



## ***AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS***

04/6/22

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### **SPOTLIGHT:**

#### **[A mystery worm is threatening the future of Washington's oysters \(4/1/22\)](#)**

From Massachusetts to the Gulf of Mexico, it's common to find oyster shells in the United States marred by dark blisters and burrows — the scars of shell-boring mud worms. The most commonly recorded is *Polydora websteri*. Measuring roughly three-quarters of an inch, *P. websteri* makes its home by burrowing into oyster shells and sticking its palps out into the ocean to feed. In response, the oyster secretes a brittle layer of shell between itself and the invader, like an older sibling dividing a shared room. Behind this barrier, the worm continues digging out more space, creating a bubble that gradually fills with its own waste and seafloor sludge. Mud worms don't typically kill oysters or poison the meat for humans. But they can curb oyster growth — and tank market value.

No one knows where *P. websteri* originated, but over centuries, it has hitched a ride around the world with the global oyster trade, triggering major infestations that have collapsed half-shell companies in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Hawai'i. More recently, the parasite has been reported in Oregon, California and British Columbia. Washington, however, seemed unaffected, a half-shell haven. Today, the majority of the state's oysters are sold raw, and King knew an invasion of mud worms could upend the market. With no prior scientific reports of the parasites in Washington, however, she couldn't tell if this was a recent invasion, or if small numbers had been here for centuries and were only now proliferating because of some change in the environment. King decided to call Chelsea Wood, a University of Washington parasite ecologist.

In 2018, King, Wood and Julieta Martinelli, a postdoctoral researcher in Wood's lab, began a project to evaluate *P. websteri*'s past in Washington, using the structure and chemistry of oyster shells as an archive of marine conditions over time. They started by mapping the distribution of

modern mud worms along the U.S. West Coast. From California to Alaska, more than 30 oyster growers and tribes offered up shells. With careful tweezer work, the researchers pulled mud worms from 25% of the samples. The Washington oysters were no exception: In parts of south Puget Sound, the infestation rate was as high as 53%.

But there was one difference. Almost all the worms from the West Coast had DNA that matched *P. websteri*, which suggests species invasion. In Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Samish Bay and Willapa Bay, however, about three-quarters of the blisters derived from a mystery parasite, one that didn't align with any other mud worm species on record. At least, not records kept by

humans

[\[Cont\]](#)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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### [NMFS, BOEM issue offshore wind 'mitigation strategy' for fisheries studies](#) [\(3/25/22\)](#)

Offshore wind energy projects now planned off the U.S. East Coast will have an impact on at least 13 NMFS fisheries surveys, and a new draft 'mitigation strategy' has been proposed by the agency together with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Limitations on towing gear near turbine arrays, conducting aerial surveys and other impacts from the new energy industrial development are inevitable, and the new document out for public comment will be the subject of online discussions:

#### Informational Webinars

NOAA Fisheries and BOEM will co-host two informational webinars to present the Draft Federal Mitigation Implementation Strategy. Expert staff will be available to answer questions. Everyone is welcome to participate in these events. These events are not formal opportunities to comment. The first webinar was held on March 29, 2022. The second webinar was rescheduled for April 11, 2022. See below for information on how to log-in to the webinar.

Monday, April 11, 2022 | 5:00 pm ET

Register link: <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?RGID=r0daf967e076486cb7d4097a2ef046d7>

Meeting number: 2764 797 0022

Meeting Password: noaa

Join by phone

+1-415-527-5035 US Toll

Access code: 2764 797 0022

The implementation strategy identifies the essential components of survey mitigation, as well as objectives and actions to accomplish the goals of survey mitigation.

Formal comments on the strategy must be submitted by May 6, 2022 on [regulations.gov docket BOEM-2022-0012](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2022-0012)).

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**Public Comment Period Extended:  
Draft Outline of Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development**

The Subcommittee on Aquaculture (SCA) has announced the extension of the public comment period for its [Draft Outline of the Strategic Plan for U.S. Aquaculture Economic Development](#).

Comments will now be accepted until **Friday, April 15, 2022**. [View the original Federal Register Notice](#).

When finalized and paired with two other plans—the National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Research and the Strategic Plan to Enhance Regulatory Efficiency in Aquaculture—this new economic development plan will provide a holistic approach to supporting and expanding the U.S. aquaculture sector.

To view the plans and learn more about the Economic Development plan in progress, please visit: <http://ars.usda.gov/SCA/>

For more information on the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development, please contact task force co-chair David O'Brien at [david.o'brien@noaa.gov](mailto:david.o'brien@noaa.gov).

