Public comment sought on Montana Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines and Missouri River Containment and Quarantine Plan

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking public comment on two documents that would guide the state of Montana’s response to the detection of invasive dreissenid mussels. The Montana Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines directs the process, protocols and coordinated effort the state of Montana will use to respond to new dreissenid mussel detections. The Missouri River Containment and Quarantine Plan (MRCQP) provides additional containment and quarantine information relating to waters of the Missouri River Basin. The Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines and MRCQP fulfill requirements outlined in MCA 80-7-1025 and can be viewed at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/pn_0090.html. The final plans will be submitted to the Montana Invasive Species Council in November 2018.

The public comment period for this public notice ends on Aug. 13. Public comment can be submitted electronically at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/ or by mail to Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Fisheries Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620.
NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

DREISSENIDS

Zebra mussels confirmed in Bay Lake, Crow Wing County (7/19/18)
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Bay Lake, near Deerwood in Crow Wing County.

Zebra mussel confirmed in East Loon Lake in Otter Tail County (7/19/19)
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a report of a zebra mussel in East Loon Lake in Otter Tail County. East Loon Lake is between and connected to East Spirit Lake and Sybil Lake, both of which were confirmed as having zebra mussels in 2016.

OTHER

Salvinia minima (water spangles) was found in Jackson County, MO Drainage: Lower Missouri-Crooked [USGS NAS Report]

Potamopyrgus antipodarum (New Zealand mudsnail) was found in Snohomish County, WA Drainage: Lower Skagit (17110007) [USGS NAS Report]

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[Texas] We must be aware of the costly impacts of the invasive Zebra mussel (7/22/18)
You may be thinking, “It’s just some mussels in a lake, what’s wrong with that?” Well there are two specific effects of this type of invasive species. The first is its impact on the native species already in the lake. The mussels will either vastly outcompete the natives for resources such as food and space or hybridize with them, diluting the existing gene pool with an invasive mix, according to a study by Gary Huxel.

[Montana] Aquatic invasive species fees, field trials on dockets for Environmental Quality Council meeting (7/13/18)
Aquatic invasive species inspection funding and dog field trials are two of the topics the Environmental Quality Council will consider public comment on sat its July 25-26 meeting.

[Montana] New water-monitoring group moves forward with study of invasive species prevention (7/17/19)
Over the last two years, Montana has committed multiple state agencies and millions of dollars toward keeping invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of the Columbia River’s headwaters. Now, a new group plans to take a look at how they’ve done. In a Monday press release, Watershed Protection Advocates of Northwest Montana declared its commitment to protecting the region’s waters. It identified several potential threats, including mining and rail traffic along local rivers. But its first major project will be an
assessmet of Montana’s response to aquatic invasive species, or AIS. The release quoted the chair of the group's board, Jan Metzmaker, as saying that "the goal of the assessment is to provide agencies, decision-makers and the public with the information necessary to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the state’s AIS program and would be based solely on data obtained by the Watershed Protection Advocates, rather than on subjective, anecdotal information."

[B.C.] Grant boosts battle to keep invasive mussels out of Okanagan lakes (7/25/18)
$17,500 to support the monitoring of five Okanagan lakes for zebra and quagga mussels

[Arizona] The Quagga Mussel: Lake Powell’s Threat to Recreation and Sportfishing (7/14/18)
Though in the early stages of infestation, quagga mussels pose a serious threat to stripers and fishing in the future. “The plankton and food is disappearing and that makes it tough on sportfishing,” Gustaveson said.

Arizona Game and Fish Department working to stop spread of invasive mussels (7/13/18)
Western states and tribes are getting some help in combating the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels thanks to the allocation of more than $4 million by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

[Montana] Clark Fork is the Columbia’s last defense against invasive mussels (7/6/18)
… Unfortunately, the battle to prevent the spread of invasive mussels is here to stay. But the good news is, it’s not too late to win it. With your help, Montana can hold the line on this major threat to its irreplaceable and iconic waters. RELATED: Mussels muscling into Montana (7/8/18)

[Michigan] Invasive mussels help beaches and damage lakes (7/5/18)
“We actually found a somewhat surprising trend. We found that E. coli have actually been decreasing along the Lake Michigan shoreline between 2000 and 2015,” Weiskerger said… Weiskerger and Whitman think the trend might be due to quagga mussels.

