this year, we heard that the B.C. government was going to play an active role in eradicating this invasive weed including using suction machinery to remove it. Now, we learn that the B.C. government did a partial study of the area to find out the extent of the parrotfeather. Somenos creek south of the Tzouhalem bridge was not included in the study because it goes through Cowichan Tribes land and then into the Cowichan River. So rather than something being done to eradicate the weed this year, monies have been spent on an incomplete impact study.”

TRAININGS/WEBINARS/CONFERENCES

Invasive Species Session Being Developed for the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

ORAFS invites you to submit your abstract for the 2017 [ORAFS Annual Meeting](#) to be held at the Riverhouse in Bend, OR from February 28 - March 3, 2017. The theme this year will be "*Casting a Broader Net: Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in the Fisheries Profession*". A session on invasive species is being developed. For specific information on that session, please contact [Toni Pennington](#).

[International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species \(ICAIS\) - ICAIS 2017 Call for Abstracts](#)

The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) is the most comprehensive international forum to address new and emerging issues related to aquatic invasive species. The Technical Program Committee invites the submission of abstracts for presentations and posters addressing the broad range of aquatic invasive species issues affecting freshwater and marine environments. Abstracts are to be submitted in Microsoft Word to the [Conference Administrator](#) **before December 15, 2016**.

View the full [Call for Abstracts](#); [Click here](#) to download the ICAIS 2017 Abstract Preparation and Submission Guidelines. [Click here](#) for the Microsoft Word template to use to submit abstracts.

Learn more about ICAIS (**Fort Lauderdale 10/22-26/17**) at www.icaais.org.

JOBS/GRANTS

[WDFW will accept applications for ALEA volunteer grants \(11/28/16\)](#)

Five major types of projects are funded through the program, although other project types may be considered. Project types include habitat restoration, scientific research/citizen science, public education and outreach, facility development and artificial fish production.

For more program information, visit the ALEA Grant Program website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/alea/>. Starting Dec. 1, interested persons can apply at <http://alea.fluidreview.com>.

[TPWD Jobs: Intern Clerk II-III-IV \(Aquatic Invasive Species Marketing Intern\)](#)

Under the direction of the Marketing Programs Manager, this position will assist with the planning and implementation of the 2017 aquatic invasive species public awareness campaign aimed at educating boaters, anglers, paddlers and other water recreationist about invasive species threatening Texas water bodies and urging them to take action to

slow or stop their spread. Assists with developing and disseminating email communication, social media content, web content, and print collateral such as brochures, flyers and infographics. Coordinates with contracted ad agency on production and placement of paid media including radio ads, digital ads, billboards, gas station advertising and print advertising. Tracks budgets and advertising results and prepares summaries, reports and presentations on campaign efforts. Performs additional duties as assigned. Complies with all Agency, Division and Branch rules, regulations and procedures.

Last Date to Apply: 12/16/2016

[Northwest Staffing Resources Natural Areas Invasive Species Field Worker job in Vancouver, WA](#)

JOB DESCRIPTION: Are you looking for a great opportunity to be involved in your local community? We are seeking an experienced field maintenance worker to apply herbicide to parks, natural areas, storm water facilities, and campus infrastructures. Employees will be working in all weather conditions. This work includes a combination of herbicide application, tree planting and maintaining, weeding, and summer watering. Position involves working in an environment with exposure to chemicals, pollen, insects, and bees. The hours for this position are Monday through Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.

[John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship](#)

Dates: The deadline for application to California Sea Grant is **5 pm Pacific Standard Time, February 10, 2017**. Selected applications from the sponsoring state Sea Grant Program are to be received and validated by Grants.gov by the deadline of 5 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on March 31, 2017.

Funding Opportunity Description: This notice announces that applications may be submitted for the 2018 National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship Program). Sea Grant anticipates funding not less than 30 selected applicants, of which those assigned to the Legislative branch may be limited to 12. Each award will be funded at a total of \$56,500 in federal funding, with the option by the host office to add no more than \$10,000 for fellow travel related to host office duties, for a maximum of \$66,500.

Eligibility: An eligible applicant is any student, regardless of citizenship, who, on February 10, 2017, is enrolled towards a degree in a graduate program, that have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions

affecting those resources. The graduate degree needs to be awarded through a United States accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. Territories.

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

STATE

[California: Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action -- Biofouling Management to Minimize the Transfer of Nonindigenous Species from Vessels Arriving at California Ports](#)

Pursuant to Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 1, Section 71201.7 of the Public Resources Code, the California State Lands Commission, Marine Environmental Protection Division (Commission) is proposing amendments to regulations: Article 4.8, Biofouling Management to Minimize the Transfer of Nonindigenous Species from Vessels Arriving at California Ports.

The Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action and Proposed Text of Regulations are attached to this electronic mail. All rulemaking documents, Initial Statement of Reasons, Proposed Text of Regulations, and the Studies Relied Upon of this regulatory action are posted on the Commission's website for review and comment at <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Laws-Regs/Proposed.html>. If you would like to receive a hard copy of these documents, please contact Commission staff at (562) 499-6400.

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the Commission is required to hold a minimum 45-day period for receiving comments from interested parties and the public. Please see the Noticed of Proposed Regulatory Action for information on how to submit comments and on a public hearing at 10:00 am on **January 10, 2017**, in Long Beach, California.

