



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

September 25, 2024

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## RECOMMENDED READING

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### **Small number of quagga mussels detected in the Snake River**

*Tuesday September 24, 2024*

Boise, Idaho - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced today the detection of a small number of quagga mussels in the Twin Falls area of the Snake River.

Quagga mussels were first identified in the Twin Falls area in September 2023. Working with a broad group of partners, the ISDA rapidly implemented a treatment plan which includes extensive on-going monitoring.

“We have a strong invasive species program in place to monitor our waterways for quagga mussels, and we are prepared to respond with a treatment plan with minimal impacts to the public. While we never want to see confirmation of quagga mussels, we know that pest eradication is rarely ‘one and done.’ Since the first detection in 2023, ISDA has conducted more water sampling, ran more inspections stations, increased statewide communications, added manpower, and worked with more partners. We have made significant progress, and now we must focus on the next phase of eradication. ISDA and the many partners who have helped in countless ways will continue to push for full eradication. We know this next phase is pivotal,” ISDA Director Chanel Tewalt said.

In 2023, ISDA implemented a treatment of the river with a chelated copper product. It was the first treatment of this type and scale ever attempted in North America. Sampling results indicate the chelated copper treatment was effective in reducing the mussel population.

Since 2023, the ISDA has taken nearly 300 samples in the affected stretch of river and over 3,000 samples statewide throughout the 2024 season, doubling routine monitoring samples for the year. Current sample results show a decreased quagga mussel presence in the affected stretch of river compared to the pre-treatment survey in 2023.

Recent positive detection locations include in the Shoshone Falls pool, Pillar Falls and the Twin Falls Reservoir behind Twin Falls hydroelectric facility. Quagga mussel reproduction is more active in warmer water temperatures, making late summer the most likely time to detect the mussels in the Snake River.

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ISDA is planning another strategic treatment for the affected stretch of river. Through extensive surveying this year – double the amount Idaho has ever conducted – the agency has even more information taking on the infestation this year.

ISDA does not expect major impacts to the public. Access to the Snake River at Centennial Park remains open with mandatory inspection and decontamination for all watercraft. Pillar Falls to Twin Falls Dam remains closed. An additional temporary closure from Pillar Falls to Auger Falls will take place in mid-October for approximately 15 days to facilitate a treatment. Visit [idaho.gov/quagga](https://idaho.gov/quagga) for closure updates.

ISDA will notify the public and all involved entities once a treatment date is set and before the treatment commences.

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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### Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Release of *Bagous nodulosus* for Biological Control of Flowering Rush in the Continental United States

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment relative to permitting the release of the insect, *Bagous nodulosus*, for the biological control of flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in the continental United States. Based on the environmental assessment and other relevant data, we have reached a preliminary determination that the release of this control agent within the continental United States will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or **before October 3, 2024**.

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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>

Dreissenids:

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Marion Lake in Otter Tail County \(9/5/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Marion Lake,

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near Richville in Otter Tail County. A lake user contacted the DNR after finding an adult zebra mussel attached to a native mussel in Marion Lake.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Toad Lake in Becker County \(9/9/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Toad Lake, near Osage in Becker County. A Becker County aquatic invasive species specialist contacted the DNR after finding zebra mussels attached to pontoons that had been moored on the south end of Toad Lake.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Ann Lake in Sherburne County \(9/16/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Ann Lake, near Orrock in Sherburne County. Following up on an earlier unconfirmed report of zebra mussels in Ann Lake, the Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District and a volunteer, in partnership with the DNR, collected water samples from the lake on two different days. The samples showed high counts of zebra mussel larvae, called veligers. The presence of veligers indicates zebra mussel reproduction in the lake.