[Maryland] Invasive zebra mussels found in Hyde’s Quarry, Undersea Outfitters to move out (7/6/18)
Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in the lake on May 24 — and after deliberating during a closed meeting, the Board of County Commissioners sent the company a notice to cease its operations by Sunday so plans to eradicate the species could be implemented.

[Nebraska] Zebra mussels are spreading in Nebraska's waters — and boaters are key to stopping them (7/8/18)
…Omahan Steve Freese shares that concern. He owns property at Calamus Reservoir northwest of Burwell in the central part of the state and believes lots of boaters there aren’t drying their boats between trips. Not doing so is one way the mussel population spreads…

[Montana] Researchers Make Discovery with New DNA Device (6/4/18)
In mid-April, a team of researchers from the Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) traveled to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in southern Nevada to conduct field tests on a new, cutting-edge device called the “DNA Tracker”. The team consisted of FLBS Director Jim Elser, research professor and technologist Cody Youngbull, and research scientist Zane Lindstrom. They arrived with the hopes that the DNA Tracker would perform as it had dozens of times before in the laboratory – detecting invasive mussel DNA extracted from samples collected from plankton net tows – thereby proving its potential as an invaluable tool in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS).

**BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS**

[Montana] Boats coming from Lake Powell undergo addition examination (7/25/18)
With the proliferation of adult quagga mussels in Lake Powell, on the border of Utah and Arizona, watercraft from this lake that are entering Montana will be subject to additional measures at watercraft inspection stations to ensure they are free from aquatic invasive species.
Related: [Boats from Lake Powell will be locked to trailers to prevent spread of aquatic invasive mussels (7/26/18)]

[Montana] Keeping vigilant on protecting Montana’s waterways (7/23/18)
“The wet spring delayed a lot of boating activity, but boaters are enjoying the water now that hot and dry weather is here,” said FWP’s AIS Bureau Chief Thomas Woolf. “Get out on the water and have fun but remember to stop at any open watercraft inspection station that you encounter in your travels.”
Related: [FWP inspects more than 50,000 watercraft for aquatic invasive species (7/23/18)]

New Boat Designs Could Stop Aquatic Invasive Species (7/18/18)
There is a radical new approach to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species…The idea is to eliminate nooks and crannies on boats where the nasty critters and weeds can hide… Tonka Bay Marina’s Gabe Jabbour pulled together a panel representing all parts of the marine industry. The panel suggests that boat builders can help by redesigning hulls and engines.

[Columbia Basin] Council Briefed On Status, Funding Of Efforts To Halt Invasive Mussels With Watercraft Inspections (7/13/18)
The frontline defense against the entry of invasive and damaging quagga and zebra mussels into the Northwest is Montana’s huge program to detect infested boats as they enter the state. It is also the only one of four Northwest states that has detected mussels in water bodies -- Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs east of Continental Divide.
Related: [Montana Steps Up Fight Against Invasive Mussels (7/16/18)] and [Halfway Through Boating Season, Montana Has Intercepted 12 Boats With Invasive Mussels (7/27/18)]
[Montana] Local Company Creates Technology To Expedite Boat Inspections (7/19/18)
…State law requires every vessel, from kayaks to fishing boats, to stop at inspection stations before entering the water. But Matt Redding, founder of Columbia Falls-based AIS Solutions, said that the general public will not tolerate those requirements when cars are backed up waiting to get through… About a year ago, Redding and his team, company president Rod Shaw and tech officer J.D. Seiler, began working on a pilot study of a boat monitoring device they hope will provide a speed pass option for boaters who can prove their vessels present little to no risk of carrying mussels…Using geo-fencing technology, or geographic sensing, the device uses Google maps to monitor whether a vessel has crossed an invisible perimeter set up around known infested waters, indicating potential contamination or lack thereof…

[California] Dogs help sniff out invasive mussels at Lake Nacimiento (7/21/18)
Lake staff check in visitors and their vessels, issuing them a permit certifying their watercraft is mussel-free. But before boaters take off for the lake, Popeye the dog has to give the all clear. m"They find the mussels and do a great job, even better than a human can do because they can smell where we can't see," Mussel Dogs Owner Debi Deshon said.