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**[National Sea Grant College Program](#)**

The National Sea Grant College Program is currently developing its strategic plan for 2024-27. In order to inform its 2024-27 strategic plan, Sea Grant is hosting a series of listening sessions about the current strategic plan. There will be three listening sessions to discuss the strategic plan as a whole, and eight listening sessions on the specific focus area goals - one listening session per goal. Information on all of the sessions planned can be found [HERE](#). On the website you can also find a virtual comment card to share your ideas.

**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>

## DREISSENIDS

[Texas] [Dreissena rostriformis \(quagga mussel\)](#) was found in International Amistad Reservoir, Diablo East, TX [[USGS NAS](#)]

## OTHER AIS

[Arizona] [Potamopyrgus antipodarum \(New Zealand mudsnail\)](#) was found in Upper Verde drainage: Oak Creek in riffle just below the Page Springs Fish Hatchery show pond outflow [[USGS NAS](#)]

[California] [Potamopyrgus antipodarum](#) (New Zealand mudsnail) was found in Lake Palmdale, CA [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\[Montana\] New Zealand Mud Snails Discovered At FWP Hatchery \(3/31/22\)](#)

New Zealand mud snails were discovered earlier this month at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park's Bluewater State Fish Hatchery south of Laurel. To eliminate the threat of further spread, nearly all of the rainbow trout and largemouth bass at the facility will be destroyed.

[New Mexico] [Radix auricularia \(European ear snail\)](#) was found in La Cienega, NM [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Texas] [Astronotus ocellatus \(Oscar\)](#) was found in South Laguna Madre TX [[USGS NAS](#)] and in Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, TX, US [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Rhithropanopeus harrisi \(Harris mud crab\)](#) was found in Hubbard Creek Reservoir, Breckenridge, TX [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Utah] [Rocio octofasciata \(Jack Dempsey\)](#) was found in Great Salt Lake Desert, West Wendover, UT [[USGS NAS](#)]

## WATCH LIST

[Canada] DFO wants people to report sightings of European Green Crabs in the Salish Sea. Sightings can be reported to [AISPACIFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:AISPACIFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

[Canada] [What the shell is out there? Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society wants help documenting what kinds of shells are out there.](#)

[Washington] ["Giant Hornet Two Years Later On – What We've Learned and What We Still Don't Know"](#)

[Huge invasive spiders native to Asia expected to spread along US east coast \(3/8/22\)](#)

People up and down the entire US east coast may soon find themselves living with a large spider species that is a long way from its original home. According to researchers at the University of Georgia, the Joro spider, an invasive species native to east Asia, is expected to spread after thriving in the state last year. The spider, *Trichonephila clavata*, is known for its ability to spin highly organized, wheel-shaped webs. Females have blue, yellow and red markings and can measure up to 3in when fully extended.

## DREISSENIID MUSSELS

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### [Fighting invasive mussels comes with giant price tag \(3/31/22\)](#)

Speaking at the recent Alberta Invasive Species Council's conference, University of Montana research scientist Nanette Nelson said the spread of these invasive mussels first found in the Great Lakes in the 1980s now includes 32 U.S. states. One consistent factor no matter where a mussel infestation occurs is that fighting the pests comes with a big price tag.

They've left a substantial path of damage in their wake from gumming up water infrastructure, turning beaches into repositories of sharp shells of dead mussels and pushing out native species, said Nelson.

### [Decline in freshwater mussels an indicator of poor river and stream health in South Dakota \(3/22/22\)](#)

The increasing spread of invasive zebra mussels add to the threats to native mussels as the invaders move up South Dakota's navigable waterways and into lakes. These non-native, proliferating mussels prefer attaching to live mussels over empty shells or stones. Many zebra mussels can team up to keep a single native mussel from opening up to feed or reproduce. In great numbers, they deplete the phytoplankton native mussels need for food.

### [Montana waters set to move to mussel-free designation \(3/17/22\)](#)

Montana is set to be designated free of invasive mussels as the state moves to delist Tiber Reservoir as a mussel-positive waterbody. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks recently launched the delisting process for Tiber. The agency is taking public comment through March 25 and will hold an online public hearing next week to consider stripping "known existence of aquatic invasive mussels," from the agency's rulebook on invasive species.

Linda Haltiner et al, The distribution and spread of quagga mussels in perialpine lakes north of the Alps. Aquatic Invasions (2022). <http://doi.org/10.3391/ai.2022.17.2.02>

## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS

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### [\[Texas\] K9 mussel detection teams return to Lake Meredith \(3/31/22\)](#)

Aquatic invasive species pose a severe threat to Lake Meredith and other waterways. Specifically, according to a Tuesday report from the National Park Service (NPS), invasive

species such as the Quagga and Zebra mussels could be brought into the region through contaminated boats.

