



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

July 13, 2023

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## RECOMMENDED READING

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### [Asian clams' spread in Columbia River warns of worse invaders \(7/23\)](#)

The invasive Asian clam is more common in the lower Columbia River than its native habitat of southeast Asia, according to a [study](#) of the clam's abundance in the river.

The findings don't bode well for potential future invasions by the even more destructive quagga and zebra mussels. So far, the Columbia is one of the only major U.S. rivers to remain free of these notorious ecology-destroying, equipment-clogging bivalves.

To understand how new invaders might spread, a Washington State University-led team studied the existing invasive Asian clams hoping to see what might limit them. Unfortunately, the answer was—not much...

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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### [Colorado Parks and Wildlife \(CPW\) is asking the public for feedback on the possibility of importing crayfish.](#)

CPW is aware of a significant market for live crayfish that are primarily imported into Colorado from outside of the state. CPW believes that the major species currently being imported is the red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) - a species that is currently not allowed for import or possession per CPW regulation ([found in Chapter W-0 \(#012\)](#)(External link)).

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Regulations prohibiting the import, transport, and possession of most live crayfish into Colorado have been in place for decades in an effort to protect Colorado's natural aquatic ecosystems and native species.

CPW is seeking public input to inform the Division's review of current crayfish regulations. Please leave us your thoughts and feedback on importing red swamp crayfish into Colorado using the Guestbook tool below.

**The public comment period will be open through July 30th, 2023.**

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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>

[California] [Daphnia lumholtzi \(a waterflea\)](#) was found in Puddingstone Reservoir [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Pine Lake in Stearns County \(6/29/23\)](#) A lakeshore resident contacted the DNR after finding a zebra mussel on a rock in front of their property. In follow-up searches, a DNR invasive species specialist found another adult zebra mussel attached to a log on the south end of the lake.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Plantagenet in Hubbard County \(6/29/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Lake Plantagenet, near Nary in Hubbard County. DNR invasive species specialists, following up on a report of zebra mussels, found adult zebra mussels in three areas of the lake.

[Missouri] [MDC confirms second northern snakehead captured in Missouri \(6/8/23\)](#) The fish was captured by an angler May 19 while seining for bait at Duck Creek Conservation Area in Wayne County.

[Nebraska] [Invasive zebra mussels recently were found in Beaver Lake, a private water body near Plattsmouth in eastern Nebraska. \(6/26/23\)](#) An adult mussel was first found on a boat lift in mid-May. Follow-up sampling by Nebraska Game and Parks Aquatic Invasive Species Program confirmed the presence of microscopic young zebra mussels and adults in the lake.

[Oregon] [Corbicula fluminea \(Asian clam\)](#) was found in Tahkenitch Lake [[USGS NAS](#)]

[South Dakota] [Zebra Mussels Discovered in Sand Lake National Refuge \(7/7/23\)](#) The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Sand Lake National Refuge in Brown County. "We discovered the presence of zebra mussels

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through snorkel survey, which is utilized on high risk and suspect waters,” said Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Tanner Davis.

[Texas] [Dreissena polymorpha \(zebra mussel\)](#) was found in Hords Creek Lake [[USGS NAS](#)]

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## WATCH LIST

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- 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.

[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](#)

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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[INSIDE POLITICS: Idaho’s battle against foreign invaders \(6/27/23\)](#) While Ukraine deals with missiles and bullets, we Idahoans continue to wage war against an invasive species no larger than a dime.

[Here's how much Lake Mead could rise after an epic winter and new water cuts \(6/24/23\)](#) ... The Bureau of Reclamation, which manages interstate river reservoir systems like Lakes Mead and Powell, is acutely aware this winter’s snow and rain was an ephemeral windfall as the West gets hotter and drier.

Report: [Potential Economic Impact of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship MAY 2023](#)

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife use different methods to kill off zebra mussels at Highline Lake \(7/7/23\)](#) Highline Lake is the only state park in Colorado with an invasive species, the Zebra Mussel. As the population expands, they try to kill off existing mussels through several methods.

