



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

07/25/2019

CLICK BELOW TO NAVIGATE

[NEW SPECIES](#) * [DREISSENID MUSSELS](#) * [BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS](#) * [BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING](#) * [MARINE](#) * [AQUACULTURE](#) * [FISH](#) * [AQUATIC PLANTS](#) * [FRESHWATER](#) * [CLIMATE CHANGE](#) * [OTHER](#) * [JOBS/GRANTS](#) * [FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS](#) * [TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS](#)

RECOMMENDED READING (OR LISTENING)

[The Zombie Mice Apocalypse](#)

National Geographic's podcast 'Overheard at National Geographic' explores the threat that invasive zombie mice pose to Marion Island's native seabirds and the hope that the restoration of islands such as Anacapa Island brings.

Marion Island is a remote, sub-antarctic island where most people would imagine humans have had no real, lasting impact. However, humans have had a drastic impact on Marion and similar islands through the intentional and unintentional introduction of invasive species.

Marion, like many islands around the world, hosts a variety of seabirds—28 species including four species of Albatross which are all globally threatened to some extent. Thomas Peshak, a National Geographic Photographer, visited Marion a few years back and although he had heard of the threat that invasive mice posed to these species, he could have never imagined what he was about to see... [\[podcast link here\]](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

[MISC seeking comment on rapid response plan](#)

The Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) is seeking public comment on draft guidelines for the state's response to detections of emerging invasive species.

[Return to top](#)

Rapid response to invasive species is a focused, resource-intensive management effort intended to prevent the target species from establishing or spreading. It is carried out to avoid future management costs created by invasive species that harm Montana's communities, businesses, and environment.

...

The public comment period ends on **August 13, 2019**. Public comment can be submitted electronically to Stephanie Hester, Council Coordinator, at shester@mt.gov or by mail to DNRC, CARDD, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620.

[\[Draft Response Guidelines Here\]](#)

[Corps invites comments on draft FONSI and EA for aquatic invasive mussel control rapid response plan](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District invites public comments on a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Rapid Response Action Plan (Plan) for the eradication of potential zebra (*Dreissena polymorpha* [*sic*]) and quagga mussel (*D. bugensis*), infestations in the Columbia River Basin (CRB), as well as across infested waterbodies in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Comments will be accepted July 19, 2019 through Aug. 19, 2019.

The Corps is proposing to assist the states with establishing and executing rapid response measures if discovery of dreissenid mussels within the four-state area occurs. Rapid response actions could also be conducted by the Corps or by other federal land managing agencies at federally owned or managed water resources projects and related facilities (e.g., dams, boat ramps, etc.) within the CRB. The proposed action is needed because the risk of water bodies in the CRB being infected is high and the introduction and establishment of zebra or quagga mussels has the potential to cause billions of dollars in economic damage and untold damage to the ecosystem and the species dependent upon it.

The Draft FONSI and EA is available for viewing or downloading on the Walla Walla District website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Compliance.

Related: [CORPS Seeks Input On Mussel Plan \(7/24/19\)](#)

[Draft Canada Ballast Water Regulations](#)

Canada is a party to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004. Transport Canada has been developing regulatory amendments to give effect to the Convention in Canada and further address the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species through ballast water.

I am pleased to inform you that the draft Ballast Water Regulations are part of the June 8, 2019 edition of the Canada Gazette, Part 1, which is now available online. The draft regulations can be found at: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2019/2019-06-08/html/reg4-eng.html>

Public comments will be accepted until **September 5, 2019**. We invite you to review the draft regulations and look forward to receiving your views. The procedure for submitting your comments is set out in the Gazette.

[Federal Register: Agency Information Collection Activities; Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Sighting Reporting Form and Alert Registration Form](#)

Action: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

Summary: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are proposing to renew an information collection. Dates: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **September 13, 2019**.

Abstract: America is under siege by many harmful non-native species of plants, animals, and microorganisms. More than 6,500 nonindigenous species are now established in the United States, posing risks to native species, valued ecosystems, and human and wildlife health. These invaders exact a huge cost, an estimated \$120 billion per year, to mitigate their harmful impacts. The current annual environmental, economic, and health-related costs of invasive species exceed those of all other natural disasters combined.

Through its Invasive Species Program (http://www.usgs.gov/ecosystems/invasive_species/), the USGS plays an important role in federal efforts to combat invasive species in natural and semi-natural areas through early detection and assessment of newly established invaders; monitoring of invading populations; and improving understanding of the ecology of invaders and factors in the resistance of habitats to invasion. The USGS provides the tools, technology, and information supporting efforts to prevent, contain, control, and manage invasive species nationwide. To meet user needs, the USGS also develops methods for compiling and synthesizing accurate and reliable data and information on invasive species for inclusion in a distributed and integrated web-based information system.

As part of the USGS Invasive Species Program, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) database (<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>) functions as a repository and clearinghouse for occurrence information on nonindigenous aquatic species from across the United States. It contains locality information on approximately 1,300 species of vertebrates, invertebrates, and vascular plants introduced since 1850. Taxa include foreign species as well as those native to North America that have been transported outside of their natural range. The NAS website provides immediate access to new occurrence records through a real-time interface with the NAS database. Visitors to the website can use a set of predefined queries to obtain lists of species according to state or hydrologic basin of interest. Fact sheets, distribution maps, and information on new occurrences are continually posted and updated. Dynamically generated species distribution maps show the

spatial accuracy of the locations reported, population status, and links to more information about each report.

NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

Want to get more new species alerts?

USGS NAS: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.aspx>

IMAP INVASIVES: <https://www.imapinvasives.org>

DRESISSENIDS

[Minnesota: Zebra mussels confirmed in Hand Lake in Cass County; Upper Cormorant Lake in Becker County \(7/11/19\)](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed reports of zebra mussels in Hand Lake in Cass County and Upper Cormorant Lake in Becker County. Two smaller lakes and an unnamed wetland connected to Upper Cormorant Lake will also be listed for zebra mussels. A Cass County watercraft inspector found a plant with attached zebra mussels on a boat coming from Hand Lake. Divers then found a 1-inch, adult zebra mussel in Hand Lake. The DNR is conducting further analyses to better determine the distribution of zebra mussels in the lake. [USGS NAS Report]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Alexander in Morrison County \(7/18/19\)](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Lake Alexander in Morrison County. DNR divers found two adult zebra mussels, about one-half inch in length, near Soldiers Island on the west side of the lake, and two more zebra mussels of the same size at the east boat access. Reports of zebra mussels in 2018 in another part of the lake could not be substantiated, despite numerous searches in 2018 and 2019. [USGS NAS Report]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Oscar in Douglas County \(7/23/19\)](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed reports of zebra mussels in Lake Oscar in Douglas County. A lake property owner contacted the lake association after finding a three-quarter-inch adult zebra mussel. The lake association reported it to Douglas County aquatic invasive species staff who, in turn, contacted the DNR. DNR divers found a total of 78 adult zebra mussels in four locations on the lake. [USGS NAS Report]

South Dakota

[Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Lake Sharpe \(7/12/19\)](#)

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Lake Sharpe, a mainstem Missouri River reservoir in central South Dakota. Boaters enjoying Lake Sharpe should be aware that the waterbody is now classified as infested for zebra mussels and precautions must be taken to prevent spreading mussels to other waters. “The mussels were initially discovered by members of

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while performing maintenance at Big Bend Dam, at the lower end of Lake Sharpe,” said Fisheries Chief John Lott. [\[USGS NAS Record Here\]](#)
Related: [An Invasive Species Has Found Its Way Into One Of South Dakota's Most Popular Lakes \(7/16/19\)](#)

OTHER AIS

California

[Pectinatella magnifica \(magnificent bryozoan\)](#) was found in [Smith Canal](#) off the San Joaquin River in Stockton, CA [\[USGS NAS Report\]](#)

Minnesota

[Flowering rush confirmed in Grants Lake in Douglas County \(7/18/19\)](#)

First time invasive aquatic plant has been confirmed in county. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed small patches of flowering rush, an invasive aquatic plant, in Grants Lake in Douglas County. The DNR has begun removing the plants by hand. Hand removal can be successful in small populations like this one. DNR staff will monitor the site for any regrowth and take appropriate further control measures if required.

WATCH LIST

Be on the lookout for [Bacopa rotundifolia](#) along the Columbia River. Contact: Mark D. Sytsma (503) 307-6131 mark.sytsma@pdx.edu

Have parrot feather? Professor Rodrigo Diaz (LSU) is looking for reports of parrot feather damage potentially caused by *Phytobius vestitus*. Damage observed in Louisiana in May 2019 included: wilted top, dry tips of plant, and wilted brown stems. Please contact rdiaz@agcenter.lsu.edu for more information and to report damage sightings.

DREISSENIID MUSSELS

[\[Texas\] Zebra mussels spark water restrictions at Canyon Lake \(7/24/19\)](#)

The zebra mussel infestation is causing more problems across Central Texas. At Canyon Lake, water restrictions are now in place because they have clogged the water intake pipes.

[Great Lakes groups endorse Invasive Mussel Collaborative \(7/23/19\)](#)

Three binational Great Lakes coalitions announced their endorsement of the Invasive Mussel Collaborative as the “go-to forum” on developing solutions to the problems caused by invasive mussels in the Great Lakes. The three organizations are the Great Lakes Commission, International Joint Commission, and Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

[\[Michigan\] Mussel Research Shows Exciting Results \(7/22/19\)](#)

Lake Michigan's Good Harbor Reef, near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, was once a major spawning habitat for species like lake trout and whitefish. However, since the 1980s the reef has been plagued with invasive zebra and quagga mussels to the point reef-dependant fish species are greatly diminished or completely absent. The same situation is manifest on other, similar, reefs throughout the Great Lakes. I single out Good Harbor Reef only because it is the location of a pair of research projects delving into potential mussel elimination or control techniques which could be applied at other reefs and spawning habitat throughout the Great Lakes.

[\[Utah\] Army Corps of Engineers grants extension for Lake Powell Pipeline plans \(7/13/19\)](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted Utah a 30-day extension to provide desired documentation and plans related to the Lake Powell Pipeline, according to state water officials. Quagga mussels encrusting a boat's surface, date and location not specified | Photo courtesy of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, St. George News. Last month, the Corps sent a letter to the Utah Division of Water Resources outlining multiple points it would like addressed before allowing the permitting process for the Lake Powell Pipeline to continue. The deadline for those documents had been set for Saturday.

