Will trade bans stop a deadly salamander plague from invading the US? (10/30/18)

If it happens, it’ll likely go something like this: American parents decide to buy something special for their child’s birthday—a pet salamander. Although immediately excited, the child quickly loses interest and the salamander languishes. The parents tire just as rapidly. One night, they let it loose outside, telling their child it escaped. The salamander, little-prepared for the world beyond the terrarium, quickly perishes. But it leaves something behind: spores of the deadly *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) fungus. A decade later, salamander species in the U.S. are in crisis; populations are plummeting as the fungus spreads, some species are believed totally gone. Extinction is marching across the land.

In an effort to stem this eco-tragedy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a rule in January 2016 that banned 201 species of salamander from being imported into the U.S. under the Lacey Act. But now some scientists—given new information about the spread of Bsal and its potential carriers—say this ban doesn’t go nearly far enough.
NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

DREISSENIDS

[Minnesota] Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Bemidji in Beltrami County (11/1/18)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Lake Bemidji in Beltrami County. In July, an adult zebra mussel was found in the stomach contents of a perch caught by a Lake Bemidji State Park volunteer while fishing on the north shore. DNR investigations at that time, including diving and sampling for zebra mussel larvae, did not lead to conclusive evidence. Zebra mussels were recently confirmed during planned dock and lift inspections. A Beltrami County aquatic invasive species specialist found individual adult zebra mussels on the Northwoods public access dock and on a dock near a resort on the south side of the lake.

OTHER AIS

[Washington] Corbicula fluminea (Asian clam) was found in Ozette Lake, WA. [USGS NAS Report Here]

[Washington] Cipangopaludina chinensis (Chinese mystery snail) was found in Lake Terrell, WA. [USGS NAS Report Here]

[Wisconsin] Duluth-Superior Harbor, Lake Superior

  Thermocyclops crassus [USGS Report Here]
  Nitokra hibernica (a harpacticoid copepod) [USGS Report Here]
  Schizopera borutzkyi (oarsman) [USGS Report Here]

[Idaho] Nymphaea odorata (American white waterlily) was found in Spirit Lake, ID along the shoreline in several discrete patches. [USGS Report Here]

[Montana] Nymphaea odorata (American white waterlily) was found in Holland Lake, MT. [USGS Report Here]

[Alaska] Esox masquinongy (Muskellunge) was found in Unnamed lake south of Soldotna, sometimes referred to as G Lake [on the Kenai Peninsula, AK] [USGS Report Here]

[Colorado] Potamopyrgus antipodarum (New Zealand mudsnail) was found in Trinidad Lake, CO. [USGS Report Here]

[California] Pacifastacus leniusculus (signal crayfish) was found in North Fork Feather River (CA) at Shady Rest Area. [USGS NAS Report Here]

[California] Pacifastacus leniusculus (signal crayfish) was found in North Fork Feather River (CA) at Shady Rest Area. [USGS NAS Report Here]
DREISSENID MUSSELS

[British Columbia] Okanagan filmmaker releases new documentary on mussel threat (11/15/18)
There may not be any zebra or quagga mussels in B.C. yet, but the threat is very real, and very urgent, says a Vernon man who spent months interviewing experts and visiting infested lakes and rivers in the U.S. All it would take is one contaminated boat getting across the border to destroy our lakes and rivers, Brynne Morrice says. “We can’t let that happen,” he says..... For more information about the mussels, and how to help, visit Protect Our Watershed.

[Michigan] Zebra mussels discovered in Lake Superior (11/14/18)
Common wisdom would tell you zebra mussels couldn’t live in Lake Superior because it’s an unproductive lake with frigid temperatures. But common wisdom might be wrong this time. When researchers started finding the mollusk nuisance not just surviving but spreading in the lake, they exhaled a collective groan.