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[\[Utah\] \\$100M project to upgrade Deer Creek Dam also aims to protect against quagga mussels \(7/12/23\)](#) A \$100 million project to upgrade infrastructure at Deer Creek Dam began earlier this summer, and dam managers said Tuesday the hope is to also protect against a future invasive threat.

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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[\[Wyoming\] Watercraft inspection stations are open and on the lookout for AIS \(6/26/23\)](#) The Wyoming Game and Fish reports the department's watercraft inspection stations intercepted five watercraft containing aquatic invasive species (AIS) before the summer had begun.

[\[California\] Mussel-sniffing canines to be employed at Lopez Lake July 3, 4 \(6/26/23\)](#) A press release from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works states that 'mussel dogs' are trained to sniff watercraft and alert handlers of any invasive mussel presence, helping to expedite boat inspections.

[Quagga mussel decontamination dip tank opens at Utah Lake State Park \(6/28/23\)](#) On Wednesday, the Department of Wildlife Resources unveiled the state's second boat decontamination dip tank, this one at Utah Lake State Park.

[Montana Inspectors Block 28 Mussel-fouled Boats \(7/1/23\)](#) Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and its partners have inspected 33,000 watercraft this year, and reminded boaters to follow aquatic invasive species protocol during Fourth of July festivities

[Canada Day boaters urged to be diligent about preventing spread of invasive mussels \(6/30/23\)](#) OASISS staff will be at boat launches, community events, youth camps and other key locations this summer, where they will share the importance of stopping at inspection stations and to clean, drain and dry watercraft and gear.

[\[California\] Quagga prevention doing its job \(7/4/23\)](#) Monitoring system doing its part to keep Clear Lake free of mussels

[\[Texas\] Officials report education, prevention efforts for zebra mussels at Lake Meredith paying off \(7/6/23\)](#) As summer boating and fishing continue in full swing around the High Plains, officials with the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area said that education and close monitoring efforts have continued to prevent local water sources from experiencing the impact of invasive species seen elsewhere in Texas.

[Dogs have been herding sheep and sniffing out drugs for years. Now they're saving wildlife too \(7/10/23\)](#) Conservationists and scientists have realised that the dog's extraordinary sense of smell could be unleashed to detect just about anything

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[EPA Settles with Shipping Companies over Claims of Clean Water Act Violations \(6/28/23\)](#) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has settled with two shipping companies over claims of violations of EPA's Vessel General Permit issued under the Clean Water Act. Under the terms of the settlements, Swire Shipping Pte. Ltd. will pay \$137,000 in penalties and MMS Co. Ltd. will pay \$200,000 in penalties for claims of ballast water discharge, inspection, monitoring, and reporting violations.

[Type-approvals slowing down \(7/3/23\)](#) The number of BWTS being presented for type-approval at the Environment Protection Committee of IMO and the US Coast Guard is declining

[Ballast water treatment technology - now and then \(7/4/23\)](#) Ballast water treatment technology has undergone many iterations, with a number of milestones along the way

[Ballast water poses challenges for global guidelines \(7/10/23\)](#) It is easy to present IMO as a slow-moving giant, out-of-touch with the needs of the rest of humanity, which is one reason that the organisation is now a regular target for protest groups.

[MEPC 80: Action Taken on Range of Environmental Regulations \(7/11/23\)](#)

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## MARINE

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[Invasive species from Down Under washes up on Texas beach \(7/3/23\)](#) This is the Australian Spotted Jellyfish and it washed up on a beach on Padre Island. According to the Padre Island National Seashore officials, it is also known as the brown jellyfish or white-spotted jellyfish and is native to the Western Pacific.

[Navy Identifies Invasive Species and Partners with Authorities to Stop Spread \(7/5/23\)](#) In February 2023, while conducting survey work, a non-Navy biologist identified several sea anemone floating on driftwood along the shoreline of Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The species, identified as *Anemonia manjano*, is an invasive species with the potential to negatively impact Hawai'i coral reefs. The biologist reported the presence of the species immediately to local, state, and federal authorities.

