

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

04/10/2019

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RECOMMENDED READING

2019 Spring Reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to

the Parliament of Canada

Report 1—Aquatic Invasive Species

Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Summary:

At a glance: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att e 43312.html Infographic: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att e 43311.html

Overall, we found that Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canada Border Services Agency had not taken the steps required to prevent invasive species, such as the zebra mussel, green crab, and tunicates, from becoming established in Canada's waters despite commitments to do so over the years. Fisheries and Oceans Canada had not determined which species and pathways posed the greatest threats to Canada's environment and economy and to human health and activities, and it had not determined which species were the most important to regulate.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada had, however, taken significant action to prevent Asian carp species from becoming established in the Great Lakes, and in 2017, the Department received additional funding to deal with aquatic invasive species.

We also found that Fisheries and Oceans Canada did not distinguish its responsibilities with regard to aquatic invasive species from those of the provinces and territories. Not knowing who should do what creates uncertainty about which jurisdiction should respond when new invasive species are detected. As well, the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations were not adequately

enforced, partly because of the Department's and the Agency's shortcomings in equipping and training fishery officers and border services officers with the means to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Canada.

Related: North Okanagan-Shuswap MP calls for response to failing invasive species program (4.2.19)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Potassium Chloride; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment

A Notice by the Environmental Protection Agency on 03/25/2019

EPA has received a quarantine exemption request from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to use the pesticide potassium chloride to treat Hyde's Quarry in Carroll County, Maryland, to control zebra mussels. The Applicant proposes the use of a new chemical which has not been registered by EPA as a pesticide. EPA is soliciting <u>public comment</u> before making the decision whether to grant the exemption.

Comments must be received on or before April 9, 2019.

NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

DRESISSENIDS

OTHER AIS

WATCH LIST

Be on the lookout for <u>Bacopa rotundifolia</u> along the Columbia River. Contact: Mark D. Sytsma (503) 307-6131mark.sytsma@pdx.edu

DREISSENID MUSSELS

DEQ's demands create obstacles for Texas Township's rising waters (3.22.19)

Homeowners around Crooked Lake and Eagle Lake in Texas Township are becoming increasingly concerned as water levels continue to rise and more homes are being abandoned due to flooding. The latest obstacle to a plan to pump water out of the lakes is

the DEQ's requirement that they filter the water to keep zebra mussel larvae from entering pristine Bass Lake downstream. Superintendent Julie Vanderweire says they will have to go all the way to Israel and pay \$300,000 for the screen with fine enough mesh to do the job.

Related: <u>Texas Township gets a permit to pump water (4.1.19)</u> The Department of Environmental quality has approved a plan to bail out Texas Township, but it will take longer to get it started and longer to lower the water levels in Eagle and Crooked Lakes because of conditions set by the State Agency.

TPWD Fall Zebra Mussel Sampling Found No New Infested Lakes (3.26.19)

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department found no new lakes infested with invasive zebra mussels during recent statewide early detection and monitoring. TPWD and partners monitor more than 60 lakes for early detection or population monitoring of zebra mussels.

Mussel Watch Program Detects Contaminants in the Great Lakes (3.26.19)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that scientists from its National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) published an assessment of contaminants of emerging concern in the Great Lakes. Of the 237 chemicals the team analyzed, they detected 99 of them in the mussels sampled for the study, according to the U.S. EPA Fish and Shellfish Newsletter.

[Saskatchewan] Report Sees No Invasive Species in SK Waters (3.27.19)

According to a recent report by the provincial government, Saskatchewan's waters were free of any invasive species for another year in 2018. The government announced on March 18 that it had concluded its 2018 invasive mussel monitoring program with no confirmed findings of invasive mussels in 121 waterbodies that were sampled throughout the province.

Lake Mead B-29 now covered with quagga mussels (3.29.19)

It wasn't the crash or the splash in 1948. It wasn't the 70 years of exposure to the lake's frigid waters. It wasn't the 20-year drought that lowered water levels by more than 100 feet and the algae that followed, or even the scavenger divers who stole relics from the aircraft. None of those acts of man or nature have threatened the survival of the Lake Mead B-29 quite like the quagga mussels that now cover the fuselage.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS

[Montana] Tribes set up AIS check station at Ravalli (3.21.19)

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Natural Resources Department's Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Program opened its Ravalli watercraft aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection station Wednesday, March 13. It will end its 2019 seasonal operation on Oct. 15. The Ravalli watercraft check station was one of three scheduled to open in March. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks opened its check

station in Kalispell last week, and the Blackfeet Nation is scheduled to open its check station near Browning before the end of March.

New detection dog joins B.C.'s search for invasive mussels (3.21.19)

B.C. has a new detective and this time it's a 15-month-old German shepherd. K9 Major may have a goofball personality but he takes his detection job seriously. Primarily from late March to October, Major will be searching for invasive zebra and quagga mussels on boats travelling through or into the province. A dog of many talents, Major can also find shell casings, poached animals or illegal firearms hidden inside vehicles during hunting season.

[Colorado] Aquatic nuisance species boat inspections underway in 2019 (4.3.19)

As the final winter frosts begin to thaw out, reservoirs are opening to boating across the state and Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are busy ramping up boat inspection stations for the upcoming season. Boat inspections for aquatic nuisance species are mandatory in Colorado and required for trailered motorboats and sailboats entering the state, and prior to launching on most public waters within the state. New this year, an ANS stamp is also required prior to boating in Colorado.

