



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

December 18, 2024

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## RECOMMENDED READING

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[Officials celebrate the near-eradication of invasive creature in Great Lakes: 'This is an unprecedented victory'](#)

Getting rid of an invasive species is not an easy feat — that's how they came to be called "invasive species" after all. In the Great Lakes, however, National Geographic reported officials are declaring victory over the invasive sea lamprey.

In order to combat the highly predatory sea lamprey, which arrived in the region more than a century ago and immediately began to gobble up native species, scientists developed a new type of lampricide that has now killed off between 90-95% of the sea lampreys in the Great Lakes without harming the native species.

"There is no doubt that this is an unprecedented victory anywhere on the planet, where you have a species this destructive, this widespread geographically, and yet still able to be controlled using a selective technique," said Great Lakes Fishery Commission's executive secretary Marc Gaden.

"It saved the Great Lakes fishery."

Other attempts to manage sea lamprey populations included releasing sterile males into their populations and setting up a kind of border crossing for them. Ultimately, though, it seems to have been the lampricide that did the trick.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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DOI Categorical Exclusion: Notice

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/13/2024-29437/notice-of-adoption-of-a-categorical-exclusion-under-section-109-of-the-national-environmental>

The Department of the Interior is adopting a National Park Service (NPS) categorical exclusion (CE) for invasive species management for use by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Insular Affairs, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to support the adopting bureaus' efforts to more effectively and efficiently control and eradicate invasive species.

The adopting bureaus identified the following NPS CE, found in 516 DM 12, for adoption and uses:

E.6. Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and elimination of exotic species.

When NPS established the CE in 1984, the term "exotic species" was the common term used; today the common term used is "invasive species," and the adopting bureaus will rely on the CE to support projects conducted for the management of invasive species.

The adopting bureaus intend to apply this CE to invasive species management in several ways: to actions undertaken directly by the adopting bureaus identified above; to actions requiring an approval by these adopting bureaus; or to funding for invasive species management made available by these adopting bureaus.

The types of actions addressed by the CE include control or eradication of invasive species (such as invasive plants, trees, and shrubs; invasive invertebrates; invasive mammals; and invasive pathogens) as part of efforts to control or eradicate ongoing invasive species infestations or to respond to newly detected invasive species, using biological, cultural, physical (manual or mechanical), and chemical methods per Department policies and procedures listed below.

Consistent with NPS's use of the CE, these adopting bureaus could rely on the CE to conduct projects for the control or eradication of terrestrial or aquatic invasive plants, terrestrial or aquatic invasive animals, and terrestrial or aquatic invasive pathogens.

As NPS does when applying this CE, Responsible Officials within the adopting bureaus will evaluate the proposed actions to determine whether there are any extraordinary circumstances, listed at 43 CFR 46.215, that would preclude reliance on the CE.

[NOAA advances efforts to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas \(11/15/24\)](#)

Today, NOAA Fisheries released two draft programmatic environmental impact statements (PEIS) to support the identification of proposed Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in

Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico. The public is invited to review and submit comments on the draft statements from November 22, 2024, through **February 20, 2025**.

Both draft PEIS are open for public comment via the Federal Register from November 22, 2024, through February 20, 2025. Virtual public listening sessions will be held for both Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico, where the public is welcome to provide comments. Comments received will be assessed and considered by NOAA Fisheries to prepare Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements for both regions.

[More information on the draft PEIS for Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico is available on the NOAA website.](#)

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## NEW SPECIES & SIGHTINGS

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Want to get more new species alerts?  
USGS NAS: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.aspx>  
IMAP INVASIVES: <https://www.imapinvasives.org>

Mussels:

Other:

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## WATCH LIST

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Green Crab:

- Alaska: Report your sightings via the [ADF&G Invasive Species Reporter](#) or by calling the Invasive Species Hotline: 877-INVASIV (877-468-2748). If you locate invasive green crab on Annette Islands Reserve, you can call 907-886-FISH to make a report.
- British Columbia: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and email the information about where you saw it and when to: [AISPACIoFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:AISPACIoFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
- Washington: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and report suspect crabs here <http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab>
- Oregon: Retain green crab caught in your gear - it is illegal to return them to state waters. They are part of your “Other Shellfish” daily catch limit. Try them as food with the rest of your catch. Do not mutilate or kill any crab while you are crabbing

Walleye

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- Idaho: Anyone who catches a walleye in rivers is asked to kill it, take a photo and contact Idaho Fish and Game Biologist Marika Dobos at the Lewiston Regional Office by email at [marika.dobos@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:marika.dobos@idfg.idaho.gov), or call (208) 750-4228.