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## GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

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### [WDFW: May/June European Green Crab Public Update](#)

#### [Invasive crabs are thriving in B.C. waters. Can we eat our way out of the problem? \(7/9/23\)](#)

European green crabs have posed a problem off the coast of Vancouver Island for decades now, and while current conservation efforts have focused on deep freezing them and throwing them in a landfill, some suggest eating them instead.

[Maine's invasive green crabs aren't going anywhere, so why not eat them? \(6/26/23\)](#) Maine's coast is overrun by invasive green crabs, which harm natural nurseries for lobster larvae and eat clam beds. Fishermen are looking to turn them into food.

[Unalaska readies to deploy traps for invasive European Green Crab \(6/29/23\)](#) Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game say the monitoring program is crucial in the nation's largest fishing port, and are preparing to deploy traps later this summer.

[The fight against the green crab invasion of B.C.'s coast \(7/2/23\)](#) Not only will the invaders benefit from climate change, they will make it worse. But if their arrival is caught early enough, they can be kept at bay

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## AQUACULTURE

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[No science basis to shut down salmon farms, DFO told Minister \(7/5/23\)](#) Internal memo shows Federal Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray was warned that she did not have evidence to substantiate her decision to shut down salmon farms in British Columbia.

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## FRESHWATER

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[Popular wildlife spot north of Payson, AZ closes to the public over biosecurity concerns \(6/26/23\)](#) Currently, the AZGFD is surveying Tonto Creek to see how bad the infestation is. The Tonto Creek Hatchery closed to the public on Thursday to make the search easier.

Cordell, J.R., Kidd, S.A., Toft, J.D. et al. Ecological effects of reed canarygrass in the lower Columbia River. Biol Invasions (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03119-y> [\$]

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[Invasive Animals and Plants in Massachusetts Lakes and Rivers: Lessons for International Aquatic Management](#) By Wai Hing (David) Wong

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FISH

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[Biologists prepare for a possible northern pike invasion beyond Grand Coulee Dam \(7/12/23\)](#)

Right now, an invasive fish species is trapped behind Grand Coulee dam. If northern pike make it past the two giant cement dams in their way it could spell trouble for salmon. That's why wildlife agencies are preparing for the worst-case scenario.

Related: [State of Washington Interagency Northern Pike Rapid Response Plan \(2023\)](#)

[Michigan and Illinois will partner to try to stop invasive carp from advancing into Lake Michigan \(6/29/23\)](#)

Michigan and Illinois have partnered to spend \$114 million to try to keep invasive silver and bighead carp out of Lake Michigan.

[Nearly \\$1.2 billion spent at one site to deter invasive carp from Great Lakes; other entry sites still possible \(7/12/23\)](#)

A coalition of organizations is developing an innovative and expensive engineering project at the 96-year-old Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River south of Chicago to block invasive carp from reaching Lake Michigan. The \$1.146 billion project, paid for with 90 percent federal and 10 percent state funds from Illinois and Michigan, is meant to help prevent catastrophic damage to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery, and untold disruption to the \$15 billion boating industry, according to authorities.

[The impact of invasive yellow perch on traditional Indigenous ways of life \(7/23\)](#) How will the presence of invasive yellow perch in Douglas Lake affect native Kokanee and Burbot, the traditional fisheries the Upper Nicola Indian Band has relied on for years?

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AQUATIC PLANTS

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[\[Texas\] Weevils Make Positive Impacts in Giant Salvinia Management \(6/28/23\)](#) While TPWD's biocontrol and herbicide treatment efforts have kept giant salvinia from limiting angling or boating access in Texas public waters, the plants could still hitchhike from one lake to another on a boat, trailer or other equipment.

[Corps to treat river for invasive plant \(7/6/23\)](#) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District will be performing up to five separate five-acre treatments in the Columbia River near

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the Tri-Cities with the herbicide diquat dibromide at an application rate of two gallons per surface acre. This effort is to control the invasive aquatic plant species flowering rush.

[This invasive grass threatens to warp Metro Vancouver's coastline \(7/6/23\)](#) Conservationists in B.C. are now using a mapping app to eradicate spartina, an invasive grass species that if left unchecked could transform local salt marsh ecosystems and threaten flooding of nearby coastal communities.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[Invasive Species Reshaping Our World](#) | Human Footprint | Full Episode | PBS Video

[A role for citizens in detecting invasive species – but they need help \(7/5/23\)](#) Researchers believe that one way of countering these biological invasions is by informing people about invasive species, and a [recent paper in the journal NeoBiota](#) has investigated citizen science as a method of doing this.