Idaho continues battle against invasive mussels (4.3.19)

Idaho check stations inspected 18% more watercraft last year compared to 2017 as the the state ramps up the battle to stop invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. While the number of boats to which the mussels were attached rose from 31 to 50, none of the mollusks was viable. Decontaminations has already been completed before the boats entered the state. That pleased officials because it showed the effectiveness of broader regional cooperation among states.

WSIA, NMMA and ABYC partner in the fight against aquatic invasive species (4.1.19)

On the final day of the Water Sports Industry Association Summit in Steamboat Springs, Colo., chairman of the board Larry Meddock stood before the largest gathering of members of the towsports industry and said a problem had to be dealt with. Environmental groups have been stepping up their efforts against the ballast systems in wake-surfing boats, concerned that the boats' ballast tanks have been transporting the larvae of zebra mussels, known as veligers. "We have two choices," Meddock told the crowd. "We can get proactive and try to get in front of this mess, or we can continue to react to what's happening."

Defending Wakesports Boats (4.1.19)

... "I saw fishermen getting attacked for moving [zebra mussels] from one place to another," says Jabbour, who worked with a partner from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to show that it was wakesports boats, not fishing boats, that were more cause for concern when it came to zebra mussels. "People just assumed." Peter MacCallum heard similar concerns about wakesports boats this past January, while at a hearing in Concord, N.H., about legislation that would create a commission to look at the impact of wakesports boats on that region's waterways. "This public hearing was pretty heavy-sided," MacCallum says. "There's a groundswell of support against wake boats.

It's my responsibility as a retailer to engage in the conversation and make sure that the legislature knows facts and research-based science."...

MARINE

Dozens Of Nonnative Marine Species Have Invaded The Galapagos Islands (3.28.19)

The Galapagos Islands are like a biological ark in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Giant tortoises livethere, and swimming iguanas, and numerous species found nowhere else. It's one of the world's most protected places... When Carlton's team looked underwater, however, they found a horde of invaders. "Now we have 53, which is a rather stunning increase," says marine biologist Gregory Ruiz, who was on the trip. "It's about a tenfold increase."

Related: <u>Special Issue Aquatic Bioinvasions: Marine Bioinvasions of the Galapagos</u> Islands

Beloved blue crabs native to New Jersey bedevil Spain (4.1.19)

Iconic to the Jersey Shore, the blue crab evokes fond memories of spreading out newspapers, cracking shells, and scraping away for bits of succulent meat. But for some Europeans, the crab is a pugnacious, out-of-control "invasive voracious alien species, with no known predators," destroying fishing nets and killing other prized sea critters, according to a recent article published by a network of universities in Spain.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

Safety and Environment are Not Contradictory Paradigms (4.3.19)

... It is common thinking to consider that prioritizing safety, ships can do whatever they need to save life and maintain sea worthiness. While this is true (Safety of Life At Sea is a top priority to any activity), environmental considerations cannot be kept externalized from the safety process. The way to resolve the dilemma between safety demands and environmental sustainability is to change the way we design ships, operate them and train crew...

IMO's GloFouling Project Kicks Off (3.23.19)

The IMO has started a five-year project to help protect marine biodiversity - the first globally coordinated effort to address biofouling. The GloFouling Partnerships project is a collaboration between the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IMO. Representatives from 12 lead partnering countries, four regional organizations, IOC-UNESCO, the World Ocean Council and numerous strategic partners attended the first Global Project Task Force meeting.

MOSI Anti-Fouling Coatings for Barnacles and Zebra Mussels (3.22.19)

... Because zebra mussels also secrete a protein adhesive, it can be hypothesized that a MOSI coating formula, similar to the one tested on barnacles in the Gulf of Mexico, would work in much the same way. A zebra mussel fresh water fouling study is planned for summer 2018 in the Portage lakes near Akron, Ohio. Gel coat/fiberglass, a common boat hull material of construction as well as aluminum and steel test articles will be used...

"Jumbo" Dry Bulk Fleets To Continue to Emerge in The Future As Consolidation Among Shipping Companies Will Remain (3.25.19)

...The implications of the 2020 fuel restrictions, as well as the costs of implementing ballast water management improvements for all the fleet have resulted in higher costs for owners, as well as in the case of 2020, a heated debate into the merits of scrubbers...

Ballast Water Treatment Systems Market Size To Reach \$117.55 Billion By 2025

The global ballast water treatment systems (BWTS) market is expected to reach USD 117.55 billion by 2025, driven by growth in the size of shipping industry trade volume and rising government initiatives in line with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations. Furthermore, the ballast water treatment systems market is expected to be growing as BWTS is effective in regulating unauthorized ocean dumping, oil & chemical spills, and the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Microbes in Ballast Water Show Where a Ship Came From (4.8.19)

In one of the <u>largest geographic surveys of ballast and harbor water</u> to date, Claudia Gunsch and William Gerhard, scientists at Duke University in North Carolina, showed that they can identify the source of ballast water based solely on the community of microbes in the tanks. They say their new research lays the groundwork for quickly identifying the source of ballast water; an important regulatory check used to prevent the transport of unwanted species.