…Stationed in southeastern Minnesota, Siems and Brady are one of three handler/K-9 teams across the state with the ability to detect the presence of zebra mussels…

[Montana] SensorSpace Catching Invasive Species (10/31/18)
…The rising threat the FLBS team is dealing with now is invasive species. “The biggest ones we’re worried about are zebra and quagga mussels which were identified in the state of Montana for the first time two summers ago about two or three hours from here,” explains Dr. Elser. “Alarm bells went off, and they’ve actually been implementing inspection stations around the perimeter of the basin, and are starting to do a pretty good job with that.”

[British Columbia] Feds look at mussel money (11/1/18)
The federal government will look at how it distributes funds in the battle against aquatic invasive species… According to the motion passed Oct. 30, the committee’s study will focus specifically on the mandate and resources of the AISC and how resources and activities for preventing or managing AIS are distributed across Canada.

[Nebraska] Corps pulls the plug on Cunningham in assault on zebra mussels (10/31/18)
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began drawing down Glenn Cunningham Lake Tuesday as part of a multiagency initiative to control the zebra mussels and common carp that have negatively impacted the lake’s ecosystem and to attempt to prevent from spreading to other lakes.

[Minnesota] Researchers find new methods to combat invasive zebra mussels (10/30/18)
In an effort to reduce their population, a paper released by the University in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey demonstrates the most effective ways to eradicate the inch-long critters, even in the icy waters of the North Star State. Most chemicals used to exterminate zebra mussels are developed and tested in warmer states located south of Minnesota, said James Luoma, a USGS researcher who was one of the leaders of the study. While these chemicals may work efficiently in warmer climates, they do not operate as well in the frigid waters of Minnesota lakes in the fall, he said.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS

[California] Staying vigilant on quagga mussel front (11/6/18)
Without question Lake County has one of most active quagga mussel prevention programs in the state. All boats entering any waters in the county must be screened or inspected and the boats must have a current mussel sticker attached… Miller said 2019 boat mussel stickers will be available on Dec. 1.

[Wisconsin] Waterless boat cleaning stations fight invasive species in Door County (10/31/18)
Door County wants to take the lead in fighting invasive aquatic species with automatic waterless boating cleaning stations. The Soil and Water Department is applying for grants to set up two boat cleaning stations at Carmody Park and Pinney Park. The stations would be the first of their kind to be used in Wisconsin. Conservationist Krista Lutzke says they’re an effective way to stop invasives without using hot water.

MARINE

A creature that looks like ‘pancake batter’ is thriving in the warming Gulf of Maine (11/15/18)
Add sea squirts — a variety of small, tube-like marine creatures that live bunched together in colonies — to the list of species that seem to be thriving in the warming waters off the Maine coast. Marine scientists say that the gelatinous animals have been growing in number in shallow waters along the coast and could be creating problems for native organisms that are getting squeezed out of their traditional habitat on the bottom.

Lionfish invasion in the Gulf of Mexico expected to worsen as the climate changes (11/14/18)
Scientists desperately trying to combat coral reef deaths 100 miles off the coast of Galveston caused by warming ocean waters might now have another climate change-related problem to battle in the coming decades: the hostile takeover of the zebra-striped lionfish.
Outdated ballast water management plan results in substantial penalty (11/7/18)

Californian authorities have issued a US$280,000 fine against the owner of a vessel deemed to be in contravention of state legislation when conducting deballasting operations. The crew conducted deballasting operations en route to California, more than 50 nautical miles out from the California coast, but in contravention of state legislation. Such an operation had been permissible – and had indeed been performed by the crew – under the regulations in force when the ship had previously traded to California. But, on this occasion, such deballasting was in violation of new regulations which had entered into force in July 2017, requiring ships entering from international waters to deballast more than 200 nautical miles from the coast of California.

Marine Safety Center issues Ballast Water Management System Type Approval Certificate to Qingdao Headway Technology Co., Ltd. (11/6/18)

The Coast Guard Marine Safety Center issued the 12th U.S. Coast Guard Ballast Water Management System Type Approval Certificate to Qingdao Headway Technology Co., Ltd… The treatment principle of the OceanGuard BWMS consists of filtration with electrolysis during uptake and neutralization during discharge.