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## OTHER

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[How I learned to love toxic chemicals \(6/30/23\)](#) ... The best thing I can do for nature is to fight the invaders with herbicides.

[Scientists have developed a radical new solution to seek and destroy invasive spotted lanternflies — here's what's happening \(7/9/23\)](#) The robot, nicknamed TartanPest, was built by Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science and uses AI to detect eggs laid by the invasive spotted lanternfly and remove them from trees before the eggs can hatch.

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## JOBS/GRANTS

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New:

- *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 of the West Coast? Begin your job search and application process by searching for [specific jobs at PSMFC](#)*

### Jobs

#### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) Section 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**

#### Nutria Program Coordinator, Southeast Louisiana Refuges

##### American Conservation Experience

Louisiana, United States (On-Site)

Apply Now

Description

Nutria Program Coordinator, Southeast Louisiana Refuges

Summary

American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking ONE Nutria Program Coordinator to assist in managing a project to control populations of the invasive nutria on the Gulf Coast of the United States alongside FWS Staff.

For more information about ACE, please visit: [www.usaconservation.org](http://www.usaconservation.org)

Start Date: August/September 2023 Flexible

Estimated End Date: February/March 2025

#### JOB TITLE: Xerces - Freshwater Mussel Technician

LOCATION: Based in Oregon, majority of work sites located in central Oregon, with additional travel to sites in Washington state.

COMPENSATION: \$22 per hour, commensurate with qualifications

JOB START DATE: Approximate start date July 16, 2023

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until filled

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

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All applications must be submitted via our application website at: <http://bit.ly/xerces-jobs>.

### California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2024

**Applications are now open! Deadline: July 19, 2023.**

California Sea Grant is now soliciting applications for the 2024 California State Fellowship Program. The State Fellowship Program provides a unique educational opportunity for recent graduate students who are interested in marine, coastal, and/or watershed resources and in the decisions affecting those resources in California.

### Birds, Not Mosquitos Communications Specialist

#### American Bird Conservancy - Hawaii, (On-Site)

Title: Birds, Not Mosquitos Communications Specialist

Supervisor: Hawai'i Program Director

Location: Hawai'i (specific island flexible)

Employment Type: Full time, 1-year position with a possibility of extension. Flexible hours and Part time employment may be considered

Salary: Estimated; \$50,000 based on experience

**Submission Deadline: July 19, 2023**

Introduction:

The mission of American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is to conserve birds and their habitats – the places birds need to thrive – across the Americas. We are a growing group of 125+ dedicated staff, located across the United States and with a network of partners from Canada to Chile. Each year, we grow in budget and staff, and we deliver more results aimed at preventing bird species extinctions and reversing declines that are reducing populations of nearly all bird groups. Our work is guided by our principles, which include a commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI).

We seek a knowledgeable and enthusiastic person to serve as the Communication Specialist for the Hawai'i Birds, Not Mosquitoes project. The project's goal is to advance use of the Incompatible Insect Technique to suppress mosquito populations at a landscape-scale and protect native Hawaiian forest birds from avian malaria. The Communications Specialist will work with representatives from a broad coalition of state, federal, and private/NGO entities including communications professionals from across the state to reach a wide diversity of stakeholders including community members, state and federal employees, regulatory and environmental compliance officials, elected officials, and others.

### PhD Assistantship in Fisheries Biology - NREM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Graduate Assistantship

Salary ~\$26,000, full tuition waiver, and benefits

**Last Date to Apply 07/30/2023**

<https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/>

Description:

Conduct research evaluating Invasive Carp and big river native fish movements, behaviors, population dynamics, and management options in the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and associated tributaries using a vast acoustic presence/absence and 2D acoustic telemetry arrays. Tremendous opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with a wide diversity of state and federal partners. The student will be responsible for field data collection, supervising field

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technicians, data entry and analysis, and annual reports. Thesis topics can be developed based in part on student's interests.