[BC's environment minister says mandatory inspections of boats for invasive mussels 'not being pursued' \(3/31/22\)](#)

The water board sent a letter to the minister earlier this month, proposing a list of calls to action to stop zebra and quagga mussels from infesting B.C. waterways. In his reply, George Heyman says the province is "working hard" to maintain funding at \$3.5 million for the Invasive Mussel Defence Program. He says a requirement for inspection of all watercraft entering the province "is not being actively pursued by the province."

[\[British Columbia\] Water board floats idea of ban on uninspected out-of-province boats \(3/30/22\)](#)

A possible ban on out-of-province boats that haven't been inspected for an invasive mussel is being promoted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Since the provincial government hasn't committed more money for inspection stations at B.C.'s borders, towns and cities in the Valley should take matters into their own hands, OBWB directors will hear next week.

[\[Montana\] Inspectors Find Mussels On Three Boats Being Transported Through Montana \(3/22/22\)](#)

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks watercraft inspection station near Anaconda intercepted three boats carrying invasive mussels over the weekend. One boat was coming from Michigan heading for Yakima, Wash., another other was coming from Florida heading for the Seattle area, and the third boat was coming from Ohio heading to British Columbia. The three boats had been out of the water for some time, and the mussels were not viable.

[Watercraft Inspections Resume in Northwest Montana \(3/18/22\)](#)

With the arrival of warmer weather, the return of snowbird boat traffic and the start of a popular fishing derby on Flathead Lake, early-season watercraft inspections have opened at strategic locations in western Montana, including in Ravalli and Kalispell, with additional facilities coming online across the state.

## **BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING**

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[Final Policy Letter Describing Type-Approval Testing Methods for Ballast Water Management Systems \(BWMS\) That Render Organisms Nonviable in Ballast Water \(3/24/22\)](#)

The Coast Guard announces the availability of the final policy letter that describes type-approval testing methods, and the acceptance process for such methods, for ballast water management systems (BWMS) that render organisms nonviable in ballast water. At this time, the Coast Guard does not accept any type-approval testing methods for ballast water management systems that render organisms in ballast water nonviable (meaning "permanently incapable of reproduction").

Zacharopoulou, Drake, and Drillet. 2022. [How Mandatory Testing Of Ballast Water Management Systems Protects Fisheries And Aquaculture](#). Infofish International.

[Op-Ed: Navigating uncharted waters for BWMS operations \(3/24/22\)](#)

I have argued before that 2022 would be a big year for ballast water management system (BWMS) installations. With the September 8, 2024, deadline for D2 standard compliance looming, the proper operation of a newly installed BWMS is no longer a luxury—it has become a necessity for vessels to operate. The operational disruptions caused by inoperable or inadequate systems will only exacerbate the strains on our global supply chains. This is not an outcome that anybody wants, but thankfully it is not an inevitable one.

[World's Most Famous Superyacht Now Operating A Bio-Sea Ballast Water Treatment System in International Shipping News 03/18/2022](#)

What is undoubtedly the world's most famous luxury yacht is successfully operating an advanced BIO-SEA ballast water treatment system from France's BIO-UV Group. Christina O, the 1943-built motor yacht named after the only daughter of Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, was fitted with a low-flow BIO-SEA system last year as part of a major refurbishment at the D.K Fotinakis yard, in Greece.

## MARINE

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[\[Audio\] Underwater travelers — California's battle with invasive species \(3/23/22\)](#)

[ODFW bans harvest of sea stars, boosts harvest limit of non-native European green crabs \(3/18/22\)](#)

European green crab were also part of the "other marine invertebrates" daily catch limit of 10 in aggregate before Friday. This crab has rapidly colonized temperate coastlines at several locations around the world, where they are an aggressive invader with the potential to disrupt communities of native shellfish (other crab, clams, oysters, etc.). The Commission today voted to increase the daily bag limit to 35 to encourage greater harvest.

[Invasive algae species in Newport Harbor is not 100% gone, eradication expected over next few years \(3/17/22\)](#)

Last summer, divers set out from China Cove Beach to remove an invasive algae species from Newport Harbor, and the city at the time said it had been removed by way of vacuum pumps that extracted the plant by its roots from the seafloor. While progress was made, not all of the troublesome algae is gone.

[Invasive Green Crabs Pose Threat to Washington's Shellfish Industry and Tribal Culture \(3/3/22\)](#)

In 2021, more than 102,000 European green crabs were caught in Puget Sound and along Washington's coast. This was an astronomical 5,500% increase from the 1,800 crabs caught just two years earlier in 2019. In response to the explosion in the green crab population, a series of disaster declarations were made by the Lummi Nation and the Makah Tribe concerning the green crabs' impact on Tribal culture and economy. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee followed suit and issued an emergency order to mobilize state resources.