[Minnesota scientists map zebra mussel genome. Now to cripple them. \(7/11/19\)](#)

After years of meticulous research, scientists at the University of Minnesota have mapped the genome of the zebra mussel, unlocking endless possibilities to combat, control and learn from the invasive mussel that has taken hold throughout the Great Lakes region. The map, pieced together from hundreds of millions of lines of genetic code, will allow researchers to pinpoint the exact genes that have allowed the mussel to thrive while upending the ecology of lakes not just across Minnesota and North America, but in Europe as well.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS

[\[British Columbia\] 10 boats entering B.C. since April found with invasive mussels \(7/18/19\)](#)

The Okanagan Water Board is renewing its call to the province to implement stronger inspection programs for boats coming into B.C., after discovering that between April 1 and July 5, there were 10 vessels intercepted carrying the adult invasive species. Currently, B.C. has two mussel detection dogs and 12 provincial inspection stations but only one of which, near Golden, B.C., is open 24 hours a day. Boats coming into the province are required to get an inspection, but not if the station is closed. "We need to tighten things up. This is of paramount importance," said Okanagan Water Board chair Sure McKortoff in a statement.

[Invasive mussels found at Tahoe inspection station \(7/24/19\)](#)

Inspectors said the first boat was traveling from Lake Pleasant, Arizona. They found around 100 invasive mussels on the boat's hull. Inspectors attempted to treat and kill the mussels, but were unsuccessful in removing them all. The boat was not allowed to launch.

[\[Wyoming\] Some Boaters Skip Boat Inspections \(7/18/19\)](#)

Wyoming Game and Fish Department game wardens and Aquatic Invasive Species technicians spent a very busy Fourth- of-July Holiday and beyond working to prevent invasive species, like zebra and quagga mussels from entering the state, while an increasing number of boaters have been dodging the check stations. During the weekend, Wyoming game wardens pulled over watercraft owners who did not stop at the mandatory AIS check and wrote citations. One watercraft owner who had last boated on mussel-infested Lake Powell, was sent back to the AIS check station so the watercraft could be decontaminated.

[\[Wyoming\] Nonprofit organization employs dogs to detect invasive species, plants \(7/15/19\)](#)

Tobias and Lily, two of man's best friends, have traveled the world helping scientists in conservation efforts. From finding endangered gorillas in Africa and black-footed ferrets in Meeteetse, to searching for a tiny invasive species plaguing waterways across America, these dogs use their cute but highly developed noses to do what humans can't. Aimee Hurt, biologist and director of special projects for the non-profit organization Working Dogs for Conservation, brought her pups to the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area to help look for zebra mussels and educate staff and visitors about working dogs. The invasive mollusks were first discovered in the U.S., finding their way in via cargo ships in the Great Lakes in the 1980s.

Related: [Dogs to raise awareness about Aquatic Invasive Species in Grand Teton and Yellowstone \(7/16/19\)](#)

[Utah is doing battle with dreaded quagga mussels — and the problem is getting worse \(7/9/19\)](#)

... The quagga problem has gotten worse this year at Lake Powell because the lake level has risen and caused previously exposed mussels to dislodge and float in the water. That has resulted, the release said, in "significantly more boats ... leaving Lake Powell with mussels and shells onboard their vessels, in sea strainers, or on anchors and in compartments."

Related: [Don't move a mussel \(7/16/19\)](#)

[Colorado's boat inspectors overwhelmed by mussel-infested boats \(7/10/19\)](#)

The number of boats infected with mussels intercepted in Colorado by inspectors in 2019 is already even with the total from last year – and we're only halfway through the boating season. "I am just being completely over-run by mussel infested boats," said Robert Walters, CPW's assistant manager for the aquatic nuisance species program. "We are already up to 51 interceptions this year. We are having interceptions just about every day at waters throughout the state. And most of the boats are coming out of Lake Powell."

Related: [Invasive mussel threat on the rise at Ruedi, other Colorado reservoirs \(7/12/19\)](#)

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Time for cruise lines to swap out first-generation BWTS? \(7/22/19\)](#)

“Operators of cruise ships fitted with first-generation BWTS technology and which are revising their cruise itineraries to include U.S. ports of call will need to upgrade (when possible) or replace these systems with USCG-approved units before they can enter U.S. waters. We are discussing similar retrofit projects with a number of cruise lines.”

[Gene counting device reveals what is lurking in ballast water \(7/22/19\)](#)

Canadian microbiology specialist LuminUltra Technologies has introduced an addition to its adenosine triphosphate (ATP) test kits that reports the specific species found in ballast water and, importantly, what these organisms are doing

[BWMS receives amended USCG type-approval \(7/19/19\)](#)

DESMI Ocean Guard’s CompactClean Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) has received an amended US Coast Guard (USCG) type-approval certificate with just two hours minimum hold time restriction, as well as approval of installation in hazardous areas

[Make some decisions, pleads Optimarin boss \(7/18/19\)](#)

“Less than 15% of the market has got a system on board,” he told ShipInsight during a video interview recorded during last month’s Nor-Shipping exhibition. There is “a huge fleet” of ships still needing retrofits and many shipowners “are fumbling around” as they make their BWMS decisions, he said. For large owners who might be thinking of sharing their orders among a number of makers, he had this warning: “it’s a long process and the time is flying.”

[Ballast water and the 'ecological roulette' \(7/10/19\)](#)

Scientist James T. Carlton's influence has changed not only marine science, but the world. Take ballast water research, for example. Ballast water fills compartments in empty cargo ships to stabilize boats during their voyages. When the boat receives cargo, it discharges ballast water and the organisms it holds. While it helps the maritime industry, this is an example of "ecological roulette," a term coined by Carlton, who is a faculty member at Williams College and former director of the Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program in Mystic, Conn.