[California] Tahoe boat inspections around for 10 years (7/17/18)
Skippers and their crews have been going to Lake Tahoe for decades. But in the last 10 years, before their vessels ever hit the blue water, they must stop at certain locations, and have their boats inspected for invasive species. Specifically quagga mussels or zebra mussels.

[California] Mussel prevention program a huge success (7/10/18)
The Lake County mussel prevention program is geared to stop the mussels from entering the lake. The mussel prevention program falls under the Water Resources Department. The staff of the mussel program has monitors at the major public boats ramps around the lake.

[Idaho] BNSF barges skip boat check station, mussels found (7/9/18)
Two out of five trucks transporting BNSF barges failed to stop at a boat check station early last week to be searched for invasive species before reaching Lake Pend Oreille, and dead mussels were found on one inspected barge. Ten barges were brought to North Idaho by truckers hired under Wisconsin company E80 Plus Constructors, LLC. BNSF was having them transported for a maintenance project on the existing rail bridge across the lake. Of three trucks transporting barges through Clark Fork, only the third passing through stopped at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture-designated boat check station located there.
[Maine] Aggressive Crabs From Nova Scotia Migrating to Maine Waters (7/16/18)
Researchers at the University of New England say the Canadian crabs could make the green crab problem even worse.

Evidence of Invasive European Green Crab Found at New Site (7/9/18)
Washington Sea Grant’s Crab Team and Washington State’s Department of Natural Resources report evidence of the invasive European green crab at a new site in the Salish Sea: Fidalgo Bay. A green crab shell was found at Fidalgo Bay, and a live green crab was captured at Lagoon Point on south Whidbey Island.

[Guam] Invasive algae species threatens marine life (7/16/18)
The algae, which looks like steel wool or pasta, and has been nicknamed “spaghetti algae” and “green hair algae,” is bad for corals because it’s a very thick mass that blocks sunlight and marine life from reaching the coral.

Invasive Species Find Points to Disturbing 'Garbage Bridge' to Oregon Coast (7/10/18)
A disturbing find on a Washington beach has some unpleasant ramifications for the Oregon coast: the fears of invasive species coming over on what is being termed a “garbage bridge.” … The find is a double threat, according to John Chapman, a professor with Newport’s Hatfield Marine Science Center. One: it’s mounting evidence if not proof the Great Pacific Garbage Patch has already created what is called a “garbage bridge” between there and this coastline. And two: this will bring more invasive species that will threaten this area’s marine ecosystem.

Invasive Freshwater Golden Mussels Drive Changes in Estuary Sediments
The results indicate that golden mussels doubled the rate of sediment buildup and strongly enhanced the amount of organic matter and nitrogen in the sediment. The data largely align with previous findings on the effects of zebra mussels and other filter-feeding mollusks.

Invasion of the Sea Pickles: Common In Warmer Waters, Now Adapting To Cooler Pacific Northwest (July 27, 2018)
Tubular colonial jellies known as pyrosomes that arrived in 2014 along North America's Pacific Northwest Coast appear to be adapting to cooler water and may become permanent residents.

**BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING**

**Marine Safety Center receives 16th application for ballast water management system type approval (7/25/18)**

The Marine Safety Center received its 16th application for Ballast Water Management System type approval for the inTank™ Ballast Water Management System manufactured by Envirocleanse, LLC. MSC will review the application for compliance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations in 46 CFR 162.060. Once it has been determined that the application meets the requirements, the MSC will issue a type approval certificate.

**The EPA's Clean Water Act and Understanding VGP (7/10/18)**

For years, the EPA had adopted a policy of broadly exempting discharges into the water that were incidental to normal operation of vessels. That changed after environmental advocacy groups prevailed in a judicial challenge. The first iteration of the VGP entered into effect in 2008 and remained in effect until replaced by the current iteration in 2013. That second iteration is due to be replaced in December 2018, but the proposed replacement has yet to be shared with the regulated community.