Other:

[Minnesota] [Starry stonewort confirmed in Rush Lake in Crow Wing County \(9/9/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the invasive algae starry stonewort in Rush Lake, near the town of Crosslake in Crow Wing County. Rush Lake is part of the Lower Whitefish Chain of Lakes

[Montana] [\*Nymphoides peltata\* \(yellow floating-heart\)](#) was found in a private pond [[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

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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[Grand Valley water managers have plan to outmuscle invasive species \(9/4/24\)](#) Officials are hoping to secure federal funding to treat the water that irrigators and domestic water providers pull from the Colorado River with liquid ionic copper, which kills zebra mussels. Mesa County plans to ask for the money through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Bucket 2 Environmental Drought Mitigation program.

[Since July, Colorado Parks and Wildlife have found no more invasive zebra mussels in the Colorado River \(9/18/24\)](#) Despite taking around 350 additional samples along the Colorado River, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials have yet to find any further discoveries of zebra mussels in the state.

[Zebra mussel containment curtain in Clear Lake to be removed after taking damage \(9/9/24\)](#) Parks Canada announced Monday the curtain – which was in the water for just over a month – will be removed after it was damaged by strong winds and waves on the lake... However, since taking damage, Parks Canada said it can't provide "an effective means of containment" and that it won't be able to be replaced or repaired this fall.

Related: [Cabin owners concerned about Clear Lake after mussel containment curtain fails](#)

[More zebra mussels found in Clear Lake: Parks Canada \(9/24/24\)](#) Parks Canada says 'multiple living juvenile' invasive molluscs found in Riding Mountain last week

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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['It puts recreation at risk': Summit County Sheriff's Office issues citation for illegal boat launch at Dillon Reservoir, Colorado \(9/4/24\)](#) To prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, like rapid-spreading zebra mussels, any motorized boat brought to the Dillon Reservoir must be launched at one of the public boat ramps, where it will be inspected for invasive species.

[Inspecting for Zebra Mussels \(9/23/24\)](#) The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is asking water recreationists and property owners to check for zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species when removing boat lifts, docks and other equipment from state waters.

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[EPA Issues National Requirements to Protect U.S. Waterways from Pollutants Discharged by Vessels \(9/24/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, September 24, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the finalization of national discharge standards to control the release of pollutants and invasive species from approximately 85,000 vessels operating in U.S. waters. These standards, issued through EPA’s Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance final rule, address discharges that occur with normal operation of large vessels. EPA’s final rule will help address harmful pollutants, including bacteria, pathogens, oil, grease, and metals while reducing the spread of invasive species that can damage ecosystems and infrastructure. For more information, see EPA’s [Commercial Vessel Discharge Standards](#) website.

[Canadian shipping rule aims to slow invasive species, U.S. shippers call it a 'regulatory embargo' \(9/13/24\)](#) Now, the Canadian government says it’s trying to slow the spread of invasive species through a regulation that partly took effect this week. But the rule is drawing some flack from American commercial shippers in the Great Lakes.

[Type-approval process for BWMS modifications to be reviewed \(9/10/24\)](#) MEPC 82 will evaluate proposals aimed at streamlining the approval process for modifications to ballast water management systems

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## MARINE

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[Aggressive seagrass species discovered in Biscayne Bay \(9/4/24\)](#) FIU marine scientist Justin Campbell has positively identified *Halophila stipulacea* growing in Crandon Marina and nearby areas of Biscayne Bay. It is the first time this non-native species has been found in waters along the continental United States. “I think this species could pose a considerable threat,” Campbell said. “There are several reports of it being able to outcompete native seagrasses in other areas across the Caribbean. It is plausible that this could also be true for seagrasses here in South Florida.”

[‘I Didn’t Even Try,’ Says Florida Diver Who Speared 915 Lionfish to Win Annual Tourney \(9/18/24\)](#) Beauford’s not bragging. Instead, he chalks up the ease with which he beats other divers to the alarming severity of the lionfish problem off the coast of Duval County in northeastern Florida. Divers in the Jacksonville area exert very little pressure on the lionfish population. This sets Jacksonville apart from other areas of Florida, like the Keys, where divers harvest lionfish more regularly and keep the populations lower.