[Marine Safety Center receives new application for ballast water management system type-approval \(7/10/19\)](#)

The Marine Safety Center received its 27th application for type approval for the EcoGuardian™ Ballast Water Treatment System manufactured by HANLA IMS Co., Ltd.

MARINE

[Lionfish ear-bones reveal a more mobile invasion \(7/18/19\)](#)

"Lionfish have been shown to be very site-specific," she says. "But I observed many individuals with compositions in their otoliths that suggest they moved some distance at least once throughout their life." If adult lionfish are more mobile than previously thought, the strategies for management of this invasive species could become even more complex. Understanding their choice of habitat once they grow up can help managers to more effectively focus their removal and conservation efforts.

[Becoming the Lionfish King \(7/19/19\)](#)

The state of Florida encourages divers to remove an invasive species of fish from its waters in an annual challenge, naming the winner the Lionfish King (or Queen).

[Green Crabs Have Arrived in Puget Sound: Are They Here to Stay? \(7/19\)](#)

Puget Sound shorelines are teeming with life, from birds soaring overhead, to schools of salmon smolts darting through the shallows, to crabs scuttling along the beach. But what if one species could shift the balance of this entire coastal ecosystem? The Washington Sea Grant Crab Team thinks the invasive European green crab has the potential to do just this. Green crab is considered one of the world's 100 most invasive species and has proven to be highly mobile and incredibly adaptable, as well as an aggressive predator. For decades, researchers have watched green crabs disperse around the world, damaging coastal habitats in the process. In 2016, the first green crab was documented on Washington's inland shorelines. If their numbers increase and spread, instead of the wealth of diversity we see today, beaches could contain mounds of green crabs, which have the capacity to outcompete several local species for food and shelter. With a meticulous monitoring program, Crab Team works to stop the green crab invasion before these detrimental impacts take place on Washington's shores.

AQUACULTURE

[\[Washington\] Cooke eyes raising steelhead instead of Atlantic salmon in state net pens \(7/18/19\)](#)

Cooke Aquaculture, which shut down its Ediz Hook fish farm in May, wants to begin raising steelhead instead of Atlantic salmon in its net pens in Washington state, a company official said Monday. The company also has sites at Bainbridge Island, Hope Island, Clam Bay and Orchard Rocks. "All of our sites would be in the mix," Cooke spokesman Joel Richardson said, adding that the facility shutdown in Port Angeles remains in litigation in Thurston County Superior Court.

[\[Washington\] Announcing the reissuance of four individual NPDES permits for the Atlantic salmon net pen facilities \(7/11/19\)](#)

We reissued four water quality permits in response to applications for net pen permits in Puget Sound. Until Atlantic salmon farming is officially banned from Puget Sound

starting in 2022, companies are required to have water quality permits. These permits allow us to continue to protect state waters and ensure the companies are operating under the strongest water quality protections. The pens have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits in addition to multiple other state, federal, and local permits. Specifically, the NPDES permits are for four of Cooke Aquaculture's Atlantic salmon net pens — one near Hope Island in Skagit Bay, and three in Rich Passage near Bainbridge Island.

[Stronger protections for Puget Sound in final permits for Atlantic salmon farms \(7/11/19\)](#)

Beginning in 2022, fish farms will no longer be allowed to raise non-native fish in Washington's waters. Until then, updated permits from the Washington Department of Ecology require Atlantic salmon farms to step up their monitoring, inspections and reporting, and to have emergency response plans. The permit updates follow the 2017 collapse of a net pen containing Atlantic salmon near Cypress Island in Skagit County. The collapse allowed more than 250,000 non-native fish to escape into Puget Sound. In 2018, Washington's Legislature passed a new law to phase out non-native species in marine fish farming by 2022.

[New study finds offshore aquaculture has low environmental impact \(7/17/19\)](#)

MIAMI—A new [study](#) [\$\$] led by scientists at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science found minimal environmental impacts to the surrounding waters from a major commercial fish-farming operation off the coast of Panama.

FISH

[Warning Posted, Northern pike Possibly Invade Columbia River \(7/17/19\)](#)

Chelan, Douglas and Grant PUDs are collaborating with federal, state and tribal fish agencies to keep Northern pike from the nearby stretch of the Columbia River, according to a Chelan PUD press release. The predatory species have invaded Lake Roosevelt and Chelan PUD released a warning that Northern pike could infiltrate the Columbia River. This would threaten the salmon and steelhead protected in the Columbia River. Northern pike grow large at a quick speed by eating other fish. Chelan PUD is sending a crew to Lake Roosevelt to help combat the issue. According to the press release, anglers are encouraged to keep and remove the Northern pike found in the Columbia River, as humans are the only predator of the species.

[Huge net used to pull Asian carp from Lake Decatur dam \(7/16/19\)](#)

Fishermen with a net are removing thousands of Asian carp from Lake Decatur dam in central Illinois. The Herald and Review reports that the effort began Monday, days after the state was told that many fish were gathering there. The invasive species will be trucked to a company in Bushnell, Illinois, which will process them for fish meal and fish oil. Kevin Irons of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources says some fish appear to be 20 to 30 pounds. The net is 30 feet deep.