[Scientific Publication] Josephine C. Iacarella, Ian C. Davidson Anya Dunham. <u>Biotic exchange from movement of 'static' maritime structures</u> Biological Invasions. April 2019, Volume 21, Issue 4, pp 1131–1141 | Cite as

FISH

Research ties lake trout to changes in Yellowstone ecosystem (3.21.19)

The precipitous decline of Yellowstone Lake's cutthroat trout population during the past 30 years following the illegal introduction of nonnative lake trout has had impacts on everything from zooplankton and water temperature to grizzly bears and otters, according to a newly published paper. "Our study illustrates the potential impact of a single, invasive predatory species on otherwise pristine ecosystems," the researchers wrote in the scientific journal "Science Advances."

Man caught illegally transporting stingrays, exotic fish at Texas airport (4.5.19)

A Kansas man has been charged after he was caught transporting illegal fish through a Texas airport. The Texas Game Warden confirmed the news in a Twitter post Tuesday, sharing photos of the freshwater stingrays and boulengerella fish, which are both on Texas' invasive species list.

[Scientific Publication] <u>Invasion genetics of the silver carp Hypophthalmichthys molitrix across North America: Differentiation of fronts, introgression, and eDNA metabarcode detection</u>
Carol A. Stepien, Matthew R. Snyder, Anna E. Elz PLOS 1
Published: March 27, 2019 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0203012

[Scientific Publication] C. Nathan Cathcart Kristine J. Dunker Thomas P. Quinn Adam J. Sepulveda Frank A. von Hippel Andrew Wizik Daniel B. Young Peter A. H. Westley. Trophic plasticity and the invasion of a renowned piscivore: a diet synthesis of northern pike (Esox lucius) from the native and introduced ranges in Alaska, U.S.A. Biological Invasions. April 2019, Volume 21, Issue 4, pp 1379–1392

AQUACULTURE

Sierra Club Maine opposes current Nordic Aqua Farm plans (3.25.19)

Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee voted unanimously on Saturday to oppose construction of Nordic Aqua Farm Inc. (NAF). As currently proposed it poses a significant and unreasonable risk to the environment and economy of Penobscot Bay and the Midcoast Maine communities... The Sierra Club Maine calls for further transparency in environmental impact studies, with full disclosure of the chemical nature of the wastewater discharge, and the future oversight of claims including limited antibiotic use, non-GMO feed, and water treatment. The project poses an unknowable threat to the environment as well as marine life and people who live in an around the Bay and rely on the Bay to sustain their lives and livelihoods. Furthermore, no permit should be issued while the applicant is still working on details.

Flawed Sierra: 'Grave errors' in green group's bid to block on-land salmon farm (3.28.19)

...The Norwegian-owned company said: "The decision to oppose the project was based on grave factual errors that easily could have been avoided by attending our meetings, reading our permit applications or reaching out to us for clarifications." It pointed out that a number of reputable environmental organisations, including the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the Conservation Law Fund and the Atlantic Salmon Federation, had conducted scientific peer reviews of its discharge application and given the plan their backing...

WEEDS

[California] San Dieguito River Conservancy cleaning up watershed (3.25.19)

The San Dieguito River Conservancy received \$140,000 in grants to remove invasive plants from the waterway. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is eradicating invasive weeds from the river course, and replacing them with native plants, in order to control fire risk and and improve the natural habitat. That stretch of river is overgrown with non-native, invasive species, including giant reed, tamarisk, pampas grass, palms, castor bean, and eucalyptus, which crowd out native species and increase fire risk, the conservancy stated.

[Scientific Publication] Kate Crane, Ross N. Cuthbert, Jaimie T. A. Dick, Louise Kregting, Hugh J. MacIsaac, Neil E. Coughlan. Full steam ahead: direct steam exposure to inhibit spread of invasive aquatic macrophytes Biological Invasions April 2019, Volume 21, Issue 4, pp 1311–1321 |

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biodiversity loss in the oceans can be reversed through habitat restoration (3.25.19)

...Scientists from a project called EMERTOX have found an increasing amount of toxins from tropical algae native to the Caribbean and the Indian and Pacific Oceans is winding up the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. Professor Vitor Vasconcelos, the project's lead coordinator and biotechnology and ecotoxicology expert at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR) in Porto, Portugal, says that their increased presence is probably due to climate change, and possibly ballast water from ships.

Climate change brings higher numbers of invasive aquatic plants in Okanagan (4.3.19)

A warming planet is allowing invasive plants to thrive in Okanagan lakes. James Littley, operations and grants manager with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, said milfoil thrives and spreads in warmer waters, which means more money spent to keep the invasive weed at bay. Eurasian watermilfoil is a very aggressive invasive plant that kills native species, first identified in the Vernon area of Okanagan Lake in 1970. By 1974, the plant was well established in the main lakes of the Okanagan. Environment Canada scientists recently released a report stating that Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world.

OTHER

Progress seen in effort to eradicate rodent from California (3.26.19)

More than 400 nutria have been captured in the first year of an effort to eradicate the invasive South American rodent from California. The state Department of Fish and

Wildlife said Monday the semi-aquatic rodents were trapped in five counties in the San Joaquin Valley.