Jarman, S., Ackermann, F., Marnane, M. et al. Research horizons for invasive marine species detection with eDNA/eRNA. *Biol Invasions* 26, 3715–3731 (2024).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03406-2>

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## GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

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[No end in sight for Washington's battle against invasive green crabs \(9/4/24\)](#) Invasive European green crabs have likely found a lasting home in Washington's coastal waters and parts of Puget Sound.

[Green Crab Creativity Earns Bradt National Honor \(9/23/24\)](#) Fisheries specialist receives Sea Grant Superior Outreach Programming Award

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## AQUACULTURE

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[Canada releases draft transition plan phasing out salmon net-pens in British Columbia \(9/23/24\)](#)

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## FRESHWATER

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[Aquatic invasive species are more widespread in Wisconsin than previously thought \(9/5/24\)](#) A report on more than 40 years of research on Wisconsin lakes is highlighting some of the lessons scientists have learned about aquatic invasive species, including that far more ecosystems are playing host to non-native species than previously thought.

[Invasive species are reshaping aquatic ecosystems, one lake at a time \(9/18/24\)](#) Lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands face many environmental threats, but one that is changing them most rapidly is the spread of invasive non-native species.

Lower, E., Sturtevant, R., Iott, S., Martinez, F., Rutherford, E., Mason, D. M., Redinger, J., & Elgin, A. K. (2024). The Great Lakes' most unwanted: Characterizing the impacts of the top ten Great Lakes aquatic invasive species. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* (Vol. 50, Issue 4, p. 102365). Elsevier BV. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2024.102365>

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## FISH

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[Arkansas fishermen, officials seek solutions to invasive carp challenges \(9/16/24\)](#) The invasive species has rapidly multiplied and depleted habitats

[Public attention on the invasive lionfish helps monitor its ecological impact in real time \(9/18/24\)](#)

A new study from the Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) has demonstrated that public interest in the lionfish (*Pterois miles*), an invasive species native to the Indo-Pacific, is aiding in monitoring its spread nearly in real time.

[Striper Season: Examining where and when striped bass occur in the Stanislaus River \(9/23/24\)](#)

Since their introduction in the late 1800s, they have become an important fisheries resource in California, so much so that they were the impetus for the start of the longest running Delta fish monitoring programs.

Johnson, R.K., Mulligan, H.R., Masterson, C. et al. Engaging bait retailers as part of the live bait pathway: bait retailer characteristics and aquatic invasive species prevention. *Biol Invasions* 26, 3555–3561 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03416-0>

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## AQUATIC PLANTS

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[Hydrilla found for first time in Canada at Hillman Marsh \(9/5/24\)](#) The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) is working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Invasive Species Centre, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and many other partners to evaluate the extent of the infestation, contain the spread, and develop plans to control this invasive species.

[Spread of dreaded hydrilla weed could become big problem for Ohio waterways \(9/15/24\)](#) The park staff has partnered with the wildlife division, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mark Warman, an aquatic plants expert with Cleveland Metroparks, on efforts to control the spread of the invasive plant. Three years into the battle, which is only in its early stages, the plant appears to be winning.

Drexler, J.Z., Gross, M., Hladik, M.L. et al. In situ allelopathic expression by the invasive amphibious plant, *Ludwigia hexapetala* (water primrose) across habitat types, seasons, and salinities. *Biol Invasions* 26, 3811–3828 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03412-4> [\$]

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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[Climate change means we may have to learn to live with invasive species \(9/19/24\)](#) Increasing evidence suggests that some introduced species may even be more likely to adapt to certain climate extremes than native plants in that area.

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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The ***Expect to Inspect*** program is live, promoting watercraft inspection and decontamination services to traveling boaters nationwide.

From an interactive map of inspection and decontamination stations to a one-stop-shop for interstate laws and regulations on AIS, this resource is a key hub for traveling boaters looking for how to stay compliant. Key updates are shared below.