Addressing marine plastic litter from ships – action plan adopted (10/30/18)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has pledged to further address the significant problem posed by plastics to the marine environment, with the adoption of an action plan which aims to enhance existing regulations and introduce new supporting measures to reduce marine plastic litter from ships. IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted (on 26 October) the action plan, to contribute to the global solution for preventing marine plastic litter entering the oceans through ship based activities.

Invasive northern pike found 10 miles from Grand Coulee Dam, Spokane Tribe catches 45-inch fish (11/15/18)

...Last week WDFW, the Spokane Tribe and the Colville Tribe combined for a join gillnetting effort throughout Lake Roosevelt. The goal of the operation was to develop an accurate northern pike survey method and to determine the effectiveness of suppression efforts, Lee said. Although the data is still coming back, Lee said catch information from the 150 nets deployed doesn’t look good. Biologists caught pike in 70 percent of the nets they deployed across the lake. “They’re spreading,” Lee said. “They’re pretty much everywhere.” That isn’t to say there’s no way to stop them. Starting in 2012, the Kalispel Tribe, working with WDFW, successfully suppressed northern pike in the Pend Oreille River. Nick Bean, a biologist with the Kalispel Tribe, said most of the pike suppression work now is maintenance.

Eating the Most Hated Fish on the Mississippi (11/12/18)

We spend millions trying to eradicate Asian carp, but they're also delicious…

Invasive species cost millions to eradicate from Alaska waters (11/9/18)

Invasive species in Alaska waters carry a hefty price tag — both in cash and precious fish. After decades of work, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game says it may have successfully eradicated northern pike from the last known infested waters on the Kenai Peninsula. Northern pike were introduced into waters of the Kenai Peninsula in the '70s. The department launched a concentrated effort to eliminate the species in 2008. Now, more than 10 years later, the initiative has tallied $1.5 million.

[Kentucky] Hall’s 'Dark Water’ documentary to premiere at REIFF (11/1/18)

…Hall's documentary tells the tale of what he believes is one of the most unheralded local industries: commercial fishing. The film follows the stories of fishermen, their profession, the evolution of the job and the looming issue of the Asian carp invasion…


AQUACULTURE

U.S. Fish Farming Is on the Rise (11/12/18)
Half of U.S. farmed fish production is catfish....

Green lobby up in arms about "feedlot-style" fish farms (11/12/18)
Friends of the Earth has delivered more than 38,500 comments opposing a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plan to increase aquaculture production in the USA.

OTHER

CBP Prevents Smuggling of Nearly 900 Pounds of Invasive Mitten Crabs (10/31/18)
…During examinations of incoming Chinese freight, specialists noted x-ray anomalies in 16 separate shipments, all which were labeled as various types of clothing. Once the specialists opened the boxes they found thousands of live crustaceans, all destined for residences in New York…This seizure of mitten crabs is the third interception of mitten crabs by CBP's Chicago Field Office in the past month…Related: These crustaceans tried an elaborate disguise to fool customs inspectors. It didn't work (11/7/18)

Montana Invasive Species Council - Invasive Species Law Review Compendium [pdf] (10/18)

USGS Open-File Report: "First comprehensive list of non-native species established in three major regions of the United States," its accompanying dataset, and other related documents. This publication is a result of six years of collaborative research among three USGS Science Centers and my program, and work to update the U.S. non-native species list is ongoing.

Overrun by Alien Species (11/1/18)
…So is there anything we can do once an invasive species has taken up residence? The answer is yes, but it requires more than just fences, traps and pesticides; it means changing human incentives. Today, for instance, the voracious Indo-Pacific lionfish is gobbling up local fish in the west Atlantic, while the Asian carp threatens the ecosystem of the Great Lakes. There is only one solution: We must eat them, dear reader. These invasive fish can be grilled, fried or consumed as sashimi, and they taste delicious. Likewise, kudzu makes great salsa, and Japanese knotweed can be treated like rhubarb. Eat for America and save the environment.