Related: Downloadable Nutria Pocket Guide

Kids Asked To Help In Nutria Eradication Efforts In California (3.30.19)

Florida neighborhood besieged by thousands of poisonous toads 'covering every square inch' (3.25.19)

Thousands of poisonous toads have flooded a South Florida neighborhood, raising fears about the dangers they pose to pets and children, according to local reports. The toads started appearing in Palm Beach Gardens, a city of 55,000, north of Miami, in recent weeks, according CBS Miami. They have been found in people's gardens, swimming pools, sidewalks and driveways in the Mirabella neighborhood, according to footage shared by WPTV, an NBC affiliate in Palm Beach. "I just see a massive amount of toads or frogs everywhere, covering every square inch," resident Jenni Quasha told WPTV. "You can't even walk through the grass without stepping on one."

Related: Cane Toads: An Unnatural History [Documentary, 1988] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SBLf1tsoaw

Skin-eating fungus is mighty species slayer (3.28.19)

A frog-killing fungus is responsible for the decline of more species than any other pathogen on record, a global analysis has found. The study, <u>published on 28 March in Science</u>, reveals that chytrid fungi have caused the decline of at least 501 amphibian species worldwide from 1965 to 2015, including 90 that have become extinct. Other well-known pathogens such as the bat disease white-nose syndrome or West Nile virus, which kills birds, have affected just a fraction of the number of species. Chytrid fungi's impact on biodiversity is comparable to those of the most destructive invasive species, such as cats and rodents, says the study.

Red swamp crayfish could be next Great Lakes invasive (3.29.19)

Larson and other researchers are looking for ways to keep it from making it that far. Their recent study in the Journal of Great Lakes Research predicts the most likely places the red swamp crayfish could next inhabit. "We've been worried about the red swamp crayfish, which is kind of the most globally widespread and harmful of invasive crayfish," Larson said. The researchers identified Great Lakes habitat with water temperatures that are good for the crayfish to locate where they think they can live.

New website tracks invasive species (3.30.19)

A new tool is available for folks who care about St. Louis Country lakes to guard against aquatic invasive species. Experts at UMD's Natural Resources Research Institute have compiled an <u>interactive website overlaid with multiple data</u> sets that show 1,139 lakes 5 acres and larger in the county... You can click to see which lakes have already been infested by specific invasive species. But the website goes much further and can show where boat ramp surveyors have collected data, where boaters at that lake are coming from and what invasive species are in those waters.

Internet Invasives: The Eco Threat Of Online Shopping (3.30.19)

Are you harboring a threat to freshwater species on your computer? It's ubiquitous, it's addicting, and it may be lurking in an open tab in your browser – it's online shopping. This might sound like a joke, but we're not April Foolin' – electronic commerce (ecommerce) is a serious threat to freshwater biodiversity as a major pathway for the spread of invasive species. In some cases, invaders are moved unintentionally in vehicles or packaging, but the live-trade of aquatic plants and animals in particular poses a major risk of spreading invasive organisms. To make things worse, the most commonly traded plants and animals are often the most likely to become invasive if they happen to be released, likely because they are selected for their hardiness. Trade has long been recognized as a conduit for dispersing invasive species, and the problem has evolved and grown with the rise in global e-commerce, which has expanded the field of potential trading partners, and allows individuals to easily participate in the market for living organisms. While it's true that most people probably don't put Amazonian animals in their cart on Amazon, it is possible to purchase everything from a common pleco or (horrors!) highly invasive water hyacinth with just a few clicks. Consequently, the internet market has been identified as a significant threat to national-level biosecurity in countries such as New Zealand.

JOBS/GRANTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

2019 European Green Crab trapping on the Makah Reservation (3.28.19)

The Makah Fisheries Management Department is once again soliciting for volunteers to assist with efforts to trap invasive European green crab on the Makah Reservation.

JOBS

<u>Invasive Species Technicians- New York - Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CSU CEMML)</u>

Location: Fort Drum, NY Job Category: Temporary/Seasonal Positions

Salary: \$15.49/hour Start Date: 06/03/2019 Last Date to Apply: 04/12/2019

Description: Technicians (3) will help identify and map invasive plant populations. They will also help treat historically known infestations. Mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments will be implemented to different invasive populations according to their size and location.

Job Opportunities with Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC)

ISCBC is recruiting for a variety of new employment/contractor opportunities:

- · Outreach Coordinator
- · Education Coordinator
- · Indigenous Liaison

· <u>Japanese Beetle Ambassador (2 positions)</u>

<u>Read more</u> about the available positions and apply as soon as possible.

GRANTS

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program announces our 2019 call for Aquatic Invasive Species proposals (F19AS00142). This funding was historically called the 100th Meridian Initiative funding. Examples of previously funded projects include: Don't Let it Loose pet outreach program by the Invasive Species Action Network; Model law/regulations/MOU for western watercraft programs by National Sea Grant Law Center; and Columbia River Basin Team activities at Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Proposals will be accepted through May 14th.

Priorities include: Reducing spread of quagga/zebra mussels and other AIS through priority goals of the Quagga Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters (QZAP). Conducting research to reduce risks of quagga/zebra mussel spread through the watercraft pathway as identified in the 2015 Dreissenid Mussel Research Priorities Workshop. Reducing new introductions of AIS into Western states through the pet trade. Supporting Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) approved State ANS Plans which address the management and/or control of quagga/zebra mussels or other AIS in Western waters. Meeting the goals of An Action Plan to Implement Legal and Regulatory Efforts to Minimize Expansion of Invasive Mussels Through Watercraft Movements in the Western United States. Preventing introductions of AIS into the unique landscapes of the Greater Yellowstone Area and Upper Columbia River Basin.

