



Aquatic Invasive Species News

June 27, 2023

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RECOMMENDED READING

[Great Pacific Garbage Patch Hosts Neopelagic Communities, Potential Invasive Species \(6/1/23\)](#)

Strange neopelagic communities, a combination of coastal and marine animals, live among floating plastics in a vast "garbage patch" in the Pacific Ocean. These communities may enhance the likelihood that they will become invasive species and wreak havoc on adjacent ecosystems.

Haram, L.E., Carlton, J.T., Centurioni, L. et al. Extent and reproduction of coastal species on plastic debris in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. *Nat Ecol Evol* 7, 687–697 (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-023-01997-y>

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Nonindigenous Aquatic Species eDNA Data and Metadata Submission Forms](#). Request for comment. A Notice by the Geological Survey **This document has a comment period that ends 07/06/2023.**

[Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#)

In Oregon, we have a statewide plan for our water called the [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#). The Strategy provides a way for our state to better understand and meet the many needs that plants, animals, people, and the land all have. Now it's time for us to update the strategy. Starting May 11th, you can [share](#) what you think!

Oregon's Kitchen Table is partnering with the Oregon Water Resources Department to hear from you as state agencies work to update our water strategy. You can participate in different ways:

- An [online survey](#) in nine languages.

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- Join a [community conversation](#) in different parts of the state or a [Zoom conversation](#). View the details for the conversation and register here.
- Host your own [Kitchen Table Conversation](#). To learn how to hold a conversation with your own family, friends, or neighbors download the Guide [here](#). OKT is available to help you think through how you might host the conversation. Reach out to us at info@oregonskitchentable.org!

We are also working with community organizers and partners to conduct culturally specific engagement activities.

Share what you think in one of these ways! We have through **July 15th, 2023**.

[Note: Language addressing invasive species in the [2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) can be found on pages 145-146]

NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

Want to get more new species alerts?

USGS NAS: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.aspx>

IMAP INVASIVES: <https://www.imapinvasives.org>

[Arizona]

[Invasive New Zealand mud snail found in Tonto Creek \(6/22/23\)](#) State wildlife officials say they've confirmed invasive New Zealand mudsnails in Tonto Creek. The presence of the invasive species forced the Tonto Creek Hatchery to close starting today. Arizona Game and Fish plan to survey the area to determine how many snails spread in the creek.

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Wall Lake in Otter Tail County \(6/15/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has discovered zebra mussels in Wall Lake, near Fergus Falls in Otter Tail County. A lake user reported finding two zebra mussels attached to an object in the lake. During a dive search, a DNR invasive species specialist found half-inch zebra mussels on the lakebed and rocks about one-third mile from the area of the initial report.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Long Lake in Kandiyohi County \(6/15/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Long Lake, near Hawick in Kandiyohi County. DNR invasive species specialists, following up on a report of zebra mussels, found six adult zebra mussels, up to 1.5 inches long, attached to concrete planks at the public access boat ramp.

[Nebraska]

[Public urged to Clean, Drain, Dry after zebra mussels found in private lake \(6/23/23\)](#) Invasive zebra mussels recently were found in Beaver Lake, a private water body near Plattsmouth in eastern Nebraska. It becomes the fourth water body in Nebraska to have an established zebra

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mussel population. The others are Lewis and Clark Lake, Lake Yankton, Offutt Base Lake, and the Missouri River downstream of Gavins Point Dam.

WATCH LIST

- 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
- 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

[Results of invasive mussel report ‘deeply troubling’: Okanagan water board \(6/9/23\)](#) As summer returns, boaters are asked to be cautious

[Zebra mussel caught hitching ride \(6/1/23\)](#) During a [recent fisheries assessment study](#) (11/22) on Lake Témiscouata, in southern Quebec, researchers Anthony Ricciardi of McGill University and Jaclyn M. Hill of Fisheries and Oceans Canada discovered a small zebra mussel attached to the side of a living lake chub (a common member of the minnow family).

[\[podcast\] Earlier spring algae blooms tied to tiny invasive species, UW-Madison researchers say \(6/2/23\)](#) Toxic blue-green algae is blooming on lakes months earlier than in previous years. UW-Madison scientists studying Lake Mendota think that’s a lingering result of infestations of tiny invasive species, zebra mussels and spiny water fleas.