WEEDS

[Texas] Duck hunters reminded be mindful of invasive vegetation (11/11/18)
With the first split of 2018-19 Texas duck season now underway in the North and South Zones, aquatic invasive species experts with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are urging waterfowlers to be vigilant about inspecting boat trailers, decoy bags, waders and other equipment for hitch-hiking invasive plants like giant salvinia before leaving any body of water. [§]

JOBS/GRANTS

JOBS

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) is now hiring a Research Fellow that will develop creative and promising solutions for population-level control of zebra mussels. This research will build on ongoing research in the areas of chemical, biological and/or genetic control to move towards real-world application. More information is available online or contact Dr. Nick Phelps (phelp083@umn.edu) for more information.

Post-Doc: Endangered Species Research and Invasive Species Impacts in Florida, University of Florida. Last day to apply 1/15/19 (start date as early as 11/01/18 position open until job filled). We are looking for a dynamic Postdoctoral Researcher to oversee three conservation ecology projects in Florida. The projects will examine the loss of ecological functions (scavenging, frugivory, granivory) in the Everglades from invasive pythons and the factors limiting the population and two rarely-studies endangered species, the Florida salt marsh vole and the silver rice rat. The selected applicant will hire, train and supervise a team of technicians on each project and be responsible for managing permits and coordinating with state and federal agencies. They will also be asked to conduct statistical and spatial analysis and to generate manuscript from the projects. The job will require some travel and field work during the first year of the projects. The selected applicant will be given the flexibility to expand these studies to accommodate their interests and skills. By taking the lead on three important conservation ecology projects, this job provides an outstanding opportunity for professional growth. The postdoc will work closely with and be supervised by the principle investigator (Dr. McCleery http://www.themccleerylab.org/ ) and will be housed at the University of Florida.

Shipping Industry Jobs – Technical Sales Manager (Experience with water treatment, ballast water treatment, chemicals ideal; Must be authorized to work in the US) Flagship Management (2 jobs, Miami and Houston) full time, shore-based.
GRANTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND QUOTATIONS (RFQQ) RCO1806
State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PROJECT TITLE: Invasive Mussel Enhanced Rapid Response Exercise Services
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: November 26, 2018 – 12:00 P.M. PST

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE: [...] The RCO, hereafter called “AGENCY,” is initiating this Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) to recruit a CONSULTANT to collaborate with the AGENCY and partners to plan, facilitate, and hold a rapid response exercise at Lake Roosevelt simulating a detection and five-day incident response to a mock detection of invasive quagga and zebra mussels at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. Full RFQQ: https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/documents/RFQQ-RCO1806.pdf
Questions? Contact:
Justin Bush, RFQQ Coordinator
360-902-3088, Justin.Bush@rco.wa.gov

Aquatic Invasive Species Grants – Call for Applications
The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Reclamation and Development Grants (RDG) Program offers state-funded grants for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Preference will be given to species on the Montana Noxious Weed List and to zebra/quagga mussels. The goal of the grants is to protect the natural resources of Montana from severe and unacceptable damage from aquatic invasive species.
Eligible Activities: Activities include but are not limited to aquatic invasive species: (1) outreach and education; (2) prevention; (3) surveying and monitoring; (4) control; (5) treatment demonstration, research or design; or (6) other related actions.
Who is Eligible: AIS grants are available to state, city, county, tribal governments, or other local government subdivisions within the state.
DEADLINE: Grant applications must be submitted via email or postal mail by close of business Monday, December 3, 2018 by 5 p.m.
Contact: For technical questions about AIS projects, please contact Stephanie Hester, 406-444-0547, shester@mt.gov. For all other questions about the grant program, administration and reporting contact Heidi Anderson Foltagy, 406-444-6691, hfoltagy@mt.gov. Click here for the application and for additional information.

Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program
This Oregon Lottery funded grant program allows the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) to fund and administer noxious weed control projects in partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Watershed functions
- Native salmonid populations
Water quality - Projects for on-the-ground weed control of Oregon state listed noxious weeds that protect water quality and overall watershed health are encouraged.

Click here for the application and for additional information.
Grant eligibility - Any person, tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency may submit a request for funding. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities.

