

### **Aquatic Invasive Species News**

August 17, 2023

RECOMMENDED READING \* PUBLIC COMMENT \* NEW SPECIES \* WATCH LIST \*
DREISSENID MUSSELS \* BOAT INSPECTION/DECON \*
BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING \* MARINE \* GREEN CRAB \* AQUACULTURE

\*FRESHWATER \* FISH \* AQUATIC PLANTS \* CLIMATE CHANGE \* OUTREACH AND
EDUCATION \* OTHER \* JOBS/GRANTS \* LEGISLATION \* EVENTS

#### RECOMMENDED READING

Stopping wildfires parallels containing invasive species (8/12/23)

"It's like fighting a wildfire." This analogy is often used to explain the key elements of an invasive species strategy. Staff from the Maui Invasive Species Committee gained a deeper understanding of the concept as they joined on-the-ground efforts on a portion of the Upcountry fire.

Both kinds of campaigns require understanding what is driving the situation; evaluating the terrain to determine how best to deploy limited ground and aerial resources; using buffers, or fire lines to stop the spread; and continued vigilance during the mop-up phase to prevent hot spots from becoming new conflagrations. Other comparisons of operations and resources are possible, but what seems most profound as we try to make sense of what has happened to Maui are the elements of time, loss and community.

Invasive species will grow beyond control if not addressed in time. When that happens, we forever lose parts of what we once cherished as "home," whether that is quiet nights, being outside without stinging ants or hearing the song of birds that were present when the first Hawaiians stepped onto the island.

For Lahaina, there was not enough time once the town ignited. The loss is immeasurable and incomprehensible.

As the nation turned its attention to Maui, some media outlets reached out to MISC, exploring the link between invasive species and the fire. There isn't a simple answer. We know that Hawaiian forests are not fire-adapted, leaving them vulnerable to increasing amounts of nonnative, fire-prone vegetation. This risk is being exacerbated by a warming and drying climate. We also know that efforts to restore native ecosystems impacted by invasive species

can't reset the clock— we can never truly regain what was lost. It takes decades of sustained, organized effort. But it's worth it to try.

We cannot bring back the lives that were lost or the homes transformed to ash by these fires. But what MISC staff witnessed Upcountry gives us hope. Trucks loaded with water hogs were in constant motion delivering water from fire hydrants to teams of people hosing down hot spots. Individuals wielded chain saws and shovels to make fire lines along the edges of a gulch. People went door to door on affected streets, checking to see if anyone needed help. Construction crews, arborists, groups of young people and single individuals just showed up, wanting to help.

No infestation will be eradicated, or fire extinguished without dedicated, trained, capable people driving the effort. On Maui those resources include the exceptional first-line responders from the Maui Fire Department, Maui Police Department, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, the National Park Service, Maui County's Air One helicopters and others, including the behind-the-scenes people mobilizing equipment and crews, ensuring safety and keeping the communications flowing. These individuals worked even as some weren't able to know if they still had a home or if their family members were safe.

There are many lessons yet to be learned from the fires. MISC is proud to be part of the community and is here to help however we can.

Related: How Invasive Plants Caused the Maui Fires to Rage (8/13/23)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Request for Information: The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on behalf of the interagency Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), request input from all interested parties to inform the development of a National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (National Strategy). The National Strategy will describe the vision, goals, and high-level actions for a robust, equitable, secure, sustainable ocean economy enabled by healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems. It will build on current Federal, Tribal, Territorial, State, and regional sustainable ocean management practices and identify needs and opportunities to enhance these efforts with new and emerging science, technology, knowledge, and policy. Through this request for information (RFI), the Ocean Policy Committee seeks public input on what the goals and outcomes of the National Strategy should be, and how the Federal Government can best advance sustainable management of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and ecosystems of the United States.

Responses are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 28, 2023. Submissions received after the deadline may not be taken into consideration.

-----

<u>US Global Change Research Program: Call for Public Comment: New opportunity to provide input on the first ever National Nature Assessment!</u>

The challenges of climate change and nature loss are interconnected. Yet, the significance of nature in recent patterns of intensifying floods, heat stress, and wildfire is often overlooked. More frequent and extreme floods are the result of climate change and the extensive loss of wetlands that once acted as buffers, reducing some flood impacts. More intense heat waves stem from climate change and the loss of forests' cooling canopies in cities and around farms. These interacting aspects of global change need to be understood and confronted together.

To better understand the full picture of what is happening with nature, USGCRP is undertaking a National Nature Assessment, which will take stock of U.S. lands, waters, wildlife and the benefits they provide to our economy, health, climate, environmental justice, and national security. The Assessment will also look ahead at how nature might change in the future, and what those changes may mean for our economy and our lives.