Ashton, G.V., Zabin, C.J., Davidson, I.C. et al. Recreational boats routinely transfer organisms and promote marine bioinvasions. *Biol Invasions* 24, 1083–1096 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-021-02699-x> [\$]

## AQUACULTURE

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[WA seaweed farming could boom but permitting remains difficult \(3/29/22\)](#)

Like much of the West Coast, the state needs a regulatory overhaul if it wants to take advantage of emerging ocean aquaculture.

[First Nations want ‘Aquaculture Zone’ off Vancouver Island \(3/25/22\)](#)

“We are working towards sustainability of both fisheries and aquaculture...they can both exist in our waters, but it should be our community that decides what that looks like for our Traditional Territory,” – The Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw Nations

[B.C. First Nations say salmon farming can sow self-determination and reconciliation \(3/21/22\)](#)

Calls on Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to reissue operating licences for salmon farms in 2022

[B.C. Premier John Horgan raises concerns to Trudeau about job impact of salmon farm closures \(3/16/22\)](#)

A letter dated March 10 from Horgan to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said concern is widespread on Vancouver Island that the federal government is poised to make a decision that could threaten hundreds of jobs and the economies of coastal communities.

Willer DF, Robinson JPW, Patterson GT, Luyckx K (2022) Maximising sustainable nutrient production from coupled fisheries-aquaculture systems. *PLOS Sustain Transform* 1(3): e0000005. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pstr.0000005>

## FISH

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[\[Texas\] Invasive catfish species disrupting San Marcos River habitats \(4/4/22\)](#)

Researchers dived into the San Marcos River last week in hopes of understanding a non-native species of fish. The results from the study will help in guiding and enhancing the ongoing removal efforts to protect the native habitats. On Thursday, March 31, Texas A&M researchers were studying the invasive suckermouth armored catfish. The suckermouth catfish compete with



the native species of fish in the river, alter food webs, and cause habitat degradation by burrowing into river banks, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife social media post.

[Wisconsin Fish Dealer Convicted of Illegally Selling, Transporting 9,000-Plus Pounds of Invasive Carp \(3/22/22\)](#)

A Wisconsin man pled guilty to 19 charges associated with the illegal transportation and sale of invasive silver, grass, and bighead carp

[The pandemic that closed the U.S./Canadian border to people may have opened it to the invasive sea lamprey \(3/21/22\)](#)

Great Lakes invasive species cling to shipments and navigate canals to migrate, but one aquatic invader – sea lamprey – benefitted from border closures instead. In recent years, U.S. and Canadian crews jointly treat lakes and streams to kill the invaders, which can feed on and destroy 100 million pounds of Great Lakes fish each year, said Marc Gaden, the communications director for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. But the pandemic border crossing crackdown meant that treatment programs were much harder to complete, Gaden said. “It’s really hard to be a binational organization when the border’s closed,” he said.

[Combatting Silver Carp: TN implants tracking devices in invasive fish to follow their movements \(3/17/22\)](#)

To fight the fish, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is turning to underwater tracking implants. It recently went out on Pickwick and Cheatham lakes on the Cumberland River for three days with the U.S. Geological Survey to target silver carp and implant acoustic tags inside them.

[Protecting the Hudson from a threat worse than pollution \(3/15/22\)](#)

The round goby, a small fish with frog-like eyes, might not seem like much of a threat. But when the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) captured four of them in the Hudson River last summer, it set off an alarm.

## AQUATIC PLANTS

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Schwoerer, T., Dial, R.J., Little, J.M. et al. Flight plan for the future: floatplane pilots and researchers team up to predict invasive species dispersal in Alaska. *Biol Invasions* 24, 1229–1245 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-021-02712-3>

## FRESHWATER

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[\[Montana\] FWP handing out largemouth bass after New Zealand mud snails found at hatchery \(3/31/22\)](#)

Nearly all of the rainbow trout and largemouth bass at a hatchery near Laurel will be destroyed after New Zealand mud snails were discovered. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) says the mud snails were discovered earlier in March at their Bluewater State Fish Hatchery south of Laurel. The rainbow trout and largemouth bass are being destroyed to eliminate the threat of further spread.

“We are conducting a full decontamination and our oldest concrete settling basins, where this infestation was discovered, will no longer be used,” said Eileen Ryce, FWP fisheries division administrator.

Largemouth bass that will be destroyed are large enough to eat, and FWP says staff will hand out the dead bass to youth under 12, or anyone with a fishing license

Geist, J.A., Mancuso, J.L., Morin, M.M. et al. The New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*): autecology and management of a global invader. *Biol Invasions* 24, 905–938 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-021-02681-7> [\$]

## CLIMATE CHANGE

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### OTHER

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[Are we an invasive species? \(3/31/22\)](#)

Decrying humankind as an invasive species ignores thousands of years of co-evolution between humans and nature, not to mention indigenous cultures that have a deep love for the land.