Related: [Asian carp causing trouble in Midwest \(7/14/19\)](#)

[Environmentalists want candidates to focus on clean water \(7/23/19\)](#)

Environmental groups in the Great Lakes region want the 2020 presidential candidates to talk more about clean water. Groups led by the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition released a five-part platform Tuesday that they'll ask the candidates to support. It seeks \$475 million in annual funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which deals with chronic problems such as toxic pollution and wetlands loss. Other proposals include upgrading drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, keeping invasive species such as Asian carp out of the lakes, reducing harmful algae blooms and upholding clean-water laws.

[Food Flight: Fish Hitch a Ride in Bird Guts \(7/15/19\)](#)

Fish can show up in remarkable places, like ponds disconnected from any other body of water or remote alpine lakes. Sure, sometimes they get a first-class flight courtesy of humans, but in some cases the fish in question were not stocked by people, so they must have arrived by alternative means. If there were no humans to move them, and no flood waters to carry them, how do fish reach these aquatic islands in a sea of land? A recent investigation has yielded one possible answer that sounds like a distinctly unpleasant ride.

AQUATIC PLANTS

[CTFW publishes warning about milfoil, zebra mussels \(7/19/19\)](#)

The Colville Confederated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department has released a warning via tribal broadcast reminding boats it is illegal to transport or spread aquatic invasive species such as milfoil and zebra mussel. The warning reminds boaters to note before launching and leaving, boaters must remove all plant and animals from watercraft, trailer and gear. They must also drain all water from fish/live wells, holds and bilges.

OTHER FRESHWATER

[State of California invests millions to help eradicate nutria \(7/18/19\)](#)

...There are two possible scenarios to explain the reappearance of nutria in California. The first is that some remnant colony existed and somehow escaped notice for four decades, though Tira said that scenario was unlikely. The other scenario is that they were intentionally or accidentally reintroduced to the environment. There are large populations of nutria in Washington and Oregon, but natural barriers like mountain ranges make their migration here all but impossible. Tira also said the state is considering doing genetic testing in an attempt to determine where the animals originated, though he also admitted that doing so would not contribute to the eradication effort...

[\[Washington\] Ravenous bull frogs and shell disease: The trials, tribulations — and efforts to save the endangered western pond turtle \(7/15/19\)](#)

In ponds close by the Columbia River Gorge, Washington state biologists have gone to extraordinary lengths to revive endangered populations of western pond turtles. They have hired contractors to kill bullfrogs — an invasive species introduced from other parts of the country, that feast on the young turtles. They have attached radio transponders to turtles' shells to track their movements. And each summer, they trap some of the turtles afflicted with a shell disease and send them for a lengthy stay at the Oregon Zoo in Portland for specialized medical care.

[\[Oregon\] Cat attacked by nutria has pet owner warning others in the area \(7/9/19\)](#)

A woman says her cat was recently attacked by a nutria - and now she wants to warn other pet owners... "The vet said she could have died, she had a really bad abscess and had it been on her neck she wouldn't have survived," said Wineland... They may not be from here, but for now Oregonians will have to learn to live with nutria. ODFW will issue special permits so that people can trap nutria within city limits and take them outside of city limits to be humanely euthanized.

CLIMATE CHANGE

[Study: As Regional Climate Warms, Smallmouth Bass Will Encroach On Much More Salmonid Spawning, Rearing Habitat \(7/11/19\) \[\\$\\$\]](#)

Nearly 18,000 river kilometers (11,185 miles) of Columbia River basin streams currently has suitable habitat for an invasive predatory fish that, as climate warms, is a range that is predicted to increase by 10,000 river miles by 2080, according to a [recent study](#).

[Scientific Publication] Erika S Rubenson, PhD, Julian D Olden. 2019. [An invader in salmonid rearing habitat: current and future distributions of smallmouth bass \(*Micropterus dolomieu*\) in the Columbia River Basin.](#)

[Editor's Notebook: Salmon, Steelhead Will Need Plenty of Help to Survive Regional Climate Warming \(7/11/19\)](#)

Right now, early summer 2019, half the rivers in Washington State are in the bottom 10 percent of average flows measured for this time of year. Five percent of rivers show record low flows. Many of these waterways bear spawning salmon and steelhead, including those listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Some good rain events at the right time will help but the die is cast. Low water and heat are going to be hard on salmon and steelhead this summer in many streams, likely reducing survival. That's the reality of climate change for both hatchery and ESA salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River basin. It's going to get worse.

[Joshua trees facing extinction \(7/16/19\)](#)

...An additional finding of [this study](#) is that in the cooler, wetter parts of the park the biggest threat other than climate change is fire. Fewer than 10 percent of Joshua trees

survive wildfires, which have been exacerbated in recent years by smog from car and industrial exhaust. The smog deposits nitrogen on the ground, which in turn feeds non-native grasses that act as kindling for wildfires. As a partner on this project, the U.S. Park Service is using this information to mitigate fire risk by removing the invasive plants. "Fires are just as much a threat to the trees as climate change, and removing grasses is a way park rangers are helping to protect the area today," Sweet said. "By protecting the trees, they're protecting a host of other native insects and animals that depend on them as well."...