The National Nature Assessment is in the early stages of development and is anticipated to be released in 2026. As with other USGCRP assessments, the National Nature Assessment will draw on expertise from the Federal Government, Indigenous communities, academia, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. The Assessment team will hold an array of public engagement opportunities to ensure the report answers questions that are important to every American's life, and is informed by the best available evidence.

The opportunity to submit comments on the draft prospectus of the National Nature Assessment (NNA1) is open **Aug. 4 - Sept. 18, 2023**. Please visit our <u>Open Notices</u> page for more information on the call. You may also access the complete NNA1 Draft Prospectus in the <u>Federal Register Notice</u>. To be considered, your comments must be made via the <u>USGCRP Public Contribution System</u> by **11:59 pm EDT, Monday, September 18, 2023**. If you have any questions or process concerns, please contact us: engagement@usgcrp.gov.

#### **NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS**

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

[California] <u>Daphnia lumholtzi</u> (a waterflea) was found in Lake Hodges [just S of Escondido] [USGS NAS]

[Minnesota] Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Ann in Chanhassen (7/31/23) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of additional zebra mussels in Lake Ann, in the city of Chanhassen in Carver County. The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek

Watershed District has conducted annual zebra mussel searches on Lake Ann since a single adult zebra mussel was found on a swimming buoy in September 2020. On July 12, RPBCWD staff found four adult zebra mussels on a tree branch in shallow water near the swimming beach on the southern edge of the lake. Five additional zebra mussels were found in the same location during a follow-up search.

#### WATCH LIST

- Alaska: Report your sightings via the <u>ADF&G Invasive Species Reporter</u> 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: <u>AISPACIoFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</u>
- 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.

5 invasive pests to look out for in WA and how to report sightings

Destructive forest pest, the emerald ash borer, arrives in Oregon; public asked to report sightings Cover your ash: Keep an eye out for the emerald ash borer in Washington

#### DREISSENID MUSSELS

[B.C.] Osoyoos Lake mussel query shows public education working (8/15/23) "We were thrilled to receive [an] email from this concerned citizen because it speaks to the fact that people are paying attention and are beginning to think about invasive mussels. "And of course, we're thrilled that that wasn't invasive mussel," Arnstein hastens to add. "That is absolutely wonderful news!"

#### BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

Washington watercraft inspectors having busy summer (8/6/23) Nick Ramsay, supervisor of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's boat inspection stations, said the agency's four stations were on track last week to surpass 36,000 boat inspections. They've nabbed 16 boats that were fouled with zebra or quagga mussels – tiny shelled organisms that the state wants to keep out of the Columbia River basin... "It's kind of an average year," he said.

[Manitoba] Local lake group seeking federal funding for Aquatic Invasive Species check stops in Westman (8/16/23) The Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve (RMBR) is applying to the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund from the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans to find the RMBR AIS Awareness & Prevention Initiative. this initiative will supplement the Provincial AIS program that's already place.

#### BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

EPA Fines CMA CGM and Four Ships Over Claims of Clean Water Act Violations (8/3/23) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) settled a series of claims against CMA CGM over claims of violations of the U.S. Clean Water Act related both to the quality of water discharges and the vessels' testing and record keeping. This settlement is the latest in a series of cases brought by the EPA as it seeks to become more aggressive in its enforcement of a program of permitting and self-testing for large ships calling in U.S. ports.

Another avoidable danger for coral reefs (8/15/23) The spread of harmful organisms via ballast water is a solvable problem, and we are ill-served by a federal agency that refuses to take the steps needed to solve it.

## MARINE

<u>Dangerous</u>, invasive coral species found in Pearl Harbor (8/3/23) Navy officials are asking the public not to dump their coral in the ocean after several species of invasive coral were found in waters around Pearl Harbor. Officials said the invasive species likely came from home aquariums.

<u>Italy's clam industry under threat from blue crab 'invasion' (8/3/23)</u> A particularly aggressive crab species from the western Atlantic is threatening Italy's role as one of the world's top producers of clams - as well as, potentially, one of its signature pasta dishes.

Kinney, K.A., Pintor, L.M., Mell, A.C. et al. Density-dependent predation and predator preference for native prey may facilitate an invasive crab's escape from natural enemies. Biol Invasions 25, 2967–2976 (2023). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03085-5">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03085-5</a>

# GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Maine] First ever Green Crab Derby wraps up in Ogunquit [YouTubeVideo]

Alaskans can help identify invasive crab species (8/1/23) Alaska Sea Grant is asking Alaskans to help monitor the invasive European green crab on local beaches.