Project requirements - Must be for the management of state listed noxious weeds. Must demonstrate sound principles of integrated weed management to both protect and enhance watershed health. Demonstrate specific site management objectives. Have on-the-ground control as a focus and a majority of OSWB funds should be used toward the control elements of the project. Applications Due 12-14-18

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is accepting applications for Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program grants. The purpose of WHIP is to accomplish large-scale restoration of private and publicly owned, high priority wildlife habitats through noxious weed management. The program can annually allocate up to $2 million of federal Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) funds to support restoration work. Grant expenditures are limited to herbicide, mechanical, biocontrol, and re-seeding treatments, specifically to restore wildlife habitat functions. The program can also pay for range infrastructure to improve livestock grazing management for restoring native wildlife habitats and reducing susceptibility to noxious weed invasion.

Grant awards are based on eligibility and competitive ranking. To qualify for funding, projects must:

- enhance ecologically important wildlife habitat through control or management of noxious weeds that directly threaten habitat functions
- use a landscape scale approach
- have a reasonable probability of treatment effectiveness
- include a minimum 25 percent non-federal cash match

Ranking criteria also includes number of funding partners and amount of contributions, number of landowners involved, and accessibility of participating lands for public hunting. Awarded grants can be structured to provide funding for up to five years. 
Grant applications must be received no later than Dec. 15 to be considered for funding in 2019. For additional information and application materials, please visit the WHIP page on FWP’s website: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/whip/
If you have questions about applying for a WHIP grant or have any problems with the application forms, contact WHIP Coordinator Kim Antonick, kim.antonick@mt.gov or 406-444-7291.
NEW: An AIS legislative table is now up on the web on the www.westernais.org website... go to https://www.westernais.org/regulations and scroll all the way to the bottom

State

Montanans eye expanding, clarifying invasive species fight (11/15/18)
The upcoming session of the Montana Legislature is fast approaching, with the first day Jan. 7, 2019. While Christiaens would like to see discussion of an all-encompassing Montana Invasive Species Act, the funding for the aquatic invasive species program looms as a priority.

Invasive species pose great threat to environments, economies, Bullock tells other western governors (11/15/18)
Gov. Steve Bullock told the Western Governors’ Association on Wednesday that he hopes lessons learned in Montana’s response to invasive species can help other states. The association convened a workshop in Helena for its Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative, centering on the impacts of invasive and nuisance species on the environment. Wednesday’s workshop focused on early detection and rapid response to the detection of invasive species, with Bullock as the keynote speaker.

Executive

Senior GOP senator warns Trump against partial shutdown (11/15/18)
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) says he warned President Trump in a White House meeting Thursday afternoon that Republicans should avoid a partial government shutdown over the president’s desire for a border wall...... Shelby noted that government funding is going to expire on Dec. 7.

Congressional

Budget Overhaul Panel Can’t Pull It Together in Time for Thanksgiving (11/16/18)
The special select panel charged with overhauling the congressional budget process on Thursday punt a final vote on recommendations until after Thanksgiving amid disagreement by its two leaders over when the panel should act.
Roberts says farm bill could be set Monday (11/15/18)

Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts said today he thinks a 2018 farm bill [H.R. 2] could take shape by Monday, a day after he and House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway appeared at odds on the measure. "We're very close now," Roberts (R-Kan.) told reporters, adding that conservation programs remain among the last items to be negotiated. "I think we could have a bill ready by Monday, I hope so," Roberts said. The chairman's optimistic tone was an about-face from yesterday, when he told reporters that Conaway (R-Texas) was slowing progress with late counteroffers on a variety of policy issues. Conaway, in turn, said Roberts had taken more than a week to respond to House offers.

"Things have really progressed a lot more smoothly here in the last day," Roberts said. Major points of difference have centered on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — the costliest program in the five-year bill — and how to enforce employment requirements. But today, Roberts cited conservation as a loose end, including the Conservation Reserve Program. The CRP pays farmers to not plant crops on certain acres, instead growing grass or other cover crops that aren't harvested but can sometimes be grazed. Both versions of the bill would raise the 24-million-acre cap on CRP, with the House offering a slightly higher cap than the Senate would, and lawmakers are weighing how restrictive to be about grazing depending on drought conditions, for instance. "It's all about CRP and what you could do with those acres, things like that," Roberts said, adding those details are caught up in talks between Senate Agriculture ranking member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and the House committee's ranking member, Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.). [Source: Reprinted from E&E Daily, 11/15/18, with permission from Environment & Energy Publishing, www.eenews.net; 202/628-6500].