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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### [Keep Up with the Idaho Quagga Mussel Response @ ISDA](#)

[Idaho throws kitchen sink at quagga mussels \(12/12/24\)](#) For the second straight year, quagga mussels were detected in the Snake River near Twin Falls in September. And for the second straight year, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is undertaking an all-hands-on-deck approach to try to eradicate the invasive species.

[Study: Walleye in lakes with zebra mussels have higher mercury levels \(11/20/24\)](#) They found adult walleye in lakes infested with zebra mussels had 72 percent higher mercury concentrations than in lakes without the invaders. In yellow perch — a common prey for walleye — the mercury concentrations were 157 percent higher.

Blinick, et. al., 2024. Increased mercury concentrations in walleye and yellow perch in lakes invaded by zebra mussels. *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 957.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.177515>

[Red Lake Nation and Minnesota DNR disagree on how to combat zebra mussels \(11/27/24\)](#)

Tensions between the two governments bubbled up Thursday morning at a quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a group made up of the state's tribal leaders, as Commissioner of Natural Resources Sarah Strommen fielded questions from a Red Lake official.

[Evidence of zebra mussels found in the Assiniboine River \(12/14/24\)](#) The province announced Thursday that Manitoba Environment and Climate Change is activating its Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Early Detection Rapid Response Plan.

[Washington Rep. Dye recognized for work on mussels \(12/12/24\)](#) Rep. Mary Dye has been recognized for her efforts to curtail the spread of invasive mussels in Washington state waters. She was one of three leaders the Washington Invasive Species Council recognized for their efforts in managing and preventing the spread of invasive plants and animals.

[Canada weighs export taxes on uranium, oil and potash if Trump starts trade war \(12/12/24\)](#)

Canada is examining the use of export taxes on major commodities it exports to the United States — including uranium, oil and potash — if incoming president Donald Trump carries out his threat to impose broad tariffs.

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## GOLDEN MUSSELS

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[New: WDFW Golden Mussel Risk Screening Summary \(12/2024\)](#)

[Northern California Lakes Take Different Approach to Preventing Invasive Golden Mussels \(12/17/24\)](#) California's lakes are regulated by a plethora of organizations, and like the confusion of who was open with what restrictions during the pandemic, the golden mussel is being met with varying responses. One commonality is that hand-launched boats without electric motors such as kayaks or canoes can be launched with only an inspection. What is unclear if lakes will honor a decontaminated boat with a green tag from another body of water.

California Fish and Game Commission - Notice of Proposed Emergency Regulations: A notice of proposed emergency regulations to add golden mussels to the list of restricted animals has been posted to the Commission's website. The notice and associated documents can be accessed at <https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2024-New-and-Proposed#671>

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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[Government of Canada concludes third successful watercraft inspection for aquatic invasive species in Manitoba \(11/26/24\)](#) This spring through fall, DFO staff and fisheries officers, along with CBSA officers, conducted 804 watercraft inspections at the Emerson-Pembina international border crossing in southern Manitoba.

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[Poor Maintenance & Crew Training Result in Ballast Water Compliance Failure \(12/08/24\)](#) Over 30% of all installed ballast water treatment systems fail Port State Control D-2 compliance inspections despite 95% of systems having successfully passed commissioning tests.

[Unstoppable invasion: How did mussels sneak into California, despite decades of state shipping rules? \(11/26/24\)](#) A state law enacted 20 years ago has required California officials to inspect 25% of incoming ships and sample their ballast water before it's discharged into waterways. But the tests didn't begin until two years ago — after standards for conducting them were finally set — and testing remains rare. State officials have sampled the ballast water of only 16 vessels out of the roughly 3,000 likely to have emptied their tanks nearshore. Experts say stronger regulations are needed, as well as better enforcement.

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## MARINE

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### GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

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[New study reports endangered sea otter helps control invasive species \(12/11/24\)](#) A [recent study](#) published in the scientific journal Biological Invasions reports on the recovery of the southern otter population in this estuary, and their ability of keeping populations of the globally invasive green crab at bay. It's a win-win for the estuary as far as effective conservation strategies go, where an endangered apex predator is offering a way to control the green crab which, when out of control, can decimate native populations.