**Recap of Coast Guard remarks during Korea Maritime Week (7/6/18)**

“With nine U.S. Coast Guard type-approved systems currently available and 10 more under review, we are being much more conservative about issuing extensions to vessels,” Williams said, first acknowledging the many complexities associated with the ballast water systems. “We encourage operators to install and train their crews to use and trouble shoot the systems well in advance of visiting a U.S. port.”

**FISH**

**Fighting The Northern Pike Invasion into Basin: Spokane Forum Calls Economic Impact Study a Priority (7/27/18)**

A movement is underway to pursue a comprehensive study of the potential economic impacts that could come with an advancing northern pike invasion across the Columbia Basin river system, including salmon waters referred to as “The Anadromous Zone.” The study emerged as a priority during a well-attended forum on pike in the Pacific Northwest that was held Tuesday and Wednesday in Spokane. The forum was held in conjunction with the 28th annual convention of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) at the Davenport Grand Hotel.
Idaho Study Uses Genetic Modification as Tool to Eradicate Non-Native Brook Trout; Make Them Male (7/20/18)

Can adding more fish to a stream eradicate an unwanted wild, non-native fish population? Yes, according to a recent study that, along with electrofishing, added hatchery males with a YY chromosome to a stream with the intention of eventually making a wild population of non-native brook trout all male.

Cute little goldfish turn into huge monsters if you dump them into a lake, experts warn (7/23/18)

“Please rethink the responsibility of owning a goldfish and what to do with it when it becomes too much to take care of,” the department said, because when you dump goldfish into a body of water that’s bigger than your at-home fish tank, “They get HUGE!”

'Devil fish' coming to Canada - but not in the way you think (7/26/18)

Devil fish are often seen in home aquariums, chosen because they eat the algae that dirties up their tanks. In Mexico, their voracious appetite has contributed to shoreline erosion and is killing off plant life. It's a tough problem to solve and it likely won't go away on its own. But a local enterprise called Acari Fish is hoping to solve the problem by taking the fish out of the water, drying them out and serving them up to Canadians in the form of jerky...Mitchell and his partner Sam Bordia have set their sights on Canada after their plans to launch in the U.S. were halted due to legislation banning the import of foreign catfish.

New breed of salmon to be stocked in South Dakota Missouri River reservoir (7/23/18)

After more than four years, a difficult search for eggs and a long rearing period, Atlantic salmon are coming to the Missouri River's Lake Oahe in central South Dakota. During the next two years between 15,000 and 20,000 of the fish are slated to be stocked into the reservoir, said Will Sayler, who oversees the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department's fish hatchery and stocking operations.

Test comes back positive for Asian Carp in southeast Tennessee (7/13/18)

Tests show one of 50 biological samples researchers took below Watts Bar Dam north of Dayton, Tennessee, earlier this year came back positive for bighead carp, a species of Asian carp that can be detrimental to the local ecosystem.

Related: TWRA working to prevent Asian Carp from invading Tennessee waters (7/13/18)

AQUACULTURE

Ocean’s Wild Forage Fish Populations Under Pressure As Key Food Source For Farmed Fish (7/15/18)

A new study appearing online June 14 in Nature Sustainability shows that if current aquaculture and agriculture practices remain unchanged into the future, wild forage fish populations likely will be overextended by the year 2050, and possibly sooner -- even if all stocks were fished sustainably.

Closing fish farms won’t save wild salmon, warns academic (7/18/18)

A Canadian academic has warned that the “simplistic” solution of removing salmon farms to restore Pacific salmon stocks won’t work and will instead cost jobs for no benefit.

[BC] Fisheries critic MP Fin Donnelly calls for land-based fish farms (7/25/18)

NDP critic for Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard, MP Fin Donnelly, toured Vancouver Island in July advocating for wild salmon. He introduced Bill C-228, which would amend the Fisheries Act by requiring B.C. salmon farms to move from open-net farms to closed containment systems.

OTHER

More than 2,000 pounds of live crayfish seized at border (7/23/18)

More than 2,000 pounds (907 kilograms) of live crayfish were seized from a truck at the border between the U.S. and Canada, when a commercial hauler attempted to leave the United States. The animals were red swamp crayfish, which are prohibited in Michigan and Canada.