Note that this is the last of three FWS grant opportunities in the western U.S. open simultaneously. <u>F19AS00117</u> is the national state plan grant call organized by Don MacLean. It closes on March 27th. <u>F19AS00118</u> is the call for Quagga Zebra Mussel Action Plans organized by Barak Shemai. It closes on **April 27th**. **Contact** Joanne Grady (<u>joanne_grady@fws.gov</u> 303-236-4519) if you have any questions about this funding opportunity or potential projects.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2019 Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western Waters has opened for competition at grants.gov. Please follow this link for direct access 2019 QZAP NOFO. If you are unable to use this link you can search for F19AS00118 at grants.gov. The announcement will be open through April 27, 2019, at which time all projects will be evaluated for award. In an effort toward wide dissemination, please forward this email to all potentially interested parties. Please carefully read all requirements and application review process, as some things have changed again this year.

CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, 2018/19 Qz Grant Solicitation Notice and Webinar. The 2018/19 Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program

Webinar will take place: April 4, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The application window is: April 2, 2019 - May 10, 2019 The Solicitation Notice, pre-registration for the On-Line Grant Application (OLGA) system, and other QZ Grant documents for the 18/19 Grant Cycle, are now available on the DBW website: www.dbw.ca.gov/QZGrant For questions regarding quagga/zebra mussel monitoring, or for prevention planning, contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov or (866) 440-9530.

Through the Asian Carp Market Value Program (MVP), Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers grant funding for current Asian carp processors and product-makers to support development of new markets and sales opportunities for Asian carp products. MVP's intent is to assist the State of Illinois in meeting invasive species management goals by encouraging demand for Asian carp through business growth. Up to \$8,000 per applicant is available, to be matched 20% by the applicant for business travel expenses and attendance at trade shows and conferences associated with market development and sales of Asian carp products. (For an applicant to receive the maximum \$8,000, the applicant must spend \$10,000 on travel and/or trade show/conference-related costs, \$8,000 of which must be for eligible expenses.) This funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, once the travel and/or event has occurred. For further program information or to request an application, please contact the staff person below, or visit https://www.ifishillinois.org/Asian%20Carp/Asian Carp MVP.html

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

A Federal AIS legislative table can be found @ www.westernais.org website... go to https://www.westernais.org/regulations and scroll all the way to the bottom

Advocacy

Council Letter Requests More Federal Funds For Watercraft Inspections In 2020; Competition From Other States Could Be Coming (3.26.19)

Looking ahead to ensure continued funding for Northwest watercraft inspection stations, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council sent a <u>letter</u> to Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) asking for an increase in federal funding for the inspection program in 2020. Funding for 2019 is already set at \$4,836,581, an amount that this year also will be matched by each of the four northwest states. [Full NWPCC blog and letter]

State/Province

Resource: <u>NCSL Environment And Natural Resources State Bill Tracking Database.</u> You can search legislation by state, topic, keyword, year, status or primary sponsor. Topic: Wildlife-Invasive Species

HAWAII

Bill expands authority to eradicate invasive species on private property (4.8.19)

The Hawaii Legislature is close to signing into law a measure that will provide invasive species committees another weapon in the fight against biological intruders. <u>House Bill 201 HD1</u> SD1 passed its third reading in the state Senate Friday and will now be sent back to the House of Representatives. Rep. Nicole Lowen (D-Kona) introduced the bill and plans to adopt it as-is, fast tracking it to Gov. David Ige's desk as long as it doesn't encounter any pushback from House leadership.

MICHIGAN

Check your boat or risk a ticket: Michigan law aims to stop invasive species (4.1.19)

You can now get a ticket in Michigan if you neglect to do a simple check of your boat for plants and organisms. That goes for canoes, kayaks and motor boats. Newly expanded Michigan laws require boaters to take extra steps to ensure their boats and trailers are clean and dry just after they exit a body of water. The goal: Stop invasive species from hitching a ride from one body of water to another, a nuisance that costs the government and lake associations millions of dollars each year. Fail to do so, and you could be fined up to \$100, plus any court fees the county adds, said Lt. Terry Short, a supervisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in northern Michigan.

OREGON

Current invasive species related bills that have been introduced (click on link for bill status)

<u>SB47:</u> (Oregon State Marine Board) Requires person operating non-motorized boat to have waterway access permit.

<u>SB445</u>: (Senator Roblan) Revises membership of Invasive Species Council and reporting requirements. Appropriates moneys to council for specified purposes.

SB 445 revises membership, leadership and reporting requirements of the Oregon Invasive Species Council and provides funding necessary to accomplish baseline state-mandated responsibilities. If passed, these revisions will allow the OISC to successfully fulfill its statutory role by enhancing communication, representation, and capacity.

<u>HB2062:</u> (Oregon Department of Agriculture) Requires Invasive Species Council to biennially report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly.

<u>HB2076:</u> (Oregon State Marine Board) Requires boat operators to remove or open devices used to drain water from boat before transporting boat within the state.