CONGRESS

WRDA Gains Steam in Lame-Duck (11/30/16)

One thing congressional leaders are pushing to still get done is a final Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), complete with funding to help the beleaguered city of Flint, Mich., respond to its drinking water crisis. According to *E@E Daily*:

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster said yesterday [11/29/16] that lawmakers are very close to reaching an agreement on the Water Resources Development Act. "I think what we've got is a pretty good, balanced bill," said the Pennsylvania Republican. "We're not there yet, but we're close." The Senate could move on the massive water resources bill as early as tomorrow. The upper chamber's version of the legislation, [S. 2848](#), includes a hefty provision to boost funding to clean up waterways and make drinking water safe as well as authorizations water projects overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers. Staffers from both chambers are working to reconcile two very different versions of the water resources legislation. The \$5 billion House version, [H.R. 5303](#), does not include the clean water and drinking water sections, which make up almost half of the cost of the roughly \$10 billion Senate bill.... "Meanwhile, Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) told reporters yesterday that the Flint aid package may only contain \$170 million, less than the \$220 million that passed the upper chamber in November. And last night, Flint's congressman, Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.), said he would continue to press Republicans to keep their promise on providing aid. "Until we see language and until we have an agreement to how the process will go, we're just continuing to push," he said.

[Source: Reprinted from *E&E Daily* with permission from *Environment & Energy Publishing*, www.eenews.net; 202/628-6500].

Details on AIS related portions of the two bills:

[S. 2848:](#)

- Includes a required Comptroller General report (see Page 550) to “review of the implementation and effectiveness of watercraft inspection stations... in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs.”
- Section 4002 (page 138) expands the watercraft inspection program section to include the Platte and Arkansas River Basins
- Includes (page 350) Lake Tahoe Restoration Act language ([S. 1724](#)), including \$45 million in funding for the TRPA’s AIS and watercraft inspection program.
- Includes Great Lakes Restoration Initiative language ([S. 1024](#)), including a \$300 million authorization (See page 335), some of which can be used for “the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species”.

[H.R. 5303:](#)

- Contains similar Great Lakes language and funding (page 104) but does not have the Tahoe language.
- Contains “clarifying” watercraft inspection station location language (Section 175, Page 87): “In carrying out this section, the Secretary may establish, operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington at locations, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with such States with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and main by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also assist the States referred to in this paragraph with rapid response of any Quagga or Zebra mussel infestation.”.
- Contains additional quagga/zebra early detection and rapid response language (pages 87 and 88)

VIDA: Does Not Make Conference Report in NDAA (11/30/2016)

[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.

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](#), Governors of the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, New York, Colorado, and Montana, [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, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, [Izaak Walton League](#), and the Western Governors’ Association have weighed in against the VIDA language.

!!!UPDATE !!!: VIDA appears to have now died in the lame-duck session as it was removed from the National Defense Authorization Act. According to *E&E News PM*: “The conference committee [compromise](#) removed most environmental riders out of reauthorization [including VIDA, see page 2818]....The House Rules Committee will discuss debate parameters this afternoon, with the bill expected to reach the House floor by Friday. The panel will likely not allow amendments.”

Reaction to VIDA’s Demise: According to Allen Pleus of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: “A coalition of 23 state Governors, 6 state Attorney Generals, and

numerous state natural resource agencies and associations, tribes, environmental groups and others were successful in preventing VIDA from being passed by congress this year, including most recently through the National Defense Authorization Act. The summation in the Western Governors' Association letter captures the two key issues and need to strive for a reasonable and balanced approach:

“...Western Governors oppose efforts to pass legislation that usurps the states' role in protecting their waters from invasive species and harmful pollutants. However, recognizing Congress' interest in ensuring regulatory certainty for a wide range of vessels, Western Governors stand ready to consult with your committees about potential common ground on this issue.”

As we look to the start of the 115th Congress in 2017, we must now transition our energies to working proactively with the shipping industry on a common ground solution we can all live with.”

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

MEETINGS

DECEMBER

The next meeting of the 100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday December 6 & 7 at the [Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station](#)

[Innovation Summit | U.S. Department of the Interior](#): When: Monday, December 5, 2016;
Where: National Museum of the American Indian 4th Street & Independence Av. SW,
Washington DC

[Invasive Species Advisory Committee \(ISAC\): December 6–8, 2016 \(Washington, DC\)](#)

Restore America's Estuaries/Coastal Society meeting December 10-15, 2016, New Orleans. Includes [Workshop V. Managing Invasive Species in Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects: A Participatory Workshop to Identify Trends, Innovative Approaches, and Research needs.](#) **Online Registration Is Now Open** [Click here to register](#) Be sure to register before Oct 31 to take advantage of early bird rates!

2017

JANUARY

Idaho Noxious Weed Conference: January 18-19, 2017 in Boise. Agenda TBA.
<http://www.idahoweedcontrol.org/weedconference.html>

FEBRUARY

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

Canada: Meet peers from across Canada at the [National Invasive Alien Species Forum](#) in Ottawa, Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2017

MARCH

[4th Annual Ballast Water Management Summit](#) -- March 6-8, 2017 in Long Beach, CA

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society / Western Society of Weed Science: March 13-16 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. <http://www.wsweedscience.org/annual-meeting/>

Call for Abstracts: [Iowa Invasive Species Conference 2017](#); *March 28-29, 2017*; Honey Creek Resort at Rathbun Lake, Moravia, IA

SEPTEMBER

[Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species](#): September 12-15, 2017 – San Diego, CA

OCTOBER

[Save the Date: ICAIS - October 22-26, 2017 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#)

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