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BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[WSIA Announces New AIS Decontamination Database \(5/31/23\)](#) The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) is delighted to announce the launch of its Boat Decontamination Database. The database provides verified diagrams and instructions to decontaminate boats to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). This collaborative effort, based on input from AIS experts from around the country, demonstrates the towed boat industry's dedication to mitigating the threat to anyone who enjoys the waterways.

[8,556 boats inspected for quagga mussels during Memorial Day weekend \(5/23/23\)](#) Law enforcement officers and technicians with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other agencies had a busy holiday weekend, working to inspect and decontaminate boats across the state

[South Dakota plans stronger push this summer against aquatic invaders \(6/9/23\)](#) Roadside boat inspections will be the main thrust among the many bodies of water in eastern South Dakota, while a crew works the Missouri River. The goal for the half-dozen major reservoirs in western South Dakota is inspection crews daily at up to nine access points.

[Manitoba government opens new aquatic invasive species inspection stations at Minnedosa and Ste. Rose du Lac \(6/9/23\)](#) Boaters in western Manitoba will see new aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection stations near Minnedosa and Ste. Rose du Lac starting this weekend, Natural Resources and Northern Development Minister Greg Nesbitt announced today.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[AMSA bans second vessel in a week \(6/7/23\)](#) The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has banned the Antigua Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship BBC Weser from Australian waters for 90 days for being in an unsafe and unseaworthy condition as well as an unacceptable risk to Australia's precious marine and coastal environments.

[Ballast stowaways thwarted with water cleaning tech \(6/12/23\)](#) Filipino scientists have developed a low-cost method of sterilising ballast water to help prevent the risk of spreading potentially invasive species from port to port.

[Is it time to rethink the BWMS type-approval process? \(6/15/23\)](#) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is set to convene for its 80th session 3-7 July 2023 to address pressing concerns regarding global marine issues. One of the countries looking to make an impact in this meeting is Japan, who has submitted two information papers.

MARINE

[Nova Scotia: Slimy and spreading fast: Shellfish farms face biofouling 'invasion' \(6/26/23\)](#)

Scientists are monitoring dozens of sites in Nova Scotia and southern New Brunswick to see if the latest warm winter in Atlantic Canada accelerated the spread of slimy marine invertebrates. Six invasive sea squirt — or tunicate — species have become established in Nova Scotia in the last decade. Two more are believed to have arrived.

[WDFW launches online hub for coordinated management of invasive European green crab \(6/14/23\)](#)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has launched a new online [European Green Crab Hub \(EGC Hub\)](#) to support the coordination of ongoing emergency measures and provide public information about the management of this invasive species.

[Invasive lionfish have spread south from the Caribbean to Brazil, threatening ecosystems and livelihoods \(6/1/23\)](#)

An uninvited guest has arrived in these tropical waters: the Pacific red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*)... Now it has breached a formidable obstacle: the Amazon-Orinoco river plume, which flows into the Atlantic from northeastern Brazil. This massive discharge of fresh water has long functioned as a barrier separating Caribbean fish species from those farther south along Brazil's coastline.

[\[The Philippines\] Offshore renewable energy projects threat to biodiversity? \(6/4/23\)](#) ...

She said it is for the same reason that when establishing renewable energy infrastructure, one must also ensure that “we leave as little footprint as possible, especially in areas known to be rich in biodiversity.”

[\[Alaska\] Supporting European green crab early detection \(6/23/23\)](#)

Since that initial detection of European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*), local groups, supporting agencies, and Tribes quickly began response efforts, including a recent early-detection training workshop for partners and nearby community members to learn how to detect and sample these invaders.

Hutchings, B., Stiles, E., Erwin, P.M. et al. Hurricane events facilitate the dominance of introduced invertebrate species in harbors. *Biol Invasions* 25, 2495–2506 (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03056-w> [\$]

AQUACULTURE

[Minister to delay plan for closure of B.C. salmon farms after pressure from industry, Indigenous chief \(5/31/23\)](#)

The federal Fisheries Minister is delaying a decision on closing the remaining ocean-based salmon farms in British Columbia, after pressure from First Nations and the fish-farm industry.

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[NOAA initiates Aquaculture Opportunity Area efforts in Alaska \(6/1/23\)](#) NOAA and partners in the State of Alaska are announcing plans to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in Alaska state waters. These areas will be selected through engagement with tribes and the public, a process that allows constituents to share their community, tribal and stewardship goals for sustainable aquaculture development in Alaska’s coastal and marine waters.