Jeppesen, R., de Rivera, C.E., Grosholz, E.D. et al. Recovering population of the southern sea otter suppresses a global marine invader. Biol Invasions 27, 33 (2025).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03467-3>

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## AQUACULTURE

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[BC salmon farm ban could cost Canadians \\$9 billion \(11/29/24\)](#) The Canadian government's proposed ban on current marine net-pen salmon farming in British Columbia will have severe consequences for the country's economy, indigenous communities, and food security, according to a new report.

[Trump may bring floating fish farms to the Gulf of Mexico despite opposition from environmental, fishing groups \(12/5/24\)](#) Floating cages with fish by the thousands may be popping in the Gulf of Mexico under a controversial plan that was backed by President-elect Donald Trump's administration four years ago and is likely to gain traction again after Trump begins his second term next month.

[The Destructive Legacy of Failed Aquaculture \(12/6/24\)](#) Removing abandoned infrastructure is challenging, time-consuming, and costly.

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[WA poised to be first government to remove and permanently ban commercial net pen aquaculture \(12/10/24\)](#) Washington would be the first place in the world to both entirely remove the existing industry and permanently ban future operation of commercial net pens in marine waters.

[Op-ed: The Blue Economy is failing small-scale fishers \(12/11/24\)](#) For the Blue Economy to succeed, its policies must respect and incorporate the traditions and values of the communities it aims to benefit.

[The White House releases first US aquaculture development plan in 40 years \(12/18/24\)](#) The United States government has announced the release of the first updated National Aquaculture Development Plan since 1983.

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## FRESHWATER

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[The attack of the Chinese mitten crabs \(12/17/24\)](#) On Sept. 15, a driver in Brooklyn was stopped by the New York Police Department after running a red light. In an unexpected turn of events, the officers found 29 Chinese mitten crabs, a crustacean considered one of the world's most invasive species (it's number 34 on the Global Invasive Species Database), while searching the vehicle

Waine, A., Robertson, P. & Pattison, Z. Understanding and classifying the raw water transfer invasion pathway. *Biol Invasions* **26**, 4035–4049 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03432-0>

Pfingsten, I.A., Reaver, K.M., Dean, E.M. et al. Combining storm flood water level and topography to prioritize inter-basin transfer of non-native aquatic species in the United States. *Biol Invasions* **26**, 4105–4120 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03430-2>

Keirsebelik, H., Ewers, C. & Schoelynck, J. Breaking it down: leaf litter processing by invasive Chinese mitten crabs and associated effects on water quality in laboratory conditions. *Biol Invasions* **26**, 4265–4281 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03445-9> [\$]

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## FISH

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[Construction will soon begin on project to keep invasive carp out of Great Lakes \(12/4/24\)](#) Army Corps announces first construction contract for \$1.15B project in Joliet, Illinois

[Year-long carp hunt contest aims to remove carp from Utah Lake: 'We want carp gone' \(12/16/24\)](#) To help remove the fish, Utah is offering a \$5,000 grand prize and several monthly prizes as part of a year-long Great Carp Hunt contest.

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## AQUATIC PLANTS

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Joyee, S.D., Dorken, M. & Freeland, J. Range expansion of the invasive hybrid cattail *Typha × glauca* exceeds that of its maternal plant *T. angustifolia* in the western Prairie Pothole Region of North America. *Biol Invasions* 26, 4005–4010 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03439-7> [\$]

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[USGS: Helene and Milton potentially spread invasive species to new locations in Florida and Georgia \(12/10/24\)](#) As communities continue to recover from widespread destruction caused by recent hurricanes Helene and Milton, floodwaters from these storms may have accelerated the spread of invasive wildlife and plant species into new areas.

[Crayfish map gives conservation a helping claw \(11/25/24\)](#) A new mapping project puts 427 crayfish taxa and over 100,000 observation records on the first searchable global atlas: World of Crayfish. The resource will help protect vulnerable crayfish species and manage invasive ones worldwide.

Opportunity offered: [Certified Tribal Technician Program - Native American Fish and Wildlife Society](#). For Invasive Species Technician Curriculum, contact Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator, [MReed@nafws.org](mailto:MReed@nafws.org)

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## OTHER

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The Columbia River Basin Dreissenid Incident Response Toolkit ([CRBDIRT](#)) and ESA Consultation Manual is being phased out. The new resource will be the Western Basin Invasive Mussel Incident Response Toolkit at <https://www.westernqzrr.com/>.