[Alaska] Why invasive species are on the rise in Southeast (7/23/18)

Across the Lower 48, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates hundreds of millions of dollars are spent each year to stop the spread of invasive species. Ketchikan biologists say the isolation and unique climate of Southeast Alaska protects the region from most of those. But in the coming decades, Southeast Alaska in general can expect more invasive species in the future, potentially hurting local fisheries and native wildlife.

Nutria Alert: Save A Wetland, Eat A Swamp Rat (7/23/18)

The only current solutions to nutria invasions are to trap, poison, or hunt them until all are gone, otherwise they will keep breeding. But these intensive eradication efforts become expensive and time consuming for government agencies to undertake alone, so they’ve enlisted help from the public in some cases. In Louisiana, where over five million nutria have been removed, hunters and trappers receive a five-dollar bounty for each
Invasive species eradication playbook (7/18)
The idea for this resource came up during the Portland Asian gypsy moth eradication project in 2016. We thought it would have been helpful to have a desk manual to guide planning and operations for complex biological related projects that have exposure to public sentiment and public health. Also, we have been experiencing a loss of institutional knowledge as the workforce transitions and could be used as a guide for less experienced people who are leading invasive species eradication and mitigation projects.

After The Dive: The Decontamination Process (7/18)
If you dive in contaminated water, and most public safety divers will, then you must be aware of the procedures to be followed for decontamination, i.e., the cleaning of the diver and his gear following a dive. As a dive team member, you will undoubtedly be called upon to make the dive, to decontaminate your team mates, and to run the dive. There are specific procedures to be followed no matter what your responsibilities are while conducting a contaminated water dive.


WEEDS

[B.C.] Invasive plant taken off garden centre shelves (7/18/19)
An introduction of an invasive plant into northern B.C. backyards has been narrowly averted. Earlier this season, some garden centres in Prince George and Terrace - as well as in other parts of B.C. - were shipped flowering rush, Northwestern Invasive Plant Council said this week.

[Utah] Revolutionary ‘lawnmower’ used in Stansbury Park to combat invasive species (7/16/18)
“I call it the Lake Monster,” said Stansbury Park resident Chelsea Dixon. Paddle boats, kayaks, inner tubes: these are all normal things to spot out on a body of water, but a lawnmower? “I love it,” said a smiling Dixon. “There’s cutters on the front, chops the weeds, goes on up, and we unload it.”
[Ontario] Invasive species known as the 'zombie plant' present in waterways of five provinces (7/17/18)

"Eurasian watermilfoil has been a huge problem in Ontario for the last five to 10 years and unfortunately it is in many of the lakes in cottage country from Muskoka to eastern Ontario," King said in an interview Tuesday. It was first observed in Ontario in 2007… The Eurasian watermilfoil has been nicknamed the "zombie plant" because parts of it can detach from the root system, be transported to a new site and come back to life as a new plant.

2017 King County, WA Noxious Weed Control Board Annual Report.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-018-1684-5

JOBS/GRANTS

JOBS

**Director of California Sea Grant** Application Deadline: August 24, 2018
Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), University of California San Diego (UCSD), seeks a vibrant, accomplished, and collaborative leader to serve as the Director of California Sea Grant (CAGS). The Director assumes overall responsibility for leadership and programmatic oversight of CAGS, and has national, state-wide, and university-wide responsibilities. Working with a team that includes 18 staff members, 9 extension specialists and an extension director (each of whom holds an academic position), the Director secures financial support for the program and builds successful partnerships across numerous and diverse constituencies within and beyond the state of California. The Director facilitates high-impact research, outreach, fellowship and communications activities to increase the understanding of, responsible interaction with, and use of California’s ocean and coastal resources. The Director leads the CAGS Management Team that also includes the extension director, business manager, and communications coordinator.