### Montana: WMCC is hiring two new staffers: a Program Coordinator and a Communications Coordinator

WMCC is hiring a Program Coordinator to join the team and assist in the coordination of the natural resource and water quality protection operations and programs of the commission. The focus of this position relates to water quality protection including, but not limited to nonpoint source pollution mitigation, such as stormwater and wastewater associated projects, and supporting aquatic invasive species prevention programs. Click the button below to learn more about the position and/or apply! *\*The Communications Coordinator position will be posted shortly\** <https://mtstatejobs.taleo.net/careersection/200/jobdetail.ftl?job=23141618&tz=GMT-06%3A00&tzname=America%2FDenver?>

### Fish Biologist – Student Trainee

USGS - LOBS

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Salary \$30.16 Per Hour

Education Master's Degree

Type Part Time

The US Geological Survey (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) in Ann Arbor, Michigan is seeking a graduate level student working towards a degree in Fishery Biology to gain practical experience. To obtain more information on this opportunity, the qualifications required, or how to apply for the position see job announcement number USGS-PATH-23-11964126-CI-AS at USAJOBS: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/733496100>

### Fisheries Biologist II Chelan PUD Wenatchee, WA

The Fisheries Biologist II provides support in planning, budgeting, implementation, management, and reporting for the District's natural resource programs. Assists with biological monitoring and evaluation programs such as predator control programs, fish spill management, fish survival tests, and hatchery monitoring and evaluations associated with the District's implementation of the Habitat Conservation Program (HCP). This position will also support the implementation of hydro licenses, including activities associated with resident and anadromous fish.

## Grants

### KGASF Accepting 2023 Scholarship Applications

The Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation (KGASF) is accepting scholarship applications from members of a Tribe or First Nation and/or are involved in education, fisheries, aquaculture, or natural resource management. Each year, depending on funding availability, the KGASF awards several \$5,000 (or more) scholarships. To qualify, students or prospective students must be:

- An enrolled member of a United States recognized Tribe or a member of a Canada First Nation, or Metis or Inuit group; and,

- Enrolled to study aquaculture, or a closely related field at a university, community college, or a technical or trade institution.

The 2023 Scholarship Application Period is now open. **Scholarship Applications are due by midnight on August 15, 2023** and will be accepted as set out via instructions on our web site where more information is available -- Scholarship - Application • Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation ([kurtgrinnellscholarship.org](http://kurtgrinnellscholarship.org)).

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 [European green crab emergency](#). Please visit <https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/> 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 <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas> and <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters>

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## LEGISLATION

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### Advocacy

### State/Provincial

### Federal: Executive

### Federal: Congressional

#### [Bennet, Daines Reintroduce Bill to Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species Across the West \(7/5/23\)](#)

Denver — U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) reintroduced the Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act [[S.2105](#)], legislation to slow the movement of aquatic invasive species, like zebra and quagga mussels, into Colorado, Montana, and other Western States. Specifically, the Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act would:

- Strengthen prevention efforts by providing the Bureau of Reclamation explicit authority to partner with states and municipalities to fund watercraft inspection and decontamination stations;
- Provide all federal agencies who participate in the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force the same authorities to limit the movement of invasive species into and out of U.S. waters, eliminating problematic differences between the various agencies; and
- Ensure that all at-risk basins are eligible and prioritized for watercraft inspection and decontamination funding.

“With the discovery in the last year of a limited infestation of zebra mussels at Highline Lake near Grand Junction, CO, Senator Bennet’s legislation is needed now more than ever,” said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. “We commend Senator Bennet’s continued championship of legislation to expand collaboration between state and federal partners, which will be critical to preventing these harmful species from further taking root in western waterways.”

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:** America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023 [S.873](#) (3/20/23, Barrasso (WY) and Manchin (D-WV)) also has some similar watercraft inspection and decontamination funding language. However, S. 873 contains the following:

Page 155 - (4) LIMITATION.—The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to Federal land and water for vessels under this subsection in the absence of an inspector.

Bennet’s [S.2105](#) DOES NOT contain the above limitation language that leaves waterbodies with less protection. Not surprisingly, S. 2105 has received more support from the AIS community.