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## JOBS/GRANTS

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### Resources:

- *The Office of Personnel Management launched a [new portal](#) as part of USAJOBS for students interested in applying for internships at federal agencies, billed as a “one-stop shop” for those interested in exploring a career in government.*
- *Are you ready to make a contribution to fisheries on the West Coast? Begin your job search and application process by searching for [specific jobs at PSMFC](#)*

### Jobs

NISC Vacancy Announcement - Communications and Strategic Engagement Specialist (GS-12/13) **Opening and Closing Dates: 12/17/2024 - 12/26/2024** Do you want to advance invasive species efforts? Are you interested in working with a wide range of Federal agencies and non-Federal partners? Do you want to put your creative skills to the test? The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) has an opening for a Communications and Strategic Engagement (Public Affairs) Specialist to help lead work on outreach, including social media, NISC outputs and reports, and connecting with new audiences. You will work with NISC staff (small but mighty) and NISC agency members (big and mighty) to support thematic work and develop informational campaigns. Hiring is at the GS-12/13 level, and the position can be based in Washington DC or remotely. All U.S. citizens are eligible. Apply now as the closing date is December 26, 2024! For more information: U.S. Citizens, Non-Federal Employees - Job Announcement Number: OS-6015-25-ETA- 050(DEU) USAJOBS URL: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/824281800>

### Virginia Tech: Associate or Full Professor – Invasive Species Economist

Job no: 530578

Work type: Teaching & Research Faculty

Senior management: Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department: Agricultural & Applied Economics

Location: Blacksburg, Virginia

Categories: Agriculture / Life Science

**Open until filled**

Job Description

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and the College of Science (COS) at Virginia Tech are inviting applications for a 9-month (academic year) tenure-track research and

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teaching position at the Associate or Full Professor level in applied economics with a focus on invasive and other harmful species

[The Illinois Natural History Survey \(INHS\)](#) is seeking 2 graduate research assistants (GRAs) starting Summer or Fall 2025 to conduct research in the areas of aquatic ecology, invasion biology, or fisheries ecology. MS or PhD GRAs are available to research topics such as sport fish growth and recruitment, habitat enhancements for reservoir fisheries, riverine larval fish ecology, and harvest regulations. The **deadline to apply is February 14, 2025.**

### [Knauss Fellowship](#)

[Ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resource management experience for graduate students](#)

The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students interested in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The Fellowship, named after one of Sea Grant's founders and former NOAA Administrator John A. Knauss, matches highly qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative and executive branch of government located in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one-year paid fellowship.

**Applications due to your state's Sea Grant program on February 19, 2025, for the 2026 Fellowship.** Applicants encouraged to reach out to programs 1-2 months in advance!

## Grants

### [Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#)

**USFWS UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in Funding Opportunity F25AS00039: Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species. After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue this opportunity, at least temporarily, to explore alternate pilot models that we believe may have more of an immediate benefit to our management partners. This decision was not made lightly, and we understand it may come as a disappointment to those who were looking forward to applying. We encourage you to stay connected with us, as we will continue to provide updates on future opportunities.

### [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\) Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity](#)

Requesting proposals that support the eradication of a newly introduced or established invasive species in terrestrial or aquatic habitats of the United States, including the U.S. territories (aquatic habitats include freshwater, wetland, riparian, estuarine, and marine environments). While preference will be given to proposals that result in eradication of invasive species, research proposals that advance the effectiveness and availability of eradication tools will be considered.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorization for ecosystem restoration, the Department of the Interior (DOI) invested \$3 million to establish an Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity. It is administered within the existing authorities of DOI and administered by the USFWS in collaboration with DOI bureaus. The intent of this funding opportunity is to

promote and invest in those projects with a high likelihood of achieving eradication success and that have existing partnerships and plans in place.

Please note that projects responding to founding populations of aquatic invasive species within the early detection and rapid response context should instead apply for funding through the [Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#). Projects addressing established aquatic invasive species infestations with a high likelihood of eradication can apply for this Eradication Funding Opportunity.

General information about the funding for invasive species eradication can be found [HERE](#). Additional questions may be directed to myself at [jarrad\\_kosa@fws.gov](mailto:jarrad_kosa@fws.gov).