WASHINGTON:

HB 1579/SB 5580

Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing habitat and forage fish abundance: Prime sponsors Representative Fitzgibbon and Senator Rolfes

The bills aim to implement task force recommendations to recover SRKW by increasing habitat, as well as forage fish abundance. **The bill liberalizes bag limits on predator fish** that prey on salmon smolt and requires a license to fish for saltwater smelt. The Senate bill did not survive Policy Committee cutoff and will not be moving forward this year. \

MONTANA

Bill Requiring Decontamination of Wakeboard Boats Moving Forward (3.25.19)

A bill advancing through the Montana Legislature would require wakeboarding boats to undergo a mandatory decontamination process to curb the threat of aquatic invasive species, and it places the financial onus for the procedure on the boat owner. House Bill 608 establishes a \$50 fee for boats with ballasts or bladders entering the state or crossing the Continental Divide into the Columbia River basin. The boats, which are designed to enhance the vessel's wake for water-skiers and wakeboarders, are capable of holding hundreds of gallons of water and are more difficult to inspect.

Aquatic invasive species funding package moves through Legislature (3.27.19)

The funding mix for Montana's fight against aquatic invasive species keeps evolving... The new measure requires nonresidents to buy an aquatic invasive species prevention pass, at a cost of \$10 for non-motorized vessels and \$30 for motorized vessels. It also raises fees on certain kinds of boat registration, and directs the increase to the state's invasive species prevention account. Anglers 16 and older will also have to buy an aquatic invasive species prevention pass, at a cost of \$7.50 for nonresidents and \$2 for residents. It also reduces the fee on hydroelectric facilities from \$796 to \$398 per megawatt of capacity.

Flathead Basin Commission looks to future under scaled back budget (3.28.19)

Wilson said other funding could pad the purse in the future, including grants and state legislative bills. The potential legislative funding is related to several bills making their way through the legislative process. The 66th Legislature wraps up on Wednesday, May 1, and then funding certainty will be known.

Permanent funding will enhance anti-AIS effort in Montana including Indian Country (4.4.19)

There are several bills meandering through the 66th Montana Legislature that will add to the anti-AIS arsenal of the State and CSKT. Most importantly are funding bills including boating fee bills and ordinances.

NOTE on legislation below (From Stephanie Hester {MISC, Monday, April 8, 2019}):

Here is your weekly update on the status of invasive species-related legislation. All hearings are open to the public, and interested persons are able to provide comment during the public comment portion of the hearing agenda. Written comments may also be submitted to the committee staff.

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Please note that **not** all of these bill title requests are active and hearings may be rescheduled at any time. Visit the <u>Montana State</u> <u>Legislature website</u> for the most current information on bill status and hearing dates.

Click here for legislative updates from the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

INTRODUCED BILLS

Bill Typ Number		Primary r Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title
<u>HB 7</u>		Jim Keane (D) HD 73	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	04/08/2019	Reclamation & Development Grants
<u>HB 32</u>		Willis Curdy (D) HD 98	(H) Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal*	04/01/2019	Revise laws related to aquatic invasive species programs
<u>HB 63</u>		Ray L Shaw (R) HD 71	Chapter Number Assigned	02/19/2019	Remove sunset date to extend financial liability for pesticide applicators
<u>HB 142</u>		Joshua Kassmier (R) HD 27	r Chapter Number Assigned	03/21/2019	Revise county weed laws
<u>HB 221</u>		Fred Anderson (R) HD 20	(S) Returned to House with Amendments	04/05/2019	Revise pesticide applicator laws
<u>HB 402</u>		Greg Hertz (R) HD 12	(H) Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal*	04/01/2019	Revising local government laws related to invasive species
HB 411	LC1167	Willis Curdy (D) HD 98	(S) Hearing (S) Natural Resources	04/05/2019; 3:00 PM, Rm 303	Revise laws related to AIS expenditures and funding
HB 608		Joe Read (R) HD 93	(S) Hearing (S) Natural Resources	04/08/2019; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Requiring mandatory AIS decontamination of certain vessels with ballast/bladders

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^{*} after status indicates the bill is *probably* dead

HJ 17 🔊 🏝 LC2023 Will (D)	llis Curdy (S) Sched HD 98 Reading	uled for 3rd 0		Joint resolution to congress asking to fund aquatic invasive species
				programs
<u>SB 257</u>	ke Cuffe (H) Scheo SD 1 Reading	duled for 3rd 0		Revise laws related to the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission
SJ 12 LC3108 Mil (R)	ke Cuffe (S) Filed SD 1 State	with Secretary of 0	03/19/2019	Resolution on Columbia River Treaty

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Executive

With a new governor, Illinois officials now say they support plans to block invasive Asian carp (4.5.19)

... In a shift from his predecessor, Gov. J.B. Pritzker told the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last month he generally supported plans to block invasive carp at a strategic lock and dam near Chicago...But Pritzker, a Democrat, who took office in January, stopped short of a full-throated endorsement of the Corps' plans and joined with the leaders of other Great Lakes states, including Wisconsin, in raising worries about spiraling costs of the project.

<u>Trump Signs S.47 - John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act</u> (3/12/19)

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, the President signed into law: <u>S. 47, the "John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act,"</u> which provides authorities related to public land management and other natural resources matters.

NOTE: To see AIS details of S. 47 go to <u>February 13</u> and see **page 19**.

NOW WHAT: DOI issued a Secretarial Order directing leadership to coordinate on implementation on the whole suite of provisions in S. 47. To see the order go <u>HERE</u>. The order includes the creation of the "Sec. 4 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act **Task Force**."