What Maine could do to kill more invasive green crabs (8/5/23) Although the state recognizes the threat green crabs pose to fisheries, Maine has not implemented a statewide system to monitor the invasive species' population and range or done much to combat it beyond the local level.

New Washington program aims to monitor invasive European green crabs (8/9/23) So-called murder hornets have not been seen in our area this year, so you might want to turn your attention toward another invasive species: European green crabs are a growing threat to local marine ecosystems and fisheries and the public is being enlisted in a new program to monitor them.

Whatcom County, Washington issues alert for invasive European green crabs (8/9/23) Whatcom County Public Works issued a green crab alert on Thursday, August 10th.

Scientists monitor juvenile European green crab populations in Drayton Harbor, WA (8/16/23) Scientists are keeping a close eye on Drayton Harbor waters after discovering a sizable population of juvenile European green crabs, indicating growth of the highly invasive species.

### AQUACULTURE

Scientists Level New Critiques of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Scientific Rigor (08/01/23) In particular, they highlight DFO's long-criticized dual mandate. The department is tasked with both protecting wild salmon and promoting salmon farming. In British Columbia, where the presence of open-net-pen salmon aquaculture is associated with the spread of disease and pests, these two mandates can but heads.

ARCTIC Act limits offshore aquaculture (7/30/23) Alaska has long prohibited open water salmon farming because the of the risk – such as spreading disease, parasites, and escapes of farm-raised fish – that aquaculture poses to wild salmon. Brett Tolley, the national program coordinator for the North American Marine Alliance (NAMA) celebrated the bill in a July 28 email, exhorting colleagues to ask their state senators to co-sponsor the ARCTIC Act, noting that NAMA and the Don't Cage Our Oceans campaign, have lobbied in support of local supply chains, and against offshore aquaculture.

NOAA Is Rolling Out a Plan to Radically Expand Offshore Aquaculture. Not Everyone Is Onboard (8/15/23) NOAA's five-year plan to strengthen the domestic seafood market includes establishing dozens of open-pen fish farms up to three miles offshore. But some experts worry

about the well-being of marine mammals, the expansion of dead zones from fish excrement, and infringement on wild fishing grounds.
FRESHWATER
How the tropical red swamp crayfish successfully invaded the cold regions of Japan (8/2/23) A group of researchers from Japan, including Dr. Daiki Sato, Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Science of Chiba University, and Professor Takashi Makino from Tohoku University sought to study the genetic changes that have allowed the crayfish to adapt to these cold environments: Genomic adaptive potential to cold environments in the invasive red swamp crayfish
Kvistad, J.T., Galarowicz, T.L., Clapp, D.F. et al. Evidence of a compensatory response in invasive Rusty Crayfish (Faxonius rusticus) following intensive harvest removal from northern Lake Michigan fish spawning reefs. Biol Invasions 25, 2831–2847 (2023). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03076-6">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03076-6</a>
FISH
In a Bind Over Brook Trout (11/14/23) Many of the alpine aquatic habitats where brook trout have been stocked were originally fishless. Their introduction has altered the ecology of these habitats by changing nutrient cycles and negatively impacting native amphibian and invertebrate populations through predation.
Redneck Fishing Tournament draws dozens of boats to the Illinois River (8/4/23) "It's a little bit dangerous. It's a great day on the river. You see a community like Bath that has this horrible invasive species, and they can all sit around and complain. instead, they create this great event around it," Patterson said.
Walleye are spreading into Idaho (8/14/23) Idaho Fish and Game has received more verified reports and pictures from people catching walleye in the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River and Salmon River in 2023 than in all previous years. It is alarming to receive so many reports of walleye being caught upstream of Lower Granite Dam, and unfortunately there are indicators that more walleye are coming which is not good for salmon and steelhead.
AQUATIC PLANTS

<u>Prohibited aquatic plant is starting to cover parts of Canyon Lake in Texas (8/8/23)</u> TPWD says ongoing drought and lack of flow from the Guadalupe River to blame.

Oregon Ski Resort Helps To Remove Over A Ton Of Trash And Invasive Species From Local River (8/13/24) "In collaboration with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, we helped to removed an impressive 2,400 lbs of litter and invasive plants from the Deschutes River—all in a day's work."

## CLIMATE CHANGE

As temperatures grow hotter, cheatgrass, invasive species thrive in Montana, the West (8/1/23) Invasive annual grasses like cheatgrass are the culprit, according to a team of researchers from the University of Montana and United States Department of Agriculture researchers in Oregon... the research indicates that in a warming climate, the grasses are becoming better suited to thrive in higher elevations and on north-facing slopes where they were previously scarce.