### **\$100M in NOAA funding available for transformational habitat restoration**

On Friday, NOAA announced the [availability of up to \\$100 million in funding](#) for transformational projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats and that strengthen community resilience. This is the third and final round of this funding opportunity under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Of the \$100 million available, up to 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements, through direct awards or subawards. The remaining funding will be available to all eligible applicants.

NOAA will accept proposals between \$750,000 and \$10 million for the entire award, with typical funding anticipated to range from \$4 million to \$6 million. The application deadline is April 16, 2025. More information, including details about webinars for potential applicants, can be found on the [Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#) page.

### TRAINING:

#### **Certified Tribal Technician Program**

NAFWS' vision for the Certified Tribal Technician Program is to offer professional certification training for tribal staff with the equivalency as a Fisheries Technician or an Invasive Species Technician to assist building tribal capacity for Tribes.

To achieve this, we will:

- Promote tribal programs and assist in the building of tribal capacity by offering professional training opportunities.
- Provide training skills that expand or enhance knowledge for professional fish and wildlife/natural resources staff.
- Focus on concepts related to Fishery and/or Invasive Species Management to build tribal capacities to implement in comprehensive Fish and Wildlife/Natural Resources Management Programs.

The goal of the training program is to increase awareness, knowledge, and implementation of best management practices related to fisheries and invasive species management, and monitoring by tribal professionals and field staff.

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## LEGISLATION

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Advocacy

State/Provincial

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

[Graves, Larsen, Carper, Capito Announce Agreement on Water Resources Development Act of 2024 \(12/3/24\)](#)

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO), T&I Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA), Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE), and EPW Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) today announced a final agreement on the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA).

The text of the 624 page bill, S. 4367, can be found [HERE](#)

[Click here for a section by section summary of the legislation.](#) (Updated 12/6/24)

### **AIS Highlights:**

Sec. 1134. Harmful algal bloom demonstration program.

This section directs the Secretary to prioritize program activities under section 128 of WRDA 2020 that reduce nutrient pollution, utilize natural and nature-based approaches, protect wetlands, develop technologies for detecting harmful algal blooms, and combine removal with beneficial uses.

Sec. 1139. Ability to pay.

This section clarifies the Secretary's authority to assess the ability of non-Federal interests to pay for water resources development projects and requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress on these determinations.

(c) PRIORITY PROJECTS .—The Secretary shall make a determination under section 103(m) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended by this section, of the ability to pay of the non-Federal interest for the following projects:

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(2) Any authorized watercraft inspection and decontamination station established, operated, or maintained pursuant to section 104(d) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(d))

Sec. 1144. Control of aquatic plant growths and invasive species.

This section authorizes the Secretary to work with non-Federal interests on monitoring and contingency planning for invasive species and adds the Connecticut River Basin to the program.

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended-

- (1) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “, and monitoring and contingency planning for,” after “early detection of”; and
- (2) in subsection (g)(2)(A), by inserting “the Connecticut River Basin,” after “the Ohio River Basin,”.

Sec. 1235. Report on efforts to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species.

This section requires the Secretary to complete a report on the Corps’ various authorities and programs related to monitoring, controlling, and eradicating invasive species.

Sec. 1303. General reauthorizations.

This provision provides additional authorizations of Federal appropriations for several Corps programs.

(b) INVASIVE SPECIES IN ALPINE LAKES PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 507(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (16 U.S.C. 4701 note) is amended by striking “2028” and inserting “2030”.

(j) EXTENSION FOR CERTAIN INVASIVE SPECIES<sup>23</sup>

PROGRAMS.—Section 104(b)(2)(A) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

- (1) in clause (i), by striking “each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”; and
- (2) in clause (ii), by striking “2028” and inserting “2029”.

Sec. 1361. Expenses for control of aquatic plant growths and invasive species.

This section modifies certain activities under section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958.

SEC. 1361. EXPENSES FOR CONTROL OF AQUATIC PLANT GROWTHS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Section 104(d)(2)(A) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “50 percent” and inserting “35 percent”\*

**\*Note:** The Aquatic Invasive Species Cost-Share Program currently has a 50/50 federal/non-federal matching requirement. However, it can be difficult for state, tribal,

and university partners to meet the required 50% non-federal match. This has resulted in states not participating to their full capacity. WRDA 2024 will modify the cost-share requirement to 65/35, resulting in millions of additional federal program dollars becoming available in the coming years.

**Now What:** S 4367 is passed the House on 12/10/24 by a vote of 399-18. It is expected to easily pass the Senate this week and be signed by the President.