[Climate savior or ‘Monsanto of the sea’? \(6/1/23\)](#) Seaweed farming is being hyped as a major weapon in the fight against climate change. But skeptics say the rush to build industrial-scale operations risks unintended consequences... there have been disasters. In the 1970s, entrepreneurs introduced a species of seaweed off Hawaii, intending to manufacture a food thickener. The business failed, but the species thrived to the point of becoming invasive; it has taken over coral reefs and now dominates entire bays.

[Aquaculture: Minister accused of ignoring First Nations voices \(6/3/23\)](#) “This minister does not seem to grasp what real reconciliation means when it comes to aquaculture and salmon farming.”

[At sea as on land? Activists oppose industrial farming in U.S. waters \(6/23/23\)](#) In May, campaigners from Don’t Cage Our Oceans (DCOO) and Block Corporate Salmon, coalitions of advocacy groups that oppose offshore finfish aquaculture, delivered a petition calling on the Biden administration to reverse the Trump executive order. In June, they condemned the reintroduced congressional bill, which they say will “streamline the process for corporations to develop additional facilities.”

FRESHWATER

DiStefano, R. J., & Glon, M. G. (2023). Managing Pathways for Introduction of Alien Crayfish: Evaluation of a Midwestern State's Regulations on the Pet Industry. *Fisheries*, 48(5), 190-196. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fsh.10895>

[Michigan Brewery Names Beer After Invasive Crawfish \(6/14/23\)](#) As a step towards making the public aware of this aquatic villain, MSU Extension and a small brewery, located in Allendale, Michigan, have joined forces to spread the word by marketing a series of beers named after various invasive species.

[Invasive aquatic rodent known as nutria spotted in Sacramento County, California \(6/15/23\)](#) Since 2020, Fish and Wildlife’s full-scale operations have caused a downward trend of nutria, but it said the historic wet winter and flooding transported nutria downstream into the Delta.

FISH

[Asian American entrepreneur turning trash fish into treasure in western Kentucky \(5/31/23\)](#) With a background of importing and exporting goods to and from China, Yu decided to begin her carp exporting business a decade ago. Since 2013, her fishery has provided work for local fishers and processing jobs within the community, while exporting millions of pounds of the carp overseas.

[Successful mechanical removal of green sunfish \(*Lepomis cyanellus*\) from closed systems \(5/23/23\)](#) The Bureau of Reclamation, to prevent further threats of non-native species invasions, constructed fish barriers across both creeks as part of the Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program.

[\[Alaska\] Invasive pike can use Cook Inlet to travel between freshwater systems, research finds \(6/12/23\)](#) Now, for the first time, researchers have concrete evidence that the fish could use the ocean to move between freshwater habitats, introducing new questions about where those fish can travel and what scientists can do to keep their numbers under control.

Bopp, J.J., Brenden, T.O., Faust, M.D. et al. Drivers and timing of grass carp movement within the Sandusky River, Ohio: implications to potential spawning barrier response strategy. *Biol Invasions* 25, 2439–2459 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03049-9> [\$]

AQUATIC PLANTS

[Texas boaters, fishers: Is this wicked plant coming home with you? \(6/11/23\)](#) ... “I got caught in the hydrilla — and the more I tried to get out of it, the worse it got,” seasoned triathlon swimmer Craig Kuglen told KXAN News “My arms got tangled, my feet got tangled and I got scared.”

CLIMATE CHANGE

[Colorado’s wetlands are endangered by climate change and invasive species. New federal money will help protect them \(6/3/23\)](#) The BLM this week announced it will invest \$160 million nationwide in what it calls "restoration landscape." The idea is to help public lands across the West withstand new and growing challenges, like invasive species and climate change.

[Alien species and climate warming are irreversibly altering the Mediterranean \(6/19/23\)](#) A perfect storm is brewing in the Mediterranean Sea, threatening its unique biodiversity and the people who depend on it. Experts are concerned that rising ocean temperatures and the onslaught

of alien species through the Suez Canal have pushed the Mediterranean to a tipping point, and the Mediterranean is warming faster than anywhere on Earth.

[Slimy and spreading fast: Shellfish farms face biofouling 'invasion' \(6/26/23\)](#) Most species of tunicate are in Maritime waters because of the warming climate, scientist says. Scientists are monitoring dozens of sites in Nova Scotia and southern New Brunswick to see if the latest warm winter in Atlantic Canada accelerated the spread of slimy marine invertebrates. Six invasive sea squirt — or tunicate — species have become established in Nova Scotia in the last decade. Two more are believed to have arrived.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[Get outside and make a difference during California Invasive Species Action Week \(6/3/23\)](#) For the past 10 years, CDFW has devoted the first week in June to engaging the public in taking action to prevent the harmful impacts of non-native plants and animals that threaten California's natural resources, ecology and economy.