[Pesticide use on rise due in part to rising temperatures, invasive insects \(7/22/19\)](#)

... Erin Lizotte, integrated pest management educator for MSU Extension, agreed the expansion of planted acres is one factor as to why farmers are spending more money on pesticide. Others include changes in the chemical composition of modern pesticide products, the arrival of invasive species and rising temperatures... Another reason farmers are using more pesticide is to ward off invasive insects migrating into the area or being imported in cargo from overseas, particularly Asia. "Every year, it seems like we get a couple more of these pests," Lizotte said. Examples of this include the Japanese beetle and spotted wing drosophila, which can wreak havoc on crops because they often have no natural predators or host resistance to keep their populations in check, Lizotte said. Finally, changing weather patterns have also had an impact on pesticide use. Lizotte said the trend they are seeing is warmer temperatures and increased moisture — a combination that creates conditions conducive to pests that previously didn't venture this far north and increases the ability of a pest to cause issues.

OTHER

[Conservation tech prize with invasive species focus announces finalists \(7/19/19\)](#)

The Con X Tech Prize just announced its second round will be funding 20 finalists each with \$3,500 to create their first prototypes. Some 150 teams submitted ideas that use technology to address a conservation challenge. The 20 winners of this first stage of the competition will also compete for a grand prize of \$20,000, plus support from CXL on product development and attracting investment. The prize accepts ideas for any conservation problem, with a particular focus on addressing threats from a specific theme. This second round of the prize focused on reducing impacts from invasive species to native species and ecosystems. The first round, sponsored in 2018, focused on ocean conservation.

[\[Washington\] Public invited to submit art to highlight the dangers of releasing pets and plants into the wild \(7/17/19\)](#)

Calling all artists! The Washington Invasive Species Council invites artists of all ages to participate in an art contest as part of its "Don't Let it Loose" campaign. The campaign teaches people about the dangers of releasing unwanted pets and plants into the wild and highlights other ways to rehome them... The contest runs now through Aug. 9. Art should depict pets that pet owners might release into Washington's waters, parks, and wildlands. Entries should convey that releasing invasive species can harm the state's

native plants and animals and include explanations or illustrations showing other options to rehome unwanted pets or animals.

JOBS/GRANTS

JOBS

[Missouri Department of Conservation, Wildlife Technician](#). Perform assigned duties associated with habitat and other wildlife management, including prescribed burns, invasive species control, foodplot planting and area maintenance. Salary: \$26,748 - \$32,772. Job Location: Knox, Scotland, Clark & Lewis Counties of Missouri. Selected Candidate will be expected to live in or within a 30 mile radius of listed counties. Closing Date: 08/23/2019

[Aquatic Invasive Species Technician I](#) – The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources - Lake Powell Bullfrog, Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is looking for an Aquatic Invasive Species Technician 1 to inspect boats as they come off Lake Powell for Quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species. The position starts in early August and goes thru October 2019. **Closing date 8/1/19**

[California Sea Grant](#) is hiring a program coordinator to serve as part of California Sea Grant's new Science Integration Team. This multifaceted position will involve research and fellowship administration, reporting, and extension and outreach work focused on sea-level rise and climate change adaptation. In this role, you'll link science to policy through engagement and interaction with coastal managers, research scientists, extension professionals, and stakeholders. **Apply by August 5, 2019**

GRANTS

[FY2020 Marine Debris Removal](#): This year's competition will have a pre-proposal requirement (hereafter described as Letter of Intent; LOI), which has changed the submission deadlines for this competition. This funding opportunity requires a letter of intent to be submitted before full proposals will be invited. **Letters of intent must be received via email (as an attachment) no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, September 4, 2019.** If invited per the instructions in this announcement, full proposals must then be submitted through and validated by Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service on or before 11:59 p.m. EST, December 4, 2019. As outlined in the Marine Debris Act, eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris and any institution of higher education, nonprofit organization, or commercial (for-profit) organization with expertise in a field related to marine debris. Applications from federal agencies or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Interested federal agencies may collaborate with eligible applicants but may not receive funds through this competition. All projects must take place within the United States or territories or their respective waterways. Foreign organizations and foreign public entities are not eligible to apply as the primary applicant but can be involved as

project partners. NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of veterans, minority-serving institutions, and entities that work in underserved areas. The NOAA MDP encourages proposals from or involving any of the above types of institutions. Applications that have been submitted to other NOAA grant programs or as part of another NOAA grant may be considered under this solicitation.

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

Advocacy

[Members of Congress Join NMMA for Aquatic Invasive Species Event on Capitol Hill \(7/19/19\)](#)

NMMA – in coordination with the Congressional Boating Caucus (CBC) – hosted a briefing event for nearly 100 congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to examine the environmental and economic problems created by aquatic invasive species (AIS). The event – titled “How Aquatic Invasive Species are Hurting Communities Throughout the Country” – featured opening remarks from Representative James Comer (R-KY-01) and Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH-03).

State/Province

[Partnership Agreement to Address Asian Carp In the Works for Great Lakes States, Province; Illinois to Draft Agreement as Part of Efforts to Move Plan Forward \(7/19/19\)](#)

Representatives of Great Lakes governors and Canadian premiers met in Chicago this week to discuss a roughly \$831 million plan to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources said the state will begin drafting a partnership agreement for Great Lakes states and provinces to consider.