[Wild pig reports on the rise in Montana \(3/16/22\)](#)

Feral swine appear to be rooting up in Montana — and invasive species officials say they will be ramping up Big Sky’s “Squeal on Pigs!” campaign in the Flathead Valley and surrounding area. It’s part of a continued state, federal and international campaign against the pig invasion that strains the U.S. by more than \$1.5 billion in annual damages and control costs.

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[New Jersey student creates comic book to educate children about invasive species \(3/29/22\)](#)

Sophia Noto has created an 18-page comic book called *Invasive Species of New Jersey*, which follows three children who learn about five invasive species in the region and the solutions to prevent them.

## JOBS/GRANTS

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### **[The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association \(PCSGA\):Executive Director.](#)**

The PCSGA mission is to ensure a healthy social environment, regulatory environment and natural environment for shellfish farming in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, and Hawaii. The Executive Director's primary responsibilities are to represent the mission and the interests of the PCSGA, an organization that has existed for nearly a century. The Director will lead the development and implementation of PCSGA programs, tools, and relationships in order to assist the region's shellfish industry and related community. The Director supervises a team of committed staff and works collaboratively with the Board of Directors and stakeholders to oversee PCSGA's strategic vision and lead association decisions to drive members' agenda. For additional position and application information, please click [here](#). **Closes April 8, 2022**

### **[2 GS12 Vacancies: Permanent Fish Biologist \(GS-0482-12\) with the USFWS](#)**

**La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Onalaska, WI**

**Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Columbia, MO**

**Close 4/8/22**

The Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office is pleased to announce that we are recruiting a permanent GS-0482-12 Fish Biologist to serve as lead of the Aquatic Invasive Species Project Implementation Branch. The incumbent is responsible for the design, coordination, and operational aspects of a substantial portion of the FWCO's biological program. This position provides supervision and leadership support, conducts biological surveys with specialized gears, possesses technical field expertise for fisheries work in rivers, expresses superior collaborative skills, and supports sound decision making for the preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of fish populations to determine status and trends of invasive aquatic species.

### **["Statewide Water Quality Program Manager" AGFD Wildlife Management Division / Aquatic Wildlife Branch / Phoenix, AZ Based](#)**

**Closing Date: 04/10/2022**

Description of Duties: The Statewide Water Quality Program Manager will serve as the lead scientist/administrator for the statewide water quality program and is responsible for operational planning of water quality issues, investigations and program direction. This position will ensure compliance with the Department's Piscicide Project Planning and Procedures Manual and all relevant state and federal laws applicable to piscicide treatments and assist piscicide applicators with the project approval process. This position will oversee the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program and its integration into the water quality program statewide.

### **[AFWA Agriculture Policy Program Manager](#)**

**Closes April 10, 2022**

Position Title: Agriculture Policy Program Manager

Reports to: Government Affairs Director

#### Position Summary:

Manages and coordinates the Association's activities related to the reauthorization and implementation of current and future Farm Bills in accordance with the Association's strategic plan and member priorities. Manages interactions with state fish and wildlife agencies to maximize the value of Bill Implementation to state fish and wildlife agencies and their conservation objectives. Plans and develops methods and procedures for implementing Farm Bill related activities. Manages the Association's Agricultural Conservation Committee and its programmatic working groups. Works with federal agencies and conservation partners to develop policy recommendations. Responsible for Farm Bill related communications to members agencies, including explanation of Farm Bill, quantitative value of programs to conservation, opportunities, challenges, and solutions. Reviews and reports on activities, prepares program reports for superiors. Develops strategies to work effectively with Congress, and actively engages with Congressional offices to leverage existing relationships and foster new collaborative relationships to further Association and state fish and wildlife agency priorities, including during the Farm Bill reauthorization process and appropriations cycles to advance the state fish and wildlife agencies' Farm Bill priorities and other Association strategic priorities.