[Washington prepares for an invasive insect that could destroy major crops \(6/4/23\)](#) The spotted lanternfly might not be here yet, but Washington officials are beginning to take steps to prevent the spread of the crop-damaging bugs.

Golebie, E.J., van Riper, C.J., Hitzroth, G. et al. Barriers to participation in aquatic invasive species prevention among Illinois, USA recreational water users. *Biol Invasions* 25, 2549–2565 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03055-x> [\$]

OTHER

[Montana: DNRC seeks applicants for invasive species council \(6/3/21\)](#) The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is asking the public to apply for positions on the Montana Invasive Species Council.

[Are Invasive Species Really to Blame for Being Invasive—or Are Humans the Problem? \(6/23\)](#) A Durango writer meditates on the idea that killing invasive species—like the Eurasian collared dove—might simply be shooting the messenger.

[Accidental DNA collection by air sensors could revolutionize wildlife tracking \(6/5/23\) \[\\$\]](#) Filters at air-pollution monitoring stations trap DNA from a multitude of flora and fauna, researchers find.

[Cat-astrophe \(6/6/23\)](#) Outdoor cats are considered one of the worst invasive species by ecologists. And humans are bitterly torn over how to respond.

[Grubby, the Invasive Opossum That Hitched a Ride to Alaska, Had Babies \(6/10/23\)](#) “The last thing we want is to establish a population”

[The Invasive Giant African Land Snail Has Been Spotted in Florida \(again\) \(6/21/23\)](#) The giant African land snail has been eradicated twice in Florida since the species was first detected in the state in 1969, according to the Florida agriculture department: first in 1975 and again in 2021, after the snails were detected in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties in 2011.

Haubrock, P.J., Soto, I. Valuing the information hidden in true long-term data for invasion science. *Biol Invasions* 25, 2385–2394 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03091-7>

Miller, R.S., Tabak, M.A., Wolfson, D.W. et al. Transient population dynamics drive the spread of invasive wild pigs and reveal impacts of management in North America. *Biol Invasions* 25, 2461–2476 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03047-x>

JOBS/GRANTS

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

[Invasive Species Field Associate, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Paia, Hawaii](#)

Job Type: Temporary, Salary Details: Starting at \$17.30/hr

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Maui invasive species committee is hiring!

Join the Coqui Crew: mauiinvasive.org/careers

Employment Type: Accepting resumes for full-time & part-time temporary (5-month) field positions with potential for longer term employment. Positions start July/August

Shifts: 10-hour shifts, Monday – Thursday (1:00 p.m. -11:30 p.m. during the summer, 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. during the winter) starting at the MISC Paia baseyard.

Salary: Starting salary is \$17.30/hour.

[Invasive Plants Survey Technician \(USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe\)](#)

Great Basin Institute Austin, Nevada, United States (On-Site)

The Great Basin Institute, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, is recruiting (15) AmeriCorps Invasive Plants Survey Technicians to participate in non-native, invasive plant species survey, treatment, and monitoring for the forest's noxious weed control program. The primary focus of this position will be the manual and chemical treatment of invasive and noxious weeds. Most of this work is conducted using backpack sprayers, UTV's, and large 4WD spray vehicles traveling on remote 4WD roads. Appropriate personal protective equipment will be supplied by the Forest Service and always utilized by Technicians. A tablet with FieldMaps, Avenza Maps, and EDDMapS West will be used to record plant populations. A Garmin InReach device will be provided for added safety measures.

Primary duties:

- Treat invasive plant infestations (Treatments primarily involve using herbicides, but may also be accomplished by hand-pulling and/or using hand tools, power tools, mowers, and other standardized control methods);
- Identify non-native plant species using various field guides and survey methods for target plants;
- Collect data on infestation location and status;
- Accurately record data related to invasive plant treatments according to specific protocols; and
- Perform basic mathematical calculations related to herbicide mixing and applications.

[Rare and Invasive Plants Vegetation Technician: National Park Service \(NPS\) at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area](#)

Great Basin Institute

Redding, California, United States (On-Site)

Job Description:

The Great Basin Institute (GBI) is working cooperatively with the National Park Service (NPS) at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (WHIS) to recruit 4 Vegetation Technicians to perform vegetation inventories of rare and invasive plants and to support vegetation management actions.