- The development of *Expect to Inspect* was primarily funded by a Quagga and Zebra mussel Action Plan (QZAP) grant. With that funding nearly spent down, the opportunity comes to continue the marketing and promotion of the program. Outreach kits containing rack cards, posters, and decals are available to order [here](#). **These materials are FREE to anyone active in outreach.**
- **Please take the time to fill out the [State AIS Inspection Survey](#)**, to provide a baseline indicator before *Expect to Inspect* is promoted in full. Multiple managers from the same state may complete the survey, and the results will be averaged. If you are unable to complete the survey, please forward on to someone who may.
- **Finally, you may have seen that a [digital marketing campaign](#) was recently launched in Colorado.** We are looking for additional partners interested in running similar campaigns in your area.

[Meet the woman who created North America's first invasives network for public gardens \(9/5/24\)](#) U Cincinnati College of Arts and Sciences Professor Theresa Culley is an expert on invasive species who advises federal agencies and states such as Ohio about the economic threats posed by nonnative plants. She has assembled a network so far of 54 public gardens in Canada and the United States to share information about nonnative, potentially invasive species they are finding in and around their properties. To date, the public gardens have reported nearly 1,000 examples that gardens are monitoring.

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## OTHER

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[Report] [The Science of Non-native Species in a Dynamic Delta \(9/5/24\)](#) The [San Francisco Bay] Delta is home to over 200 non-native species and is among the world's most invaded estuaries. These species, introduced by human activities, pose a significant threat to the ecosystem. The potential for more non-native species to arrive, coupled with factors like habitat alterations, pollution, and climate change, can make the Delta's ecosystem more vulnerable to invasion.

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[Researchers develop robot dog to combat highly invasive species wreaking havoc across the globe: 'A serious threat' \(9/23/24\)](#)

[Losing our natural landscape to invasive species \(9/7/24\)](#) Invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity, preceded only by habitat loss, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Invasive plants are spread by natural forces, such as wind and wildfire, and largely by unknowing humans.

[Has Stomping on Spotted Lanternflies Slowed Their Invasion? \(9/18/24\)](#) Invasive spotted lanternflies are spreading across the metro areas of New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., despite professional and amateur attempts to reduce their numbers

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

## Jobs

### [Invasive Species Program Support Specialist](#)

Sheridan County Weed and Pest (County) | <https://www.scweeds.com/>

Posting: <https://www.scweeds.com/program-support-specialist>

Application Deadline: **open until filled**

Location: Sheridan, WY 82801, USA

#### Description

Sheridan County Weed and Pest (SCWP) is seeking an enthusiastic and driven invasive species program support specialist to assist the district in implementation of district programs in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.

The Invasive Species Program Support Specialist will participate in the following district programs: mosquito mitigation, grasshopper mitigation, leafy spurge biocontrol, weed-free hay certification, and right-of-way weed control. The successful applicant, under the direction of the district supervisor, shall assist with collection and identification of weed and insect specimens, testing of mosquitoes for presence of West Nile virus, distribution and monitoring of leafy spurge beetles, equipment maintenance and repair, public interaction and education, and more. Other duties include, but are not limited to, reports, grant applications, and data compilation. Duties will be highly variable depending on season and need. Most field activities occur during the summer and mid-winter, and office duties in the autumn and spring. Specific training in invasive species programs will be provided by SCWP.

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[PhD Assistantship: YY Bullfrogs for Invasive Species Management](#)  
[Department of Watershed Sciences](#)

Utah State University, Logan UT

Project Description: We are recruiting a PhD Student to assess innovative methods for invasive population control of American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* through the development of YY individuals and modeling their ability to extirpate nuisance populations. Effective management methods to control invasive bullfrogs are lacking and previous examples of successful landscape-scale bullfrog eradication efforts have been incredibly costly in time and resources. The development and release of YY individuals (frogs that are homozygous for the male-coding chromosome) may provide managers an additional tool in the control of invasive bullfrog populations.

Support: Starting annual stipend of \$26,000; plus tuition, fees, and health insurance will be covered.

Closing date: September 27, 2024

## Grants

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

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

This Notice of Funding Opportunity requests proposals for projects that support efforts to plan a response or deploy response measures to a new detection of a potentially invasive species.