Related: [Lake Superior not immune to Asian carp threat, says National Wildlife Federation \(7/22/19\)](#)

Executive

[Carp Removal Efforts Increasing on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes \(7/15/19\)](#)

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has agreed to his request to deploy the advanced "Unified Method" of fishing for removing Asian Carp, an invasive species in Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake. Today's announcement comes on the heels of Senator McConnell's May visit to Western Kentucky with members of the Trump Administration, where he discussed options to address the Asian Carp invasion with local elected officials, community leaders and the local media. One option discussed during the meeting was the "Unified Method," which involves corralling Asian Carp into one location using electronic technology and extracting the fish from the water with specialized nets. This

technique has been successful in controlling Asian Carp populations abroad, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has successfully deployed it in Missouri and Illinois.

Related: [\[Press Release\] At Majority Leader McConnell's Request, Trump Administration to Aid Kentucky in War on Asian Carp](#)

Congressional

[RAWA re-Introduced: Bipartisan Bill Would Address America's Wildlife Crisis, Prevent Extinction Through Proactive, Collaborative Conservation \(7/12/19\)](#)

“We can overcome America’s wildlife crisis by restoring and reconnecting habitat, removing invasive species, eradicating wildlife diseases, reducing pollution, and mitigating climate impacts — the future of the natural world depends upon us.

Bill Text: [H.R.3742 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019](#)

Text related to invasives species:

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBACCOUNT.—

“(C) DEPOSITS INTO SUBACCOUNT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer \$1,300,000,000 from the general fund of the treasury each fiscal year to the fund for deposit in the Subaccount.

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds apportioned from the Subaccount—

“(F) **may be used to manage, control, and prevent invasive and nuisance species**, disease, and other risks to species of greatest conservation need; and

Fact Sheets: [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#); [National Wildlife Federation](#)
Press Release: [Dingell, Fortenberry, Conservation & Sportsmen's Leaders Lead Bipartisan Bill to Protect America's Wildlife \(7/12/19\)](#)

Budget and Appropriations

[Trump and congressional leaders reach sweeping budget agreement \(7/22/19\)](#)

White House and congressional leaders on Monday clinched a sweeping fiscal deal to lift the nation’s debt limit and dramatically raise federal spending levels. The agreement,

negotiated by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, is expected to clear both chambers before the August recess — alleviating pressure ahead of a slew of high-stakes fiscal deadlines this fall.

[Budget caps, debt limit bill expected to pass House Thursday \(7/24/19\)](#)

[Next week, Senate will consider budget deal, confirm judges and two senior officials\(7/25/19\)](#)

TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Events: Archived Materials

Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings

July

The Oregon Invasive Species Council will be hosting a 1-day business meeting on July 30th at the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem, OR. You can view/download our most up-to-date agenda by visiting the [OISC Meetings Page](#). While it is not required for this public meeting, we do encourage you to [submit an RSVP](#) so we can plan accordingly.

August

[Invasive Mussel Collaborative Webinar: Invasive Mussel Impacts on Fisheries](#). August 1, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Eastern. Please join us for a webinar hosted by the Invasive Mussel Collaborative examining the impacts that invasive mussels pose to native fisheries in the Great Lakes. Ecological changes caused by the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels will be discussed, as well as practical on-the-ground fisheries management around invasive mussels.

The webinar will feature presentations from:

Meg McEachran, University of Minnesota

Jenilee Gobin, Trent University

Dave Caroffino, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

[\[Oregon\] Annual Invasive Species Cook-off Fundraiser 2019](#) – Tickets on sale June 1!

When: Saturday 5-8 pm, August 3, 2019

Where: NEW VENUE this year! Tye Wine Cellars, just 10 miles south of Corvallis, Oregon

What: Invasive Species Cook-off contest, catered buffet dinner from Kalamata Bistro featuring invasives and meat and vegetarian dishes, live music, Invasive Species beverage competition, and kid activities including lawn games, face painting and piñata! As long as you are not a professional chef or brewer, enter the Cook-off or Beverage contests - you could win a prize! See Cook-off Contest details, below.

How: [Click HERE](#) to buy tickets! \$30 Adults, \$25 students, \$15 kids 9-13, kids under 9 free! All proceeds after expenses support IAE's restoration, research, and ecological education work.

[2019 104th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting](#)

Date: Aug 11, 2019 to Aug 16, 2019 Venue: Kentucky International Convention Center

Location: Louisville, Kentucky

[NAISMA Webinar: August 21st at 1:00 pm CST. Stopping Invasive Species with Behavior Psychology.](#) Presented by: Ken Donnelly, Owner, Beyond Attitude Consulting. Many invasive species pathways include human behavior, like boating, hiking, and camping. Changing people's behavior can be challenging, as anyone who has ever made a New Year's resolution knows very well. Just because people think something should be done, doesn't mean it will get done. Fortunately, the application of behavioral psychology greatly improves traditional communications programs in getting people to adopt the behaviors that interrupt pathways. People attending the webinar will learn how to apply behavioral psychology to nurture the behaviors that stop the spread of invasive species. [Click here to register](#)

[Delta Invasive Species Symposium](#) August 29, 2019

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team invites you to attend its upcoming Delta Invasive Species Symposium on remote sensing applications for management. Presentations will explore the remote sensing tools and applications used in today's invasive species management in the Delta, as well as opportunities for the future. The symposium is sponsored by the DIISC Team, Delta Science Program, UC Davis, and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension. Preregistration is required. August 29, 2019. 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM UC Davis Conference Center

September

[NAISMA Webinar: September 18th at 1:00 pm CST: Don't Move Firewood Outreach and Regulation Updates.](#) Presented by: Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Program Director, The Nature Conservancy. The Don't Move Firewood outreach and education campaign is moving into its 12th year- and like a fine wine, we're hoping to improve over time! Join this webinar to learn about the results of the extensive partner feedback survey conducted in the Spring of 2019 and how the campaign is using that feedback to adapt to both our partners' needs, and changing conditions in forest pests and regulatory environments over the last decade. This webinar will also talk about how partners can participate in Firewood Month- a monthlong October event with different firewood related target demographics highlighted in each week of October!