[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 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?>

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).

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>

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

State/Provincial

[\[Minnesota\] Funding for invasive carp barrier in Mississippi River falls short at Legislature \(6/8/23\)](#) With a historic \$17 billion state budget surplus this year, environmental advocates

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hoped Minnesota lawmakers would make a big investment to stop the advance of invasive carp up the Mississippi River.

[MT: Say farewell to the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission and hello to the new Western Montana Conservation Commission \(6/27/23\)](#)

Passed during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session, Senate Bill 83 effectively created the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) with the purpose of protecting the existing high quality of western Montana's aquatic resources. Initiated as part of Governor Greg Gianforte's Red Tape Relief Initiative, WMCC effectively combines and replaces the roles and jurisdiction of the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) and the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3).

Federal: Executive

[NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Propose Revisions to Regulations Implementing the Endangered Species Act \(6/21/22\)](#)

During this 50th anniversary year of the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are proposing a series of revisions to the joint regulations that guide their implementation of this landmark statute.

Federal: Congressional

[Reps. Cammack, Case Introduce AQUAA Act In Support Of Domestic Aquaculture \(6/12/23\)](#)

The bill [[H.R.4013](#)] supports the development of a sustainable marine aquaculture industry in the United States; advances access to investment capital; develops sustainable marine aquaculture to complement sustainable fisheries and ecosystem-based management; clarifies the federal regulatory regime for sustainable offshore aquaculture; supports research and technology; and reduces the U.S. seafood trade deficit by expanding the domestic supply of seafood.

[Lucas rolls out bill to make NOAA independent \(6/9/23\)](#)

(Washington, DC) – Today, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) introduced legislation [[H.R. 3980](#)] to enshrine the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) into law and establish it as a standalone agency within the executive branch... “After years of complex organizational challenges, it’s time for NOAA to become an independent agency and reach its full potential,” Lucas said. “The NOAA Organic Act not only gives NOAA formal statutory authority and authorizes its critical mission, but reduces bureaucratic inefficiencies, streamlines oversight efforts, and refocuses core mission areas. This will strengthen NOAA’s important role of protecting people and property through its vital weather forecasts, severe weather monitoring, and communication efforts. I want to thank our Science Committee staff and the numerous stakeholders for their support and feedback in the crafting of this simple, good-government bill.”

NOTE: The Science, Space and Technology Committee, which oversees NOAA, [held a hearing](#) on the proposal in April. Three former NOAA leaders under Presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump testified and endorsed the plan.

[Reps. Cammack, Case introduce AQUAA Act in support of domestic aquaculture \(6/12/23\)](#)

Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and Congressman Ed Case (D-HI-01), Co-Chairs of the Aquaculture Caucus, introduced the “Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture Act” (AQUAA Act). The bill supports the development of a sustainable marine aquaculture industry in the United States; advances access to investment capital; develops sustainable marine aquaculture to complement sustainable fisheries and ecosystem-based management; clarifies the federal regulatory regime for sustainable offshore aquaculture; supports research and technology; and reduces the U.S. seafood trade deficit by expanding the domestic supply of seafood.

[Bonamici, Wittman, Pallone, Pingree Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Support Aquaculture Farmers and Harvesters \(6/8/23\)](#)

The Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems, Livelihoods, and Local Seafood (SHELLS) Act will create a program office for aquaculture within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote blue carbon ecosystems, protect food security, and bolster shellfish harvesters and seaweed farmers. It will also establish an Aquaculture Advisory Committee to oversee program activities, support the development of best practices, provide technical assistance, and acknowledge the history, use, and preservation of Indigenous and traditional aquaculture practices and ecological knowledge.

[Cortez Masto Announces Over \\$3 Million To Prevent And Combat Invasive Species In Lake Tahoe \(6/20/23\)](#)

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) announced \$3.1 million in funding she secured for Lake Tahoe in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to prevent and combat the spread of aquatic invasive species in the lake through the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program. In 2020, Senator Cortez Masto also created the [Invasive Species in Alpine Lakes Pilot Program](#) to protect lakes like Lake Tahoe.

“Lake Tahoe is the jewel of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the funding I’ve fought for will help make sure it is protected for generations to come,” said Senator Cortez Masto. “Invasive plants like watermilfoil are already threatening the lake, and this funding will help stop spread of invasive species that would be devastating for Tahoe’s fragile ecosystems.”