World's oceans set new temperature record as global warming intensifies (8/4/23) Warming oceans will affect marine plant and animal life, including the migration of certain species and the spread of invasive species, according to experts, which could in turn undermine food security in parts of the world.

Climate change could make invasive species more common and more stubborn, experts say (8/10/23) Local, state and federal agencies across Southwest Washington and in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest are constantly working out the best ways to handle plants that are not just obnoxious but dangerous to a delicate ecosystem that will only get more vulnerable in a warming climate.

# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Michigan officials release videos on invasive species attacking the state (8/3/23) The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced Thursday the first two episodes of the video series, dubbed "Buggin' Out," are available to watch on the department's YouTube channel. The second episode, "Slowing the Spread of the Spotted Lanternfly," focuses on just that.

OTI	HER

#### <u>Invasive Species Are Rampant On Oahu And Stakeholders Are Calling Out DOA (8/2/23)</u>

Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole is demanding urgent action by state officials, citing "grave concerns" about fast-spreading pest infestations that are jeopardizing Hawaii's environment and agricultural production.

Rodents beware: AI device being developed in NZ to kill invasive species (8/16/23) An

Artificially Intelligent Terminator is in development here in Aotearoa, but it is not quite the same in the movies. In a ground-breaking evolution in pest control, the new device uses AI to identify and kill an invasive species... "Over 100 kills per trap, so it's extremely long life," she said. "We actually stopped counting at that point, so technically it's probably a lot more."

### JOBS/GRANTS

#### New:

- The Office of Personnel Management launched a <u>new portal</u> 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 of the West Coast? Begin your job search and application process by searching for <u>specific jobs at PSMFC</u>

#### Jobs

<u>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) Section</u> Lead - Environmental Planner 5 - Perm - \*07699-23

Salary \$75,120.00 - \$101,052.00 Annually Location Thurston County – Olympia, WA Job Type Full Time - Permanent Remote Employment Flexible/Hybrid Job Number 2023-07699 Department Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Opening Date 06/12/2023 Closing Date: Continuous

UDWR: Wildlife Technician I – Aquatic Invasive Species (6 positions)

Opening date: July 13, 2023 Closing date: When filled

Salary: \$15.49 per hour; Location: Pineview Reservoir, Positions available: 6; Housing: Not provided. The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, has seasonal positions (no benefits) available at Pineview Reservoir, Utah. This appointment will last from approximately July to September with a possible extension.

Examples of duties

The successful individual will work within the DWR's Aquatic Invasive Species Program, dealing primarily with quagga/zebra mussel interdiction and education. Educating the public is a

large part of the job, so professionalism and the ability to communicate are important. Duties include inspecting and interviewing boaters prior to launching at Pineview Reservoir and using a high-pressure sprayer to decontaminate boats when needed.

#### Job requirements and skills

Applicant must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license at the time of employment. Applicant should have the ability to work outdoors in a recreational environment. Preference may be given to applicants with an interest and educational background in natural resources, customer service or boat and equipment operation experience. A knowledge of aquatic invasive species and quagga mussels is preferred, but not required.

#### Other

Applicants must be willing to work in an outdoor setting and work weekends and holidays. <u>Applications</u>

Interested applicants may apply by emailing a resume (please include previous work experience and a list of references) to: Josh Wright, A.I.S. Interdiction Specialist, Northern Region Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 801-648-6315, jtwright@utah.gov

#### **Invasive Species Specialist**

Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, Traverse City MI Full time Position Salary 37400-39900

Last Date to Apply 09/11/2023

https://www.HabitatMatters.org/Employment

#### POSITION SUMMARY

The Invasive Species Specialist works with the Coordinator and Habitat Management Specialist to implement the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, which largely funds the position, as well as multiple other grants and subgrants. Primary responsibilities include working with the Habitat Management Specialist to arrange invasive species cost-share treatments, manage the seasonal treatment crew day-to-day, and coordinate the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) treatment and survey program throughout the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network's (ISN) four-county service area. Other duties include data management, creating maps, working with private land owners, assisting with trainings, assisting with permitting and reporting, and engaging volunteers.

Invasive Plant Management Members - Southeast Invasive Plant Management Team (National Park Service), American Conservation Experience, Asheville, North Carolina, United States (On-Site) Apply Now

Summary: American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps, in partnership with the National Park Service, is seeking THREE Invasive Plant Management Members who will assist Southeast Invasive Plant Management Team (SE-IPMT) staff with the management, control, and eradication of invasive plants and forest pathogens.