Alaska Invasive Species Strategies Workshop, Sept. 24 - 26, 2019, Anchorage, AK

The objectives of the workshop will be to:

- Review the various mandates governing invasive species work throughout Alaska jurisdictions
- Identify critical gaps in prevention, detection, management and research across ecosystems and,
- Identify a suite of priority actions that we can collaborate on over the next five years

For more information please contact:

Tammy Davis, Alaska Department of Fish and Game; tammy.davis@alaska.gov

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): September 26, 2019, Olympia, [Natural Resources Building](#) Room 172.

SAVE THE DATE: [The 6th International Columbia River Transboundary Conference](#) WHEN: September 26, 2019 – September 28, 2019 WHERE: Kimberley, BC

Join Columbia Basin Trust and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from September 26 to 28, 2019 in Kimberley, B.C. to connect and collaborate on the future of the Columbia River. The conference will cover topics including:

- Renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty
- Reintroduction of salmon to the Columbia River above Grand Coulee Dam in Washington and British Columbia
- **Impacts of and response to invasive species including northern pike and invasive freshwater mussels**
- Energy issues including: hydropower, energy efficiency, transmission and renewable resources in the United States and British Columbia
- Climate change-related impacts on Columbia River water resources and resulting impacts on communities, ecosystems, the economy and hydropower generation.

The conference themes and agenda will include the interests and issues of First Nations and US Native American Tribes, as well as art, culture and history as it relates to the Columbia River. The conference format will be interactive with workshop formats encouraging participants to actively explore a wide range of technical, environmental, political and community issues. Watch for more details in early 2019 about how to register and information on speakers. For more information, contact Caitlin Hinton, Columbia Basin Trust, at 1.250.344.2445 or chinton@cbt.org

[2019 26th Annual Wildlife Society Conference](#) Date: Sep 29, 2019 to Oct 03, 2019 Location: Reno, Nevada

The [2019 North American Invasive Species Management Association - New York Invasive Species Research Institute Joint Conference](#) will be held September 30 - October 3, 2019 at the Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY. This year's conference theme is Connecting Science to Action. The organizing committee is especially interested in presentations that provide examples of: (1) how science is being used by invasive species managers and related professionals to inform and improve management decisions, (2) how managers can inform, and are currently informing research on invasive species and (3) information on new policies, methods and technologies being used to prevent, detect, or manage invasive species. All general session abstracts must be submitted by the abstract deadline of April 3, 2019.

October

[The Western Regional Panel on ANS](#) invites you to join them at their Annual Meeting October 9-11, 2019 in Missoula, Montana. The meeting will be hosted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

[NAISMA Webinar: October 16th at 1:00 pm CST: Invasive Species in North America.](#) Presented by: David Coyle, Assistant Professor, Forest Health and Invasive Species Extension, Clemson University. This webinar will give an update on some of the most impactful invasive species in North America, including insects, fungi, and plants. We will discuss current pest distribution – including how the pest has moved post-arrival in North America - and proven and potential management strategies. We will also use the southeastern U.S. as a case study for why this continent has so many invasive species.

ICAIS 2019 Preliminary Program Now Available [The 21st International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#) (ICAIS) will be held at Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, Montreal, Canada. October 27-31, 2019. The cut-off date for hotel reservations at the special ICAIS rate is **September 25, 2019.**

November

[NAISMA Webinar: November 20th at 1:00 pm CST: How the National Park Service Integrates Partnerships, Prevention, and Management of Invasive Species.](#) Presented by: Terri Hogan, Invasive Plant Program Manager, National Park Service. Within the realm of invasive species management, partnerships and collaboration are increasingly essential for success. Collaboration occurs at all levels within the National Park Service (NPS); it takes many forms, involves a range of partners including other agencies, states, tribes, and cooperative weed management areas and must reach beyond our boundaries to address the issues that invasive species pose to our public lands. This webinar will showcase examples of successful invasive plant management that are achieved through partnership efforts including, prevention and restoration within the NPS.

December

[Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference and Training.](#) December 10-12th, 2019. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The conference hosts people from throughout the US and World looking for new techniques and inspiration from successes to manage a wide range of invasive species. The 2019 innovations Conference is being hosted by the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council <https://www.pnw-ipc.org/> The Northern Rockies Invasive Plant Council <http://www.nripc.org/> and Invasive Plant Control, Inc. <http://www.invasiveplantcontrol.com/>

[Washington Invasive Species Council:](#) December 19, 2019, Olympia, [Natural Resources Building](#) Room 172.

2020

July

[2020 60th Aquatic Plant Management Society \(APMS\) Meeting](#)

Date: Jul 19, 2020 to Jul 22, 2020. Venue: Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk. Location: San Antonio, Texas

August

[2020 105th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting](#)

Date: Aug 02, 2020 to Aug 07, 2020. Venue: Salt Palace Convention Center. Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

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AIS NEWS was compiled by Stephen Phillips and Robyn Draheim. Past issues of *AIS NEWS* can be found @ <http://www.westernais.org/> under the “News” tab.