#### [AIS Check Station Lead-Evanston WY](#)

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department seeks an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Crew Lead based out of Evanston, WY. This 8-month position will assist the E80 AIS specialist with implementing the state's aquatic invasive species program. The successful applicant will help oversee the daily operations of the E80 AIS watercraft inspection station in the Green River region. **Closes: 4/10/2022**

#### [Huron Pines MI](#)

Huron Pines is accepting applications for an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey Specialist to implement priority conservation initiatives throughout NE lower Michigan by conducting invasive species surveys of aquatic systems with a focus on Michigan Watch List species, European frog-bit. Specialists will be completing tasks as a part of the Huron Coastal and Huron Heartland Invasive Species Networks. These networks are a collaboration of local, state, and federal partners working together to address invasive species concerns across jurisdictional boundaries. The AIS Survey Specialists may also have the opportunity to participate in other activities as part of Huron Pines Stewardship Team such as conducting invasive species mechanical and/or chemical treatments, participating in educational events, collecting native plant seeds, and additional invasive species survey efforts. This is an at-will, seasonal, non-exempt position running from May 23, 2022 to Aug 31, 2022. For more information visit: <https://huronpines.org/jobs/>

#### **American Conservation Experience Opportunities**

##### [Invasive Species Member, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#)

American Conservation Experience  
Virginia Beach, VA, United States

##### [Invasive Plant Removal Members- Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

American Conservation Experience  
Point Reyes, CA, United States

[Invasive Species Member, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#)

American Conservation Experience

Davis, WV, United States

[TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY](#)

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Projects Coordinator Non-Exempt

Aquatic Resources Program Manager

Assistant Planner: \$56,611 - \$76,789; or Associate Planner: \$65,735 - \$89,165 36-month contract which may be extended depending on funding availability and program needs.

Please visit our website at <https://www.trpa.gov/contact/employment/> to read more about our Agency and to complete an employment application through our Career Center. Within the Career Center site, select the "Apply for Job" link. Please attach a resume of your qualifications, and cover letter describing your interest in the position in one document when you are completing the application.

**Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD):**

- [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Watercraft Inspector](#)  
Environmental Technician I  
Salary - \$17.99 Per Hour  
Full-time or Part-time, Summer seasonal positions through September  
**Open until filled**
- [Watercraft Inspector – Site Supervisor](#)  
Program Assistant / Site Supervisor  
Salary range - \$23.24 - \$29.05 Per Hour  
Full-time, year-round position with benefits  
**Open until filled**

[Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)

The Maine DEP Invasive Aquatic Species Program is seeking an individual to join the team working to prevent, detect and manage invasive aquatic species in Maine. The Program focuses on invasive aquatic plants but also works to prevent and detect invasive aquatic animals in collaboration with other state agencies. The successful candidate will work closely with the three incumbent members of the Program and with outside contractors, lake residents and organizations. This position will share in overall program operations including field work to investigate and evaluate invasive aquatic plant populations, providing technical support to lake groups with prevention and early detection, and helping residents and lake associations assess and implement invasive aquatic plant management. Candidates interested in this position need to complete and submit an online State of Maine application at <https://www.maine.gov/nrsc/jobs/index.shtml#dep> along with a detailed resume and cover letter. Please contact John McPhedran at (207)215-9863 or [john.mcphedran@maine.gov](mailto:john.mcphedran@maine.gov) with questions.

**TITLE:** [Environmental Analyst \(AIS Outreach Specialist\)](#)

**EMPLOYER:** NEIWPC, Wannalancit Mills, 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 410, Lowell, MA 01854

LOCATION: NYSDEC Region 5 Warrensburg Office, 232 Golf Course Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885

SALARY: Grade and Step dependent upon level of experience and qualifications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Benefits provided but not included in salary range: vacation, personal and sick leave, health, dental, disability and life insurance, retirement plan. This position requires the incumbent to work five days per week, 7 1/2 hours per day, except for approved compensatory time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: NEIWPC is a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality. We engage and convene water quality professionals and other interested parties from New England and New York to collaborate on water, wastewater, and environmental science challenges across the regions, ecosystems, and areas of expertise. NEIWPC is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[\[Bellingham, WA\] Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program Staff - Seasonal](#)

Salary \$16.32 Hourly

Location City of Bellingham, WA

Job Type Seasonal Recurring Positions (3-4mo, 6 mo, 8-9mo)

Seasonal Positions are available in the Public Works Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Length of season will vary depending on position but will fall within the 2022 season which runs April through the end of September. These positions are open until filled and may be closed at any time. Starting hourly rate is at Step 1 (\$16.32/hour). The current full salary range for this position is \$16.32/hour - \$19.85/hour. This position is required to work a varied schedule at multiple sites including weekends, holidays, early mornings and evenings.

All City of Bellingham employees are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment, per Mayor Seth Fleetwood's Executive Order 2021-02.