**Cal-IPC is hiring!** Are you passionate about protecting natural areas around the state? Are you looking for an opportunity to use your skills and creativity to make a change in the world? We are looking for a dynamic and versatile professional to join our team and lead science-based projects that make a difference. Our Science Program Manager will implement a range of projects that strengthen invasive plant management in California: coordinating regional partners for on-the-ground weed control work, writing technical manuals, assessing impacts of invasive plants, designing online decision-support tools, and more. Submit resume and cover letter to mailto:info@cal-ipc.org. Position open until filled.
WA Dept. of Ecology Vessel and Oil Transfer Inspector (Marine Transportation Safety Specialist 3)(In-Training) Salary: $67,236.00 - $88,236.00 Annually Location Clark County – Vancouver, WA Job Type Full Time – Permanent Department Dept. of Ecology Job Number 2018-SPPR3542-07005 Closing Continuous

Marine Systems Project Manager to manage ongoing Fleet Ballast Water Treatment Systems installation and commissioning. At Flagship Management, we offer a level of maritime experience and professionalism that has become the standard for the industry. All of our Partners and Associates are maritime professionals who have accumulated many years of practical maritime experience at sea and ashore. All applicants should have minimum of 5 years experience in a Project Management Role, (preferably with a background in marine or offshore projects and logistics management). Location Stamford, CT Position open until filled

GRANTS

The Lake Tahoe AIS Program is soliciting proposals from qualified entities to implement aquatic invasive species inspections and decontaminations of watercraft. The selected entity will work closely with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) staff to ensure program protocols are strictly adhered to, and will be trained and certified by TRPA as the entity responsible for sound implementation of the ANSTF approved AIS Inter-state Management Plan. Deadline for submission 8/3/2018

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

Western Governors’ Association

Invasive Species data management guidelines released to improve land management reporting (7/12/18)

The Western Governors’ Association has released recommendations to standardize the recording and exchange of invasive species occurrence data across the West developed by a group of nearly 30 representatives from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and industry partners.

State

[Indiana] State wants to limit sale of invasive species (7/26/18)

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission took a step toward banning the sale and transportation of 44 invasive species in the state at its meeting earlier this month. Invasive species are non-native plants that move into an area and take over, often choking out native plants and causing native wildlife to seek new shelter. According to an Indiana Department of Natural Resources press release, 22 of the 44 plants on the list can be found in trade in Indiana now, but only four are sold regularly. If the ban goes into effect,
nurseries and businesses will likely be given time to sell off affected stock… Although
the Natural Resources Commission gave the ban preliminary approval, it is still far from
becoming law. The next step is to give the public an opportunity to comment in writing
or through two public hearings that will be scheduled at times and sites still to be
determined. After the hearings, the commission will vote again for final approval. If the
ban gets final approval, it goes to the Indiana attorney general for legal review and
approval before finally going to the governor’s desk where it can be rejected or signed
into law.

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Congressional

National Marine Manufacturers Association spearheads new efforts to combat Asian Carp
(7/6/18)

Last week, NMMA held meetings with key Congressional offices and the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the status of the Brandon Road Study, a report
evaluating options to prevent the spread of AIS from the Mississippi River Basin into the
Great Lakes Basin.

H.R.6255 - To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish measures to combat invasive
lionfish, and for other purposes. [Full Text Here] Sponsor: Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]
(Introduced 06/27/2018)
  [(a) Addition Of Species Of Lionfish To The List Of Injurious Species That Are
  Prohibited From Being Imported Or Shipped; (b) Exemption From Permitting For
  Movement In Commerce]

Gillibrand, Stefanik Lead Bipartisan, Bicameral Effort To Protect New York’s Natural
Resources And Prevent Invasive Species From Entering The United States (7/13/18)

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee, and U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik (NY-21) today announced the
reintroduction of the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act [HR 6362] [S3210],
legislation to protect New York’s natural resources from the threat of invasive species.
This legislation would give the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) greater
authority to regulate nonnative species and prohibit them from being imported or sold in
the United States. In the 114th Congress, Gillibrand introduced the Invasive Fish and
Wildlife Prevention Act with late-U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter (NY-25).

Bipartisan Senators Introduce Recovering America's Wildlife Act (7/17/18)

U.S. Senators Jim Risch (R-ID), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and
Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), members of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, today
introduced the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, legislation that would help sustain
fish and wildlife populations throughout the country while preserving sportsmen’s rights.
By redirecting existing federal resources to state-led wildlife conservation efforts, this
legislation enables state agencies and their partners to work to conserve state species of
greatest conservation need, as identified in their State Wildlife Action Plan, before more
costly and restrictive action is needed under the Endangered Species Act. These enhanced
conservation efforts will preserve sportsmen’s access to lands and wildlife-associated recreation long-term. This bill is similar to H.R. 4647.