[Neguse Introduces Bill to Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels in the Colorado River \(12/3/24\)](#)  
**Washington, D.C.** — Today, House Assistant Minority Leader Joe Neguse introduced the Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act [[H.R. 10234](#)], to help slow and prevent the spread of highly invasive aquatic species, including fast-spreading zebra mussels, in the Colorado River and other waters across the West. More specifically, the bicameral bill strengthens efforts led by states and agencies in partnership with the U.S. Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to implement preventative measures—like watercraft inspection and decontamination stations—that help limit the spread of these invasive species. Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Steve Daines (R-MO) are championing companion legislation [[S. 2105](#)] in the United States Senate.

The bill text is available [HERE](#). AIS bill language includes:

SEC. 3. FEDERAL LAND AND AQUATIC RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ASSISTANCE.  
(a) AUTHORITY OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND FOREST SERVICE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN AQUATIC RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.

- (1) IN GENERAL. —The Secretaries may inspect and decontaminate watercraft entering and leaving Federal land and water located within a river basin that contains a Bureau of Reclamation water project.
- (2) REQUIREMENTS. —The Secretaries shall—
  - (A) in carrying out an inspection under paragraph (1), coordinate with 1 or more partners;
  - (B) consult with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to identify potential improvements in the detection and management of invasive species on Federal land and water; and
  - (C) to the maximum extent practicable, inspect watercraft in a manner that minimizes disruptions to public access for boating and recreation in noncontaminated watercraft.
- (3) PARTNERSHIPS. —The Secretaries may enter into a partnership to provide technical assistance to a partner
  - (A) to carry out an inspection or decontamination of watercraft; or
  - (B) to establish an inspection and decontamination station for watercraft.

(4) DATA SHARING. —The Secretaries shall make available to a Reclamation State any data gathered relating to inspections carried out in the Reclamation State under this subsection.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM FOR RECLAMATION STATES FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION STATIONS. —

(1) WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IN RECLAMATION STATES. —Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), shall establish a competitive grant program to provide grants to partners to conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft in reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary, including to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain a watercraft inspection and decontamination station.

(2) COST SHARE. —The Federal share of the cost of a grant under paragraph (1), including personnel costs, shall not exceed 75 percent.

(3) STANDARDS. —Before awarding a grant under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall determine that the project is technically and financially feasible.

(4) COORDINATION. —In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with—

- (A) each of the Reclamation States;
- (B) affected Indian Tribes; and
- (C) the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. —There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.

**Note:** [H.R. 6492](#) - “Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act” or the “EXPLORE Act” also contains the 75/25 Bureau of Reclamation cost share watercraft inspection program. It has a chance of being passed in the current Lame Duck session. S. 2105 does not appear to have a chance of passing in the Lame Duck. ...stay tuned.

## Federal: Appropriations

### [Johnson considers plan B amid Trump World opposition to spending deal \(12/18/24\)](#)

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) is looking at a plan B to fund the government ahead of Friday’s shutdown deadline as Republicans inside and outside the Capitol, including President-elect Trump and [his allies](#), slam his spending package. The back-up option Johnson is examining is a “clean” continuing resolution, two sources familiar with the matter told The Hill. That would entail dropping the additional provisions that were included in the initial 1,500-page spending package negotiated by congressional leaders, including disaster aid and economic assistance for farmers.. [It remains unclear if Johnson will ultimately pull his spending package and put the](#)

“clean” continuing resolution on the floor. The Speaker has not yet scheduled a vote on the stopgap.

??[Congress strikes deal to avert government shutdown \(12/17/24\)](#)??

Congressional leaders have struck a bipartisan deal to keep the government funded beyond a looming Dec. 20 shutdown deadline. Legislation [rolled out by leadership](#) Tuesday would kick the Friday funding deadline to March 14 to buy more time for the next Congress and incoming president to hash out how the government should be funded for much of next year

**Note:** According to [E&E Daily \(12/18/24\)](#)

...Separately, a package of more than 150 bills focused on natural resources and public lands failed to hitch a ride on the spending legislation as talks between the House and Senate broke down. A number of authorizations that could have been added to the bill were also omitted. Those include extensions for the Coast Guard as well as for federal programs focused on radiation exposure compensation, chemical facility safety and pipeline safety.