For more information on the ACE and to apply, please visit:

https://usaconservation.applicantpool.com/jobs/1001122.html

Start Date: September 11th, 2023

End Date: January 27th or May 18th, depending on the term

\*One of the positions will be 20 weeks long and two of the positions will be 36 weeks long\*

\*A 20-week or 36-week minimum commitment is required \*

Location Details/Description: The first 20 weeks will be based in Asheville, NC and the final 16 weeks will be based in Chattanooga, TN

#### Grants

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, on behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is soliciting proposals for interagency agreement funding to support response to the ongoing <a href="European green crab emergency">European green crab emergency</a>. Please visit <a href="https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/">https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/</a> for more information about the available funding for public agencies. (Rolling deadline until funds fully allocated)

For more information on European green crab and the state response, please visit <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas">https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas</a> and <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters">https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters</a>

	LEGISLATION	
Advocacy		
State/Provincial		
Federal: Executive		
Federal: Congressional		
Federal: Appropriations		
	EVENTS	
Archived Events:		

## Spreading Information Not Invasives: Amplifying Climate Change and First Foods Considerations in an Invasive Species Knowledge Sharing Hub

On June 22, 2023, the NW RISCC and Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) hosted a webinar focused on the interactions between climate change, first foods, and invasive species. It also included information about how to access and use the OISC Invasive Species Digital Information Hub.

### **Ongoing Training Opportunities:**

Watercraft Inspection Training

#### Virtual (TBA):

- Virtual WIT or Level 1 Inspector Training (2 days 8 am Noon PST) https://www.westernais.org/level-1-inspector-training
- WIT or Level 2 Inspector & Decon Training (3 days 8 am Noon PST) https://www.westernais.org/level-2
- WIT or Level 3 Trainer Training (3 days- 9 am 4pm PST) https://www.westernais.org/le

#### In-Person:

TBA

DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet

#### PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings

<u>InvasivesU – NAISMA</u> - 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

August

American Fisheries Society 153rd Annual Meeting August 20-24, 2023 | Grand Rapids, Michigan

#### September

2023 NW RISCC Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium

Registration is Open!

When: September 7th & 8th, 2023 Where: Virtually on Zoom Cost: FREE! Visit our 2023 symposium page to register and for more details.

The 2023 Western Regional Panel Annual Meeting will be September 20-21 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

<u>Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 113th Annual Meeting</u> September 24-27, 2023; Calgary, Alberta

#### October

North American Invasive Species Management Association's 31st Annual Conference October 16-19, 2023; Lincoln, Nebraska

2023 Montana Lakes Conference, October 18-20. The theme for the conference is "Montana Lakes at Risk; Challenges and Opportunities." Whitefish, MT

Save the date: 2023 Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species Summit which will be held on October 24th in Salem, OR. Oregon Department of Agriculture and Washington State Department of Agriculture recertification credits are anticipated for attendees (pending approval). Topics will include:

Techniques and timing with treatments

Aquatic planting strategies

Ludwigia Synthesis study

Economic impact of AIS on local communities

Roundtable discussions on defining success and conversation with our contractors

AIS case studies

Mapping efforts and much more!

#### November

<u>Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) 2023:</u> Resilience & Recovery Portland, Oregon, USA | 12–16 November 2023

#### December

#### Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training Course December 5-7, 2023

This intensive training will include building relationships, partnerships and engaging stakeholders; branding and marketing programs; using innovative tools and technologies; and volunteer citizen-science coordination, recruitment, and retention to meet invasive species management goals and expand local community capacity for action. This gathering will have limited attendance through a merit selection process. Please apply at https://invasivesfree.org. Priority will be given to participants who can demonstrate their commitment to building invasive species management capacity within their community.

#### May

[Now accepting abstracts through 9/8/23] The <u>23rd International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species</u> will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from May 12 – 16, 2024. The conference theme is 'Meeting Challenges with Innovation'. The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species addresses emerging freshwater, marine and estuarine AIS issues by involving scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and industry professionals in the presentation of research, and opportunities for collaboration on research and management projects. Stay tuned for more details.

TO UNSUBSCRIBE/SUBSCRIBE to the AIS NEWS email <a href="mailto:sphillips@psmfc.org">sphillips@psmfc.org</a>. AIS NEWS was compiled by Robyn Draheim (<a href="mailto:robyndraheim@gmail.com">robyndraheim@gmail.com</a>) and Stephen Phillips. Past issues of AIS NEWS can be found @ <a href="https://www.westernais.org/western-ais-news">https://www.westernais.org/western-ais-news</a>