Response efforts must target an aquatic invasive species, defined as non-native plants or animals that reside in fresh, wetland, estuarine, or marine waters.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis; submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis: Proposals submitted from **November 15 – January 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1. All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria.

The [Oregon Invasive Species Council \(OISC\)](#) is excited to announce that \$150,000 in 2024-2025 biennium funds will be available to the OISC to fund education outreach project grants. The OISC will determine priorities and awards, while the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) oversees the fiscal administration of the OISC Education Outreach Grant Program.

“We want to encourage a variety of applicants,” said Sam Chan, aquatic invasive species expert with Oregon Sea Grant and current chair of the Oregon Invasive Species Council. “The Council is interested in collaborative projects that demonstrate large-scale impacts as well as smaller, meaningful opportunities to engage diverse communities.”

The OISC is hoping to solicit a broad array of applications that serve to inform and engage the public and/or specific audiences on invasive species, their impacts, pathways of introduction, prevention, and management relevant to protecting our clean water, working landscapes, food, wildlife, and the unique beauty of our state for future generations.

- Project budgets must be at least \$5,000. Projects over \$20,000 must show a collaborative, larger-scale watershed, community, or statewide education or outreach impact. Project scalability is desirable. Funding requests must align with the projects’ scale and reach.

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- Grants will be awarded based on the availability of funds. Who is eligible to apply? A grant applicant must be an eligible legal entity—a local or tribal government, non-profit organization, educational institution, or individual (an individual is not eligible for indirect or administrative costs). Eligible Legal Entities must have a FEIN number. A state or federal agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with an eligible entity.

Project goals should relate to understanding the impacts, spread, prevention, detection, or management of invasive species issues in Oregon and be relevant to protecting our clean water, working landscapes, wildlife, and the unique beauty of our state for future generations.

Important Dates **Application window: August 1, 2024 - October 15, 2024**

Grant Awards announced: January 2025

Grant Cycle Dates: January 2025 - June 30, 2026

Grant application and additional information can be found at

<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/grants>

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

Requesting proposals that support the eradication of a newly introduced or established invasive species in terrestrial or aquatic habitats of the United States, including the U.S. territories (aquatic habitats include freshwater, wetland, riparian, estuarine, and marine environments).

While preference will be given to proposals that result in eradication of invasive species, research proposals that advance the effectiveness and availability of eradication tools will be considered.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorization for ecosystem restoration, the Department of the Interior (DOI) invested \$3 million to establish an Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity. It is administered within the existing authorities of DOI and administered by the USFWS in collaboration with DOI bureaus. The intent of this funding opportunity is to promote and invest in those projects with a high likelihood of achieving eradication success and that have existing partnerships and plans in place.

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

General information about the funding for invasive species eradication can be found [HERE](#).

Additional questions may be directed to myself at [jarrad\\_kosa@fws.gov](mailto:jarrad_kosa@fws.gov).

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 the 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>

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974

[FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

Department of Commerce

DOC NOAA - ERA Production

**Closing Date: Jan 31, 2025**

This funding opportunity requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted to [grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov](mailto:grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) for competitive review before a full proposal can be submitted. LOIs must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, **LOI due September 27, 2024**. If invited, full proposals must then be submitted in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) and validated by eRA on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, January 31, 2025.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) is a division of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration. Authorized in the Marine Debris Act, codified at 33 U.S.C. § 1951 et seq., the NOAA MDP supports the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1). The mission of the NOAA MDP is to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris.

Through this solicitation, NOAA seeks to support large marine debris removal projects with funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (PL 117-58). The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects that will improve the resilience of the coastal and marine environment. This competition considers impactful projects to be those that will have long-lasting, transformational benefits to marine and coastal NOAA Trust Resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies.