VIDA Close to the Finish Line

On 11/14/18, the Senate passed S.140, the “Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018” with a bipartisan vote of 94-6. This bill contains the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) under Title IX starting on page 274. It still needs to be passed by the House and signed by the President, but these appear to be a formality at this point and the hard work of negotiations is now over. According to Allen Pleus (Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov), WDFW AIS and BW Unit Lead:

This is a significant moment in the history of ballast water management as it culminates 13 years of various congressional legislation to provide national standards (first was in 2005 – S.363). In addition to ballast water, it also provides national standards for approximately 30 incidental discharge streams as defined under EPA’s Vessel General Permit under parts 2.1 and 2.2. This complicated legislation covers a broad array of issues and provisions. Key features of the legislation include:
• EPA assumes the lead role in establishing water quality standards for vessel discharges.
• Coast Guard will promulgate the EPA’s standards into vessel technology requirements and take the federal lead on monitoring, inspection, and enforcement of those standards.
• No state law or regulation that is more stringent than national standards or requirements is preempted until the full suite of new federal requirements are final and enforceable for every type of vessel and discharge covered under the bill.
• Pacific Coast ballast water exchanges will continue and Hawaii is added to those provisions.
• States must be consulted when the EPA and Coast Guard establish federal standards and promulgate federal requirements.
• States retain their ability to enforce federal standards and requirements and can petition the federal agencies for higher national standards.

Some other items in the bill:

**Fees (Page 330).** States can retain, assess, or repurpose existing fees up to a $5,000 per vessel statutory maximum to help establish or implement enforcement, monitoring, and inspection programs.

**Federal Grants (Page 375).** A new *Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program and Mitigation Fund* is established and funded by fines and federal appropriations to help states with inspection, monitoring, and enforcement programs. **$5 million is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund.**

**Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Monitoring Program (Page 381).** This EPA program will provide grants to allow the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain to monitor for ANS at an increased authorization of **$50 million/year** (5 year authorization).

**Quagga mussels are added as an “Injurious Species” under the Lacey Act, (Page 375); More on this can be found on a just posted blog “Injurious Species Listing for Quagga Mussel on the Horizon (11/16/18)” by Stephanie Showalter Otts:**

On November 14, the United States Senate passed the “Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018” by almost unanimous vote. The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for reconciliation, where it is expected to pass. In addition to a compromise deal outlining a new regulatory approach to ballast water discharges and a variety of other provisions, the bill includes language adding quagga mussels as an injurious species under Title 18 of the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42). The relevant provision reads:

(e) QUAGGA MUSSEL.—Section 42(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting “of the quagga
mussel of the species Dreissena rostriformis or Dreissena bugensis;” after “Dreissena polymorpha;”.

Title 18 prohibits the importation into the United States of species “deemed to be injurious or potentially injurious to the health and welfare of human beings, to the interest of forestry, agriculture, and horticulture, and to the welfare and survival of the wildlife or wildlife resources of the United States. In addition to importation, Title 18 prohibits “any shipment between the continental United States, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any possession of the United States.” A longstanding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service interpretation of the shipment clause asserted that it also prohibited the shipment of injurious species across state lines..........

REACTION

U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Chairman of the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard subcommittee (11/14/18):

The provisions provide a permanent exemption on incidental vessel discharge for all commercial fishing vessels and commercial vessels under 79 feet in length. Without this exemption, small vessel operators and fishermen would be forced to obtain Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permits for even the most basic activity, including vessel deck runoff, hosing out their fish holds, and other minor discharges. The language also provides a comprehensive fix to a broken regulatory framework by establishing a single, nationally uniform standard for the regulation of ballast water and other vessel discharges.