The Public Works Department currently has several vacancies for the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species season:

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Staff

15 positions - 6 Month Season

5 positions - 3 Month Season

[USFS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Invasive Plant and Disturbance Ecology](#)

[ORISE, U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

**Application Deadline 5/9/2022 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone**

Under the guidance of a mentor, the fellow will be provided the opportunity to learn the following:

- Enhance their knowledge about invasive plant, fire and disturbance issues in the western US forests while helping to develop approaches that will facilitate the integration of invasive plant management with fuel management in forests
- Advance science project leadership skills, including project design, experimental design, logistics, field project implementation, and networking with colleagues and partners
- Further develop original research approaches, experimental design, and analysis
- Develop advanced science synthesis skills for a broad topic
- Expand collaborative and networking skills, learn how to conduct co-produced research studies, outcomes, and deliverables

- Gain first-hand knowledge of Forest Service Research & Development science and National Forest System management

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: May 2022. Start date is flexible and negotiable, and will depend on a variety of factors.

## GRANTS

### GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) [Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program Grant Cycle Opened March 10, 2022](#),

NEW: The 2022 QZ Grant Presentation Recording from March 10, 2022, is now available on the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) website:

[www.dbw.ca.gov/QZGrant](http://www.dbw.ca.gov/QZGrant)

under Grant Announcements, and on the DBW YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0V5y1-fgoks>

Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

1. Grant applicant must own/manage any aspect of the water in a reservoir;
2. The reservoir must be open to the public for recreation; and
3. Grant applicant must demonstrate that the reservoir is uninfested with dreissenid mussels.

To demonstrate that the reservoir is uninfested, applicants must provide mussel monitoring data collected since March 2021. Monitoring data can be from surface surveys, artificial substrates, and plankton tows.

**Closes April 15, 2022**

F22AS00243 [Invasive Species Rapid Response After Action Report](#)

Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service

**Closes: Apr 29, 2022**

The response provides a unique opportunity to review, evaluate, and recommend strategies to prevent and to rapidly respond to the introduction, establishment, and spread of AIS in the waters of the United States. Accordingly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or Service) requests proposals to conduct an assessment and draft an after-action report for the Marimo moss ball incident that is national in scope to evaluate the effectiveness and timeliness of actions taken and provide recommendations for future actions needed to mitigate risk and improve preparedness for response.

It is anticipated that the work will be completed through a cooperative agreement with the Service. Service staff will be substantially involved throughout the assessment to provide details about the response, to provide additional points of contact, and access to additional documents that may be needed to adequately assess the moss ball response. However, it is expected that the grantee will draft the report and develop conclusions and recommendations independently.

[The FlowCam Aquatic Research Equipment & Travel Grant for Graduate Students and Undergraduate Faculty](#)



- Are you a graduate student studying marine, freshwater, or estuarine ecosystems with a focus on microorganisms or other particles?
- Are you a faculty member who would like to introduce your students to modern methods of data collection?
- Wouldn't you love a method to streamline your research and speed up the tedious process of manual microscopy?

Enter to win the use of a FlowCam instrument for up to 4 months, including remote training, technical support, and temporary software licenses.

Winners will also receive funding to present at a major scientific conference in North America within twelve months of project completion. Eligible expenses include conference registration, travel, food, and lodging.

**Masters or Ph.D. Students Application Deadline: April 15, 2022**

**Undergraduate Faculty Application Deadline: June 15, 2022**

Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

[Year 1 Klamath Funding Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law US Fish and Wildlife Service Synopsis](#)

**Current Closing Date for Applications: May 08, 2022**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is soliciting proposals for restoration activities in the Klamath Basin of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Proposals must demonstrate how the proposed restoration will improve conditions and achieve habitat restoration for waterfowl and/or native fish and wildlife species, and other aquatic species throughout the Klamath Basin.

## FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, RULES, ACTIONS

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### Advocacy:

### State/Province

### Congressional

[Heinrich, Blunt Address North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference  
Senators Are Championing The Passage Of Bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act  
\(3/22/22\)](#)

Last week, U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) addressed the attendees of the 87th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference to highlight their bipartisan legislation, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



[House of Representatives Passes the Bipartisan Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act \(3/29/22\)](#)

**Washington, DC** - Today, the House of Representatives passed [HR 6865](#), the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022, which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved on a bipartisan basis earlier this month. The bill was named for Rep. Don Young, who served as the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from 2001 to 2007, was a member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation for many years, and passed away late last week. This legislation authorizes funding that will enhance Coast Guard operations and help the service replace and modernize its cutters, and shoreside and cyber infrastructure.

Included in the bill is following AIS related language:

Section 404. Aquatic nuisance species task force.

- Adds the Directors of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and the Commissioner of Reclamation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force;
- Allows the Task Force to provide technical assistance to agencies involved in vessel inspections or decontamination; and
- Institutes a 90-day deadline for the Task Force to submit recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes to eliminate gaps in authorities between members of the Task Force to manage and control the movement of aquatic nuisance species into or out of United States' territorial waters.