A task force on the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act is hereby established in the Department. The Associate Deputy Secretary shall serve as Chair and the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Areas, and the Solicitor shall serve as members of the task force. The purpose of the Task Force is to ensure:

- a. Timely and coordinated implementation of the Dingell Act throughout the Department;
- b. Proper allocation of efforts and resources;
- c. All timelines contained in the Dingell Act are met; and
- d. Consistency among the various Bureaus and Offices within the Department.

Implementation Plan. Within 60 days of the date of this Order, members of the Task Force will submit an Implementation Plan for each actionable provision of the bill to the Chair.

Congressional

Senators Introduce LWCF Bill: Senate Energy ranking member Joe Manchin and Republican Sen. Cory Gardner introduced legislation Tuesday that would provide full, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at a level of \$900 million. The bill introduced Tuesday and backed by 12 bipartisan senators would nix the requirement that funds must be appropriated. It comes after a year of ups and downs for the landmark conservation program that only recently received permanent reauthorization, while expenditures are left subject to the appropriations process. Read the bill text. [Source: Morning Energy, 4.10.19]

APPROPRIATIONS

House Democrats 'deem' \$1.3T spending cap (4/10/19)

Divided House Democrats backed a plan yesterday that could help avert billions of dollars in proposed cuts to EPA and other domestic agencies in fiscal 2020. The House adopted, 219-201, a procedural "deeming" measure that would set an overall discretionary spending level to \$1.295 trillion for the upcoming year. It would be a 10% increase over across-the-board cuts, known as sequester, due to kick in when the new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1. The move will allow appropriators to being writing their 12 annual spending bills when Congress returns from a two-week congressional recess that begins Monday. It, however, essentially is a backup plan — without the force of law — that Democrats moved rather than vote on a more robust bill that would have raised spending restraints for the next two years...

...While the House can now draft its spending bills, Congress will still need to pass legislation to raise the sequester caps that the administration has used to justify cutting EPA by about a third and making reductions at the Energy and Interior departments. If lawmakers do not act, current budget law would force automatic cuts. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), meanwhile, said yesterday that he has reached out to the White House and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in recent days to begin negotiations over spending legislation. He said they had agreed to begin preliminary, staff-level discussions on a possible two-year deal to adjust the budget caps. [Source: Reprinted from E&E Daily, 4/10/19, with permission from Environment & Energy Publishing, www.eenews.net; 202/628-6500].

Administration Presents President Trump's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request (3/11/19)

The President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is available on OMB.gov/Budget.

<u>Budget Hearing: Department of the Interior (3/26/19)</u> Subcommittees: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Witnesses: Mr. Scott J. Cameron Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior

Budget hearing: National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey (4/3/19)

Ms. Margaret Everson: Principal Deputy Director, Fish & Wildlife Service

Dr. Jim Reilly: Director, U.S. Geological Survey

Mr. Dan Smith: Deputy Director, National Park Service

Trump backtracks on call to gut \$300M Great Lakes program (3.29.19)

President Donald Trump tried repeatedly to gut funding for a wide-ranging Great Lakes cleanup, only to be stymied by Congress. Suddenly, he did an about-face. It happened Thursday during a campaign-style speech in the battleground state of Michigan. For years, the program the Obama administration established in 2010 enjoyed bipartisan support, and Trump — who proposed a 90 percent cut just three weeks ago — toyed with the crowd before revealing his belated advocacy. Related: Trump is making stuff up about the Great Lakes, for some weird reason

Joyce ask EPA head to clarify administration's funding commitment to Great Lakes cleanup (4.4.19)

...Specifically, Rep. Joyce asked Wheeler to clarify the exact amount that the Trump administration proposes to fund the GLRI, noting that the president's declaration last week to fully support the program contradicted the administration's fiscal year 2020 budget request, which slashes GLRI funding by 90 percent...

TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Events: Archived Materials

A recording of the Invasive Mussel Collaborative webinar "Invasive Mussel Genomics: Innovations for Control Methods" from March 8 is now <u>available online</u> along with PDFs of the presentations.

Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the following May 8, 2019 - WIT I - Mission Viejo, CA

May 9, 2019 - WIT 1 - Mission Viejo, CA

April 23-24, 2019 - WIT II - Lake Mead

Openings are limited!!! Availability will close when class becomes full.

TO REGISTER: Go to 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. WIT III - https://www.westernais.org/level-3-trainer-training If you are interested in Trainer Training, register on website and when enough qualified individuals register, will put another class together — Have a WIT III waiting list

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

April

OSU Extension in conjunction with Lincoln SWCD presents: EmpowerU: Advocating Invasive Species Management - It's a pilot hybrid course designed to elevate the work of community based invasive species management by teaching participants how to frame their issue, communicate with government officials and create engagement plans to leverage resources. The curriculum is from University of Minnesota. In this 4 week hybrid course (about 1-2 hours of work per week), woodland and shoreline owners, master volunteers, and natural resources professionals can grow their skills to meaningfully engage decision makers about invasive species. The training will be conducted through a series of self-paced online learning activities and one in-person workshop. The course will start on April 15 (online) and we have options for in person trainings on May 11 in Lane County or May 14 in Lincoln County. Cost is \$25/person (includes materials and Lunch) and registration can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/osuempoweru It will be open to anyone, but is designed for community leaders and professionals working in this area.