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), a senior Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee, secured a bipartisan agreement to pass the Coast Guard reauthorization bill (11/14/18)

The bill....includes a number of key Washington state priorities, including important science-based updates to ballast water management that will benefit Washington state fishermen and help protect Washington’s coasts and waterways. The bill puts existing West Coast ballast water management practices into law, such as strong state vessel inspection and enforcement, to help protect Washington waters from invasive species like quagga mussels.

U.S. to Harmonize Ballast Water Treatment Approvals with the IMO (11/14/18)

.....VIDA includes legislative language that amends the U.S. Coast Guard regulations to allow for the use of reproductive methods for the testing and approval of ballast water management systems by explicitly expanding the definition of "living" to ensure that organisms that can't reproduce (non-viable) are not considered to be living. This means that organisms that can't reproduce are
as good as dead for the purposes of the regulation. Such sterilization can occur when organisms receive treatment in UV-based ballast water treatment systems, and it is a situation that could prevent such treatment systems from gaining U.S. type approval or force them to use increased UV doses to meet U.S. requirements. Furthermore, the U.S. Coast Guard is required to develop a draft policy letter detailing reproductive methods based on best available science and must consider Type Approval testing methodologies that utilize organism grow-out and Most Probable Number (MPN) analysis to determine the number of viable organisms in ballast water that are capable of reproduction. This would harmonize the U.S. Coast Guard's policy approach on reproductive methods in determining ballast water treatment system efficacy with that of the IMO. In 2017, the IMO officially approved the MPN method to determine viability / reproductive capability (IMO Document BWM.2-Circ.61).

**Great Lakers Applaud Senate Action to Improve Bill on Aquatic Invasive Species**
(11/15/18)

“We applaud the Great Lakes champions in the Senate who fought hard to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of aquatic invasive species,” said Alliance for the Great Lakes Vice President for Policy Molly Flanagan. “The version of VIDA passed by the Senate today is dramatically improved from a bad version of the bill that Senate Democrats blocked in April 2018. We greatly appreciate the Senators who have listened to the science on this issue and heard the concerns of Great Lakes region residents.”

**Lake Carriers’ Association Statement on Passage of Federal Ballast Water Legislation**
(11/15/18)

"Lake Carriers’ Association is pleased with the Senate passage of the 2018 U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act including the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). VIDA is the result of many stakeholders coming to the table to craft this final version. VIDA is a good balance, achieving protection of both the economy and the environment. Importantly, it includes Great Lakes-specific provisions that provide the flexibility to establish uniform practices and standards more protective of our Great Lakes. Over the next few years, LCA looks forward to engaging with our government and regional partners to develop practical and implementable regulations to meet the letter and spirit of the bill.”

**Related:**

[Thune, Carper, and Portman Applaud Senate Passage of Bipartisan Coast Guard Authorization](11/14/18)

[Senate passes bill to keep ballast water containing invasive species out of Great Lakes](Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 11/14/18)
NOW WHAT: Expectations are that the bill will be passed by the House and signed by the President in the next two weeks...stay tuned !!!!!

TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Recently Archived

Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings

HACCP Trainings

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point courses upcoming this fall and winter. HACCP plans are a tool to help natural resource professionals prevent spread of invasives while conducting their field work.

HACCP and HACCP Train the Trainer - January 14-15 and January 16-18, 2019, respectively, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV - Instructors may include Susan Pasko, Barak Shemai, Jonathan Thompson and Joanne Grady

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings

Fall 2018 / Spring 2019 Lake Mead & Lake Powell

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and its 100th Meridian Initiative partners are announcing and sponsoring several types of WIT Trainings.

ONLINE REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5 – 2/7, 2019</td>
<td>Lake Powell</td>
<td>WIT III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26 – 3/27, 2019</td>
<td>Lake Mead</td>
<td>WIT II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/23 – 4/24, 2019</td>
<td>Lake Mead</td>
<td>WIT II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Openings are limited!!! Availability will close when class becomes full. An acceptance email will be sent for WIT III.