These funds from the USFWS will support existing cooperative agreements with the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and augment a historic effort to restore the Lake Tahoe Basin ecosystem.

Federal: Appropriations

[Senate appropriators set higher funding levels than House, setting up standoff \(6/22/23\)](#)

Senate appropriators on Thursday set top-line funding numbers for fiscal 2024 at higher levels than their counterparts in the House, teeing up a fight between the two chambers....Murray and Collins both doubled down on their commitment to return to regular order and pass appropriations bills out of committee. They also committed to preventing any continuing resolutions, which have been standard practice for legislators who have frequently missed the Sept. 30 deadline to pass government spending.

[House Committee Approves FY24 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Bill \(6/22/23\)](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, the Full Committee met to consider the Fiscal Year 2024 bill for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The measure was approved by the Committee with a vote of 34 to 24.

Bill text is available [here](#). Bill report, before adoption of amendments in Full Committee, is available [here](#). AIS report language is as follows:

Page 14 Invasive Carp

The Corps is undertaking multiple efforts to stop the spread of invasive carp throughout the United States. Section 509 of WRDA 2020 authorized demonstration projects to prevent the spread of invasive carp into the Tennessee River and Cumberland River watersheds. There is an urgent need to prevent their migration from the Ohio River into these watersheds and the Great Lakes. The Committee is concerned that the Corps is making insufficient progress in implementing Section 509, despite funding being provided in the fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 Acts to implement this program. The Corps is directed to finalize the program management plan and begin assessing demonstration projects, including appropriate deterrent systems at Kentucky Lock. The Corps is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the status of Section 509 implementation.

Additionally, projects such as Brandon Road Lock and Dam and at the Chicago Sanitary Sewer Canal are critical to preventing the spread of invasive carp into the Great Lakes. Because these efforts are critical to keeping invasive carp out of the Chicago Area Waterways System, the Corps is urged to expedite efforts to execute a project partnership agreement for Brandon Road to enable the project to move into construction utilizing previously provided funds. If additional work can be done, the Corps is reminded that both projects are eligible to compete for the additional funds provided in this Act, and the Corps is encouraged to include appropriate funding for projects in future budget submissions. In addition, the Committee directs the Corps to continue to collaborate at levels commensurate with previous years with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Illinois, and members of the Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, including identifying navigation protocols that would be beneficial or effective in reducing the risk of vessels inadvertently carrying aquatic invasive species, including invasive carp, through the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in

Joliet, Illinois. Any findings of such an evaluation shall be included in the quarterly briefings to the Committee. The Corps is further directed to implement navigation protocols shown to be effective at reducing the risk of entrainment without jeopardizing the safety of vessels and crews.

Page 22 Coordination with Other Water Resource Agencies. —Additional funds are included for continued collaboration with other federal agencies and stakeholders on invasive species challenges.

Page 31 Aquatic Plant Control Program.—Of the additional funding recommended for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$7,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations, as authorized in section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958, equally distributed to carry out subsections (d)(1)(A)(i), (d)(1)(A)(ii), and (d)(1)(A)(iii); \$3,000,000 shall be for related monitoring, as authorized by section 1170 of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018; and \$1,000,000 for activities related to monitoring, surveying, and control of hydrilla verticillata and flowering rush. The Corps is encouraged to consider work to address and prevent the threat of hydrilla infestation within the states of Florida and Georgia. The recommendation also includes \$5,000,000 for nationwide research, and the Corps is encouraged to consider work to address invasive aquatic plants in the Northern Everglades region. The recommendation also provides \$500,000 to continue activities authorized under section 509 of WRDA 2020 [*Corps of Engineers Asian carp prevention pilot program.*].

Page 31 Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Aquatic Nuisance Species Barrier, IL. —The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study was authorized by Congress under section 3061(d) of WRDA 2007 (Public Law 110–114). The Committee notes that the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois, is critical to keeping invasive carp out of the Chicago Area Waterways System, which is the only continuous connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

NOTE: The \$7 million watercraft inspection stations mark is down significantly from past years (in FY 2023 the amount was \$16M and it was \$17M in 2022). Next up is the Senate Energy and Water spending bill...stay tuned.

EVENTS

Archived Events:

[Webinar recording available: How invasive mussels impact and are affected by North American ecosystems, Invasive Mussel Collaborative \(5/30/23\)](#)

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/level-3>

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

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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://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8698148957640258909>

August

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

NAISMA Webinar Series

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

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

[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

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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

[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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