NAISMA WEBINAR: April 17th at 1:00 pm CST: Catching the "Unicorn:" Using Public, Private and Non-Profit Partnerships to Help Tackle AIS. Presented by Ed Rudberg, Ph. D., CEO CD3, General Benefit Corporation. Due to the high cost of high pressure, heated water decontamination, reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) often relies upon the adoption of best management practices at the individual level. However, until CD3's 2017-2018 Waterless Cleaning Station Pilot, tools to implement best management practices were unavailable to boaters. The process for developing these tools was an example of how we caught a "unicorn," via the elusive private, public and non-profit partnership.

Webinar: Noxious Weeds of the Past Five Years When: April 17th at 10:00am PDT Come learn about recently listed noxious weed species in Washington State. I will review the 15 species the State Noxious Weed Board has added to noxious weed list since 2014. Information will focus mainly on identification, and will also include where these plants have been found in Washington and some management recommendations. I'll also tell you about the classes of noxious weeds in Washington and what that means for each of these newer listings. Speaker: Wendy DesCamp | Education Specialist | Washington State Noxious Weed Control BoardHosted by the Washington Invasive Species Council Please register for Noxious Weeds of the Past Five years on Apr 17, 2019 10:00 AM PDT

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the next <u>Missouri River Basin Panel Coordination</u> meeting and an Asian carp field sampling workshop April 16-18, 2019, at Lake Barkley State Park Resort near Cadiz, Kentucky.

The California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean & Green Program, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invite you to participate in our FREE Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Workshops. **Alameda**, Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 (You must register to attend by Friday, April 26), Time: 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Location: Aeolian Yacht Club - 980 Fernside Blvd, Alameda, CA 94501. To register, please contact Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905 or vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov

May

The California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean & Green Program, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invite you to participate in our FREE Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Workshops. **Pacific Grove, Monterey.** Date: May 7th 2019 (You must register to attend by Friday, May 3rd), Time: 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Location: Mott Training Center- 837 Asilomar Avenue Pacific Grove, CA 93950 (Madrone Room). To register, please contact Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905 or vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov

ANS Task Force Spring Meeting

The next meeting of the ANS Task Force will be held on May 8-9, 2019 (two full days and an afternoon field trip on May 7) in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Meeting Location - Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel - 4130 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

East Kootenay Invasive Species Council 2019 Annual General Meeting and Speaker Forum
PUBLIC INVITATION May 09, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. DOORS OPEN @ 9:00 Tickets \$20
Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre, 803 Cranbrook St N, Cranbrook, BC V1C 3S2, Canada [Register Here]

June

California Invasive Species Action Week (June 1-9, 2019)

The goals of the California Invasive Species Action Week (CISAW) are to increase public awareness of invasive species issues and promote public participation in the fight against California's invasive species and their impacts on our natural resources. Prevention is the most effective strategy in managing invasive species. However, hundreds of invasive plants and animals have already established in California and are rapidly spreading each year. These invaders are negatively impacting our waters, our native plants and animals (some of them rare, threatened, or endangered), our agriculture, our health, our economy, and our favorite recreational places. Help us celebrate California's Invasive Species Action Week, and more importantly, help stop the spread of invasive species, by volunteering to take action.

The next meeting of the <u>100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team</u> is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4 & 5, 2019 in Spokane, WA at Northern Quest. Please contact Susan Anderson @ <u>sanderson@psmfc.org</u> to register for the meeting.

<u>Washington Invasive Species Council</u>: June 6, 2019, Olympia, <u>Natural Resources Building</u> Room 172.

PNW IPC Training Schedule Announced: https://www.pnw-ipc.org/trainings
These are free 2.5 hour trainings where you will learn how to identify priority invasive species, how to record basic data and how to report findings on EDDMapSWest, a national early detection reporting system. Participants learn plant identification through a PowerPoint presentation and live material. Participants also learn methods of manual removal and which species you should not attempt to remove. Trainings will equip volunteers with the knowledge necessary to conduct invasive plant surveys in order to support local land managers that need your help. Your efforts will directly support the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Volunteers will receive an invasive plant identification booklet along with survey forms. We ask that volunteers who sign up conduct 1-2 surveys over the field season. For more info

July

2019 Western Aquatic Plant Management Society and Aquatic Plant Management Society Joint Meeting Date: Jul 13, 2019 to Jul 19, 2019 Venue: Double Tree Hilton Hotel Location: San Diego, California

Join PNWER in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for our 29th Annual Summit, July 21-25, 2019 Registration is Now Open for the 2019 PNWER Annual Summit in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan! The Invasive Species Working Group will meet July 22.

August

2019 104th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

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

September

<u>Washington Invasive Species Council</u>: September 26, 2019, Olympia, <u>Natural Resources</u> 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.

For more information, contact Caitlin Hinton, Columbia Basin Trust, at 1.250.344.2445 or chinton@cbt.org

<u>2019 26th Annual Wildlife Society Conference</u> 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

<u>The Western Regional Panel on ANS</u> 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.

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

open. The early registration deadline is May 17, 2019. To register online and pay by credit card click here.

December

Call for Presentations: <u>Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference and Training.</u> 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 We are working to include more animal, marine and insect content as well this year. Be ready for some exciting new topics and demonstrations in 2019. 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 https://www.nripc.org/ and Invasive Plant Control, Inc. https://www.invasiveplantcontrol.com/

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

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.