## Federal: Appropriations

### [Committee Releases FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill \(7/12/23\)](#)

WASHINGTON – Today [Thursday], the House Appropriations Committee released the Fiscal Year 2024 bill for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The bill will be considered tomorrow, July 13th at 5:00 p.m. The markup will be live-streamed and can be found on the Committee’s website.

The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill provides new non-defense discretionary spending totaling \$25.417 billion, which is \$13.433 billion (35%) below the Fiscal Year 2023 enacted level and \$21.371 billion below the President's Budget Request. The bill also rescinds \$9.373 billion in funding provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Presidio Trust, and the Council of Environmental Quality by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), bringing the program level to \$34.790 billion (10%) below the FY23 enacted level. Overall, the bill's allocation is below the FY18 enacted level. The bill fully funds the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and prioritizes funding for Tribes and Wildland Fire Management. In addition, the bill provides a \$2.65 billion fire suppression cap adjustment as authorized. The bill reduces funding for nearly every other appropriation in the bill, including a \$3.962 billion (39%) reduction to the EPA. The bill meets the programmatic needs of the agencies within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction by reining in spending for low priority programs.

The Bill can be found [HERE](#)

**NOTE:** Details (report language) of this spending bill will be in the next *AIS News*.

**Now What:** According to [E&E Daily \(7/13/23\)](#)

The Senate, for its part, has been releasing bills in line with the debt ceiling deal that called for roughly level spending for the next fiscal year. House GOP appropriators acknowledge that their bills are unlikely to become law in their current form and that **Congress is almost certain to need a continuing resolution to keep the government open past Sept. 30.** "I think most people expect it," said Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.). "Certainly a Sept. 30 deadline is going to be tough to make. I think the real deadline is Jan. 1." If Congress doesn't make the January deadline for clearing fiscal 2024 bills, the Fiscal Responsibility Act calls for a 1 percent across-the-board cut. Adding to the drama is a demand from members of the Freedom Caucus for deeper cuts and no clawbacks of approved spending to pad new bills.

[Automatic spending cuts would threaten infrastructure funding \(7/7/23\)](#)

The backstop mechanism House Republicans inserted into last month's debt ceiling package to ensure the completion of full-year appropriations would cause some collateral damage if triggered: cuts to bipartisan infrastructure law funding enacted two years ago.

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## EVENTS

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[Archived Events:](#)

[Ongoing Training Opportunities:](#)

Watercraft Inspection Training

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### 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](#)

[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

### July

[32nd PNWER Annual Summit](#) July 16 – 20, Boise, ID

All are welcome to virtually attend the next ANS Task Force Meeting July 18-19, 2023. More information can be found [here](#).

NAISMA Webinar Series

July 19, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Using People Powered Restoration to Manage Invasive Species in an Urban National Park](#)

Register today for the AIS in Commerce virtual summit July 25

July 25, 2023, 11am-2pm Pacific Time. This 3-hour summit identified gaps and issues and set the stage to develop strategies and actions to minimize risks posed by aquatic plants and pets in commerce. Expert presenters and panelists shared information on ecommerce, monitoring and inspection, labeling and recordkeeping, regulations and enforcement, voluntary industry standards, and outreach associated with plants and animals in trade. The summit concluded with the launch of seven work groups to collaboratively develop actionable items to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species in commerce. Link to register for summit:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8698148957640258909>

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## August

[Ecological Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting](#) in Portland, Oregon August 6-11, 2023.

[Invasive Species Advisory Committee](#) August 15, 2023; Virtual

[Oregon Invasive Species Council](#) August 15-16<sup>th</sup>, Bend OR, hybrid

NAISMA Webinar Series

August 16, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Introduced Plant Pathogens Threatening North American Forests](#)

[American Fisheries Society 153rd Annual Meeting](#) August 20-24, 2023 | Grand Rapids, Michigan

## September

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

[Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 113th Annual Meeting](#) 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!

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## November

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) 2023: 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.

## 2024

## May

[Now accepting abstracts through 9/8/23] The 23rd International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species 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.

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