SEC. 904. Information on type approval certificates.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon request by any State, the District of Columbia, or territory of the United States, provide all data possessed by the Coast Guard pertaining to challenge water quality characteristics, challenge water biological organism concentrations, post-treatment water quality characteristics, and post-treatment biological organism concentrations data for a **ballast water management** system with a type approval certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to subpart 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.

## APPROPRIATIONS

[Biden unveils \\$5.8 trillion budget proposal with tax hikes, spending boosts \(3/28/22\)](#)

Presidential budgets are typically not passed by Congress, but they serve as a signal of the administration's priorities for the coming fiscal year.

[The President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget](#)

[President Biden's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Makes \\$18.1 Billion Investment in Interior Department Initiatives \(3/28/22\)](#)

The Department of the Interior's 2023 budget proposal totals \$18.1 billion—an increase of \$2.9 billion, or 19 percent, from the fiscal year 2022 continuing resolution.

An AIS federal legislative table is posted on the web on the [www.westernais.org](http://www.westernais.org) website. Go to <https://www.westernais.org/federal-provincial-regulations> and see *AIS Legislative Tracker*

## TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

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### [Archived Materials](#)

### [Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings](#)

#### **Watercraft Inspection Training**

Level 1 Virtual Training - April 19-20, 2022 (2 days) 1pm - 5pm EST; [[Register Here](#)]

Level 2 Virtual Training - April 19-21, 2022 (3 days) 1 pm - 5 pm EST; [[Register Here](#)]

NEW Level 2 In-Person Training - May 3-4, 2022 (2 days) 8 am - 5 pm,  
Red Top Mountain State Park, GA

More information [here](#). Space is limited!

The registration deadline is March 31st. [[Register Here](#)]-

Coming This Fall: Advanced Decontamination Training:

October 18-19, 2022 Lake Powell Resort & Marina Page, AZ 86040

To Register: Go to <https://form.jotform.com/63037607848968> and complete the registration survey. This will be an in-person "Hands-On" training. To qualify you must have completed WIT II training by a PSMFC certified instructor.

For more information go to <https://www.westernais.org/> (under the "Training" tab)  
or contact

Quagga D @ (702)236-3814 or [quaggadee@cox.net](mailto:quaggadee@cox.net)

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*Because of continued concerns due to COVID-19 upcoming meetings and events listed below may be postponed, cancelled or converted to teleconferencing events. Please check directly with the organizers of these events for the most up-to-date information.*

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

### April

April 18-22 ICAIS Oostende Belgium/Hybrid Mtg: The [International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species \(ICAIS\)](#) is the most comprehensive international forum to address new and emerging issues related to aquatic invasive species in freshwater, marine and estuarine environments. ICAIS provides an international platform for the presentation of aquatic invasive species research that pertains to species biology, risk assessment, prevention, management and control methods, ecological and ecosystem impacts and restoration, outreach and policy.

### [\(AIS\) Prevention Workshop For California Waterways Users!](#)

Join us! Everyone accessing California's waterways is invited to learn how to prevent the further spread of freshwater aquatic invasive species (AIS) into uninfested waterways. This free virtual workshop will help the public learn how they can recognize freshwater AIS in their region and how to take action to prevent them from spreading.

Workshop participants will:

- \* Gain an understanding of the impacts freshwater AIS have on the environment;
- \* Learn to recognize them in their region;
- \* Learn how to take action and prevent spreading freshwater AIS by inspecting and cleaning equipment and watercraft.

Advance registration is required [here](#).

(You must register to attend by Friday, April 22nd)

Date: Tuesday, April 26th

Time: 9 am - 12 pm

For questions about this AIS workshop, please contact Vivian Matuk at: [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov).

### May

Mark your calendars for the [Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting](#) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 14-20, 2022. The meeting will be held at the DeVos Place convention center and it is organized by the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS).

[11th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions](#) Postponed until 2023; Annapolis, Maryland

[Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting May 24-25, 2022](#)

Teleconference/web meeting: The ANS Task Force will meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 24-26, 2022, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day (Eastern Time). Registration is required. The deadline for registration is May 20, 2022.

June

Save the Dates -- [Next Meeting of the Columbia River Basin Team](#) – June 22 & 23, 2022 Helena MT

October

[Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference 2022](#)

October 25-27, 2022; Green Bay, Wisconsin.

November

The [2022 North American Invasive Species Management Association \(NAISMA\) Annual Conference](#), Managing For Resilience co-hosted with the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) November 7-10, 2022, Sanibel Harbor Marriott, across from Sanibel Island Ft. Myers, Florida

December

[2022 Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference](#)

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN

December 13th-16th, 2022

Primary meeting dates will be December 14th and 15th

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