Related: Statement from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Supporting the Introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in the Senate (7/17/18)

AFS, TWS continue push for dedicated conservation funding (7/18/19)

Inhofe, Duckworth Introduce Bill to Support Future of Aviation (7/25/18)

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) introduced the Securing and Revitalizing Aviation (SARA) Act of 2018. This bipartisan legislation would empower and support the next generation of pilots and the general aviation community.

[S.3270 - A bill to address the need for pilot development and encourage more individuals to enter the field of aviation, and for other purposes.]

SEC. 6. MITIGATING THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC SPECIES BY AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person that holds a seaplane rating from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and successfully completes a free online education course on aquatic species mitigation that is acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior may hold themselves out to the public as qualified to inspect aircraft for aquatic invasive species and to take action to mitigate the spread of aquatic invasive species.

(b) NO FURTHER REGULATORY OR ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—Any person that is qualified under subsection (a) or whose aircraft is inspected by a person qualified under subsection (a) and subject to the mitigation described in subsection (a) shall not be subject to any further regulatory or enforcement action by any Federal, State, local, or tribal government for any action related to aquatic invasive species.

(c) COURSES.—The Secretary of the Interior, shall publish, and periodically revise, a list of acceptable courses on mitigating the spread of aquatic invasive species by aircraft.

(d) AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.—For the purposes of this section, the term “aquatic invasive species” means aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range and whose presence may harm human health, native ecosystems, or commercial, agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on these ecosystems.
NOW WHAT: All of the state aquatic invasive species program managers we have talked to in the past few days have raised serious concerns about the “federal preemption” language in the bill.....*stay tuned*, we’ll be watching this one very closely.

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BUDGET

An Appropriations Mad Dash (7/26/18)

The Senate is aiming to pass its second big spending bill of the year as soon as today, but plenty of hurdles remain before any appropriations packages make it to the president's desk.

House lawmakers are heading home this week for a six-week recess, delaying any resolution of their disagreements with the Senate on spending levels and policy riders. All of which will likely complicate matters as both chambers are aiming to complete spending work by a fast-approaching Sept. 30 deadline to prevent a government shutdown. And keep in mind, when House lawmakers return in September, they're scheduled to have just 11 legislative days left before funding runs out.

Progress? This year's appropriations process is further along than usual, Pro's Anthony Adragna reports, but there's still numerous hurdles left in the way. The two chambers have already paused conference meetings on the first "minibus" bill, H.R. 5895 (115), which contains the Energy-Water title — until at least September. And most lawmakers acknowledge that a short-term spending bill will still be required. "Congress will almost definitely pass a CR in September. The only question is how big," said Josh Huder, a senior fellow at the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

Where we're at: Senators will today try to pass a four-title spending package, H.R. 6147 (115), that includes the Interior-Environment title, setting up another potentially divisive conference committee in the fall. The chamber has said it is steering clear of any controversial policy riders to shore up support and shepherd the bills to the finish line, but Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby acknowledged significant differences between the House and Senate bills would complicate those efforts. "They've got policy riders just like we do and we'll negotiate them out just like we always do," said Rep. Mike Simpson. "But for them to come out and say, 'Oh, we've kept ours free of any controversial riders.' It's bullshit. It's just not true." Read more.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Shelby told reporters leadership is working out a manager's package of amendments, with the goal of finishing work on the bill before senators fly home for the week (which typically happens Thursday afternoon). "We'll see" what happens, he said Wednesday. [Source: *Politico, Morning Energy, 7/26/18*]
TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Recently Archived

Archived: WGA Chair Hawaii Gov. David Ige announces Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative, July 12 webinar. The goal of the Initiative is to identify emerging issues in biosecurity and invasive species management in the West and develop policy recommendations, best practices and technical tools to address those issues.

Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings

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:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/2 – 3, 2018</td>
<td>Lake Mead</td>
<td>WIT II</td>
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<td>11/7 – 11/8, 2018</td>
<td>Lake Powell</td>
<td>Advanced Decon</td>
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<td>2/5 – 2/7, 2019</td>
<td>Lake Powell</td>
<td>WIT III</td>
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<td>2/26 – 2/27, 2019</td>
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<td>3/26 – 3/27, 2019</td>
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<td>4/9 – 4/10, 2019</td>
<td>Lake Mead</td>
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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.westerais.org](http://www.westerais.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

AUGUST

If you are interested in building up your malacology muscles, Celeste A. Searles Mazzacano, Ph.D. will be teaching a 2-day class at Portland State University on Aug. 6 & 7, 2018:

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Freshwater Mussels of the Pacific Northwest. Morning classroom sessions will cover mussel ecology, life history, ecosystem services, habitat needs, identification, and survey techniques, and afternoon sessions will be in the water practicing field surveys. The class is an elective in the PSU Environmental Professional Program; available professional credit is 1.4 CEU, 14 PDH.

2018 Invasive Species Cook-off Saturday, August 11, 2018 | 5-8 pm Philomath, OR. The beautiful Harris Bridge Vineyard near Wren, Oregon, will host the festivities to raise awareness of invasive species that threaten native habitats. Enjoy live music from the Red Oak Rounders, games, raffle prizes, and a delicious catered Mediterranean buffet from Kalamata Bistro featuring invasive species. Bring the kids for lawn games and a piñata! Enjoy a local libation, and watch the river go by at this lovely venue. If you enjoy cooking, enter our Cook-off contest - your entry could win a prize!

On August 14th at 11 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time, Dr. Christine Densmore with USGS will present the findings of the recently-completed study "An Evaluation of the Toxicity of Potassium Chloride, Active Compound in the Molluscicide Potash, on Salmonid Fish and Their Forage Base". You can register for this webinar and find more information by clicking here. The one hour session will include time for questions/answers, and will be recorded.

The American Fisheries Society 148th Annual Meeting August 19-23 Atlantic City, New Jersey. Symposium: Competing Mandates of Managing for Introduced Fishes; Balancing Stakeholder Needs We are actively soliciting participants to give an oral presentation for this symposium. Please contact Bill Stewart (wstewart@usbr.gov) before March 31, 2018 if you are interested in contributing to this symposium. Final abstracts are due April 3, 2018. If you are selected to present in this symposium, submit your abstract using the following link and provide the symposium title

SEPTEMBER

The Level 1 Noxious Weed Management Certification Workshop will be held September 11-13, 2018, in Bozeman, MT. This is the first workshop in a 3-part series that provides information on weed identification, biology, ecology, and integrated management.

2018 OLA/WALPA Joint Conference Join us for workshops, presentations, a field trip, and meeting with friends and colleagues at the 2018 Joint Oregon Lakes Association/Washington State Lakes Protection Association Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Portland, Oregon. September 26-28, 2018

OCTOBER

The 2018 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference will be a Joint Conference with the North American Invasive Species Management Association: October 15-18, 2018 - Mayo Civic Center - Rochester, MN Abstract Submission Is Open. Deadline to Submit an Abstract for Presentation: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 11:00pm Central


Join the Western Regional Panel in Tacoma, Washington this fall. The WRP will hold their annual meeting October 24-26, 2018 in Tacoma, Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be our local host for the event. Meeting attendees can take advantage of the special rate at Hotel Murano of $117 plus taxes and fees. You may book your room online here. The Western Regional Panel on ANS is accepting presentation suggestions for their upcoming Annual Meeting. mailto:leah@stopais.org

NOVEMBER

21st Ballast Water Management Conference, November 7th - 8th 2018, Rotterdam - The Netherlands

Save the Date: Fish and Wildlife Health Forum, Reston VA November 13-16

Save the date: 2018 Governor's Summit on Invasive Species [Montana] Colonial Radisson Hotel, Helena. November 15-16

DECEMBER

Save the Date Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium December 4-6 at OSU’s LaSells Stewart Center.

SAVE THE DATE: 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.

MARCH

Montana Lakes Conference, March 13 -15, 2019. The Montana Lakes Conference will gather diverse resource professionals to exchange information, scientific advancements, and management strategies that promote clean and healthy lake and reservoir ecosystems.

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