..Westerman said the committee ended up sending a list of smaller, noncontroversial packages to leadership for inclusion in the CR. Those bills included [H.R. 6492](#), the [“Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences \(EXPLORE\) Act,”](#) which would overhaul U.S. policy on public lands to promote recreation. But that was ultimately left out. Westerman said the bill still could pass the Senate by unanimous consent, but the upper chamber is running out of time to take action on it. “The Senate would be pretty ballsy not to pass that with as much outside support as it has,” Westerman said.

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## EVENTS

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### [Archived Events:](#)

[New Out West podcast episode explores cutting edge treatment options of invasive zebra and quagga mussels](#)

[Boldly Mapping: Leveraging NASA missions in ArcGIS for Invasive Species Challenges](#)

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## Ongoing Training Opportunities:

### Watercraft Inspection Training:

#### Virtual Level 1: [Level 1 - Inspector Training | westernais](#)

- [January 28-29, 2025](#)
- [February 25-26, 2025](#)
- [March 11-12, 2025](#)
- [April 1-2, 2025](#)
- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

#### Virtual Level 2: [Level 2 - Inspection and Decon Training | westernais](#)

- [January 28-30, 2025](#)
- [February 25-27, 2025](#)
- [March 11-13, 2025](#)
- [April 1-3, 2025](#)
- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

#### Virtual Level 3: [Level 3 - Trainer Training | westernais](#)

- January 21-23: CLASS FULL!
- [March 4-6, 2025](#)
- [April 15-17, 2025](#)
- [May 13-15, 2025](#)

### [DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

### [PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

[InvasivesU – NAISMA](#) - InvasivesU is NAISMA's exclusive online learning library intended to provide professionals, students, and interested individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent and manage invasive species in North America. NAISMA experts have thoughtfully curated and developed this content, especially for you!

## Calendar of Events

### 2025

#### January

[Conservation Detection & Nosework Seminar 2025](#) Holne Park House - River Dart Country Park  
We're thrilled to announce that we are co-hosting the Conservation Detection & Nosework Seminar from 28 - 30 January 2025, in Devon, United Kingdom. This exciting event, held in partnership with Dogs with Jobs, promises to be a unique opportunity for learning and collaboration.

#### February

[2025 Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training Course](#) Feb 04, 2025 - Feb 06, 2025  
Lake Guntersville State Park, Guntersville, Alabama

Feb. 24-27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 [INVASIVES 2025](#), ISCBC's Annual Forum & AGM in New Westminster, B.C.! With early bird pricing through December 20th and [discounts for members](#), don't miss the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this special, in-person event!

[2025 33rd USDA Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species](#) Feb 25, 2025 – Feb 28, 2025  
Graduate Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland

#### March

[Oregon Invasive Species Council Business Meeting, March 4, 2025 Salem](#)

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, March 20, Olympia](#)

#### April

April 14, 2025 @ 8:00 am - April 17, 2025 @ 5:00 pm CDT  
[National Forum on Biological Control Conference](#)

[2nd National Forum on Biological Control Conference, April 14-17, 2025, Annapolis, MD.](#) This event, led by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with NAISMA and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), is the premier gathering for biocontrol practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other professionals dedicated to addressing the challenges and exploring the opportunities in weed and arthropod biocontrol.

The **2025 Pacific Ballast Water and Biofouling Group Meeting** has been scheduled for April 29 & 30, 2025. It will be held at Hyatt Centric The Pike Long Beach in Long Beach, California.

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Registration and hotel room block information will be released in early 2025. Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

### May

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia's 2025 Research Conference Call for Proposals is Open! The conference theme is "Getting Ahead of the Invasion Curve: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Management" and it will be held at University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C on May 13 –15, 2025.

This is a fantastic opportunity to present research you and your teams might be doing, and to engage in critical discussions on the management of invasive species. Abstract submissions are scheduled to close **November 30, 2024**.

To submit and find detailed information on submission guidelines for presentations and posters, requirements, and event specifics can be found in the **Proposal Application** [here](#), while **Event Details** can be found [here](#).

### July

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, July 17, TBD](#)

### September

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, September 25, Olympia](#)

### October

[2025 Society for the Study of Marine Bioinvasions \(SSMB\) 12th International Conference \(ICMB XII\) Oct 07, 2025 - Oct 09, 2025 Hotel VidaMar Madeira Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal](#)

### December

[Oregon Invasive Species Council Business Meeting, December 2, 2025 Salem](#)

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, December 9, Olympia](#)



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can be found @ <https://www.westernais.org/western-ais-news>

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