TO REGISTER: Go to [http://www.westernais.org](http://www.westernais.org) for more information. There are different registrations for Advanced Decontamination and Trainer Training (WIT III) classes. Click on the training tab of class you are interested in attending and register on that page link. These trainings do cost money and it is important that we fill all available openings. Please try to make sure that when you sign up for the class that you can attend so that we don’t end up paying for empty seats that could be used by others.
QUESTIONS? Should you have any questions or would like to host a training, please contact WIT Trainer Quagga D Davis at (702) 236-3814 or quaggadee@cox.net

On July 12, The Western Governors’ Association launched the WGA Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative, the signature initiative of WGA Chair, Hawaii Governor David Ige. The Initiative will focus on the impacts that nuisance species, pests, and pathogens have on ecosystems, forests, rangelands, watersheds, and infrastructure in the west, and examine the role that biosecurity plays in addressing these risks. The goal is to examine emerging issues in biosecurity and invasive species management in the West, and develop a set of policy recommendations, best practices, and technical tools to address those issues. The Initiative will accomplish this goal, in part, through webinars and a series of workshops across the West. The dates, locations, topics, agendas, and registration links for the remaining workshops are below:

- **Kona Coast, Hawaii, Dec. 9-10, 2018.** Topic: Biosecurity and Agriculture *(Agenda)*. Register [here](#).

If you would like to attend any of the initiative workshops, or if you have any questions about the initiative more generally, please contact Bill Whitacre with WGA. Please feel free to share this information with your contacts.

DECEMBER

**Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium** December 4-6 at OSU’s LaSells Stewart Center. Register [Here](#)

The next meeting of the **100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team** will take place December 4-5, 2018 in Boise, Idaho at the [Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown](#). The plan is to hold the Columbia River Basin Dreissenid Mussel Monitoring Forum portion of the meeting at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday December 4. We will begin the “regular” Columbia River Basin Team Meeting Tuesday at ~1:00 p.m. and conclude the meeting at ~3:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 5. A draft agenda and minutes and presentations from past meetings can be found at [https://www.westernais.org/regional](https://www.westernais.org/regional)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife invites the public to attend open house events across state.** The open houses, all scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m., will take place at the following dates and locations:
- Dec. 12 – Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Watershed Science Center, 125 W Sunset Way, Issaquah

**Washington Invasive Species Council**: December 13, 2018, Olympia, [Natural Resources Building](#) Room 172.
Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference and Workshop December 12th-14th, 2018 Nashville, TN. As we prepare the 2018 Conference Website, please consider presenting at the 2018 meeting. Suggested topics and a call for papers will go out soon. In the meantime if you have any questions please give Steven Manning a call at 615-969-1309 or send an email at mailto:steve@ipc-inc.org.

2019

JANUARY

USDA Interagency Forum on Invasive Species January 8-11, 2019, Annapolis, Maryland

A symposium titled “Dreissenid Mussels: Advancements in control, detection, management, and biology” is being organized at the 79th annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference which will be held in Cleveland, OH on January 27-29, 2019 and abstracts will be accepted online for presentations until September 17th. Questions regarding the symposium can be directed to Jim Luoma at jluoma@usgs.gov.

FEBRUARY

Every year the Invasive Species Council of BC holds an Annual Public Forum & AGM. The INVASIVES 2019 Forum takes place Feb 5 - 7, 2019 at the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond, BC

Canada: 4th Annual National Invasive Species Forum Where: Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre When: February 12-14, 2019

MARCH


*1st Call for Papers* 2019 MRNRC Missouri River Conference “Theme TBD” March 5-7, 2019 Ramkota Conference Center, Pierre, SD


June

Return to top
September

Washington Invasive Species Council: September 26, 2019, Olympia, Natural Resources Building Room 172.

October

The 21st International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) will be held at Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, Montreal, Canada. October 27-31, 2019

December

Washington Invasive Species Council: December 19, 2019, Olympia, Natural Resources Building Room 172.

Happy Thanksgiving

TO UNSUBSCRIBE/SUBSCRIBE to the AIS NEWS email sphillips@psmfc.org. 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.