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## LEGISLATION

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### Advocacy

[New EPA Rule Fails to Protect U.S. Waters From Invasive Species, Diseases Released by Ships](#)  
Center for Biological Diversity

### State/Provincial

### Federal: Executive

[EPA Issues National Requirements to Protect U.S. Waterways from Pollutants Discharged by Vessels \(9/24/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, September 24, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the finalization of national discharge standards to control the release of pollutants and invasive

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species from approximately 85,000 vessels operating in U.S. waters. These standards, issued through EPA's Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance final rule, address discharges that occur with normal operation of large vessels. EPA's final rule will help address harmful pollutants, including bacteria, pathogens, oil, grease, and metals while reducing the spread of invasive species that can damage ecosystems and infrastructure. For more information, see EPA's [Commercial Vessel Discharge Standards](#) website.

## Federal: Congressional

### [House Passes Legislation Supporting Coastal Resiliency and Domestic Energy Production, Restoring Lake Tahoe Region and More \(9/24/24\)](#)

On 9/24 the U.S. House of Representatives passed 13 House Committee on Natural Resources bills, including ones supporting geothermal energy production, bolstering coastal resiliency efforts, managing forests in the Tahoe Basin and more. [S.612](#), the Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act, *introduced by U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)*, will support restoration activities around Lake Tahoe by extending the authorization for cooperative authorities and the period of time funding can be spent on fuel reduction, erosion control and reforestation [and invasive species] around Lake Tahoe. U.S. Reps. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), John Duarte (R-Calif.) and Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) are leading House companion legislation.

### [Pappas Introduces the Bipartisan State Boating Act \(9/19/24\)](#)

This week Congressman Chris Pappas (D-NH) introduced the State Boating Act alongside Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (R-VA) and Congressman Blake Moore (R-UT). This bipartisan legislation would ensure that states can collect boating fees during the boat registration and certificate of numbering process, which help fund programs to address aquatic invasive species, boating safety, search and rescue, and others. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) is leading the Senate companion bill [[S. 4113](#)].

"For decades, states have used boating registration to collect fees that support vital programs to improve boating access, increase boater safety, and maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems," said Chuck Sykes, Director of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. "We thank Congressman Pappas, Congresswoman Kiggans and Congressman Moore for the introduction of the bipartisan State Boating Act, which will allow states to continue to collect these fees as a condition of boating registration. This ability allows states to create one simple transaction process for their customers while ensuring programs receive the critical funding needed."

**Note:** Pappas's bill (no bill number yet) is similar to S. 4113 except it contains one additional section:

“(c) USE OF FEES.—Fees collected by States under the authority this section may only be used to fund activities directly related to improving recreational boating, boater safety, boater access, use of waterways by recreational boaters, and **aquatic invasive species.**”

## Federal: Appropriations

### [House Republicans pivot to fast-tracking funding bill amid conservative opposition \(9/24/24\)](#)

House GOP leaders are switching up their strategy for passing a stopgap funding patch to head off a government shutdown, after conservative opposition threatened to block floor debate. A funding lapse remains unlikely, since the compromise spending bill is still expected to pass the House and Senate with bipartisan support before federal funding expires at midnight Monday.

### [Speaker Johnson says House will not approve ‘Christmas omnibus’ \(9/24/24\)](#)

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) is promising that the House will not approve a single, massive bill to fund the entire government in December — a scenario feared by conservatives — despite a stopgap that’s expected to clear the House this week expiring on Dec. 20. “There won’t be a Christmas omnibus,” Johnson said in a press conference Tuesday, reiterating a message he relayed privately to members in a House GOP conference meeting that morning. It is a bold promise from the Speaker, who has struggled to corral the slim House GOP majority behind an effective strategy to pressure the Democratic-controlled Senate and White House on spending.

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## EVENTS

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### Archived Events:

NASA ARSET:

[Introduction to the Monitoring of Invasive Species with Remote Sensing Tools, Part 1/3](#)

[Monitoring of Aquatic Invasive Species with Remote Sensing, Part 2/3](#)

[Mapping Invasive Grassland Plants with Hyperspectral Remote Sensing, Part 3/3](#)

### Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

Level 1&2

- [October 8-10](#)

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- [November 12-14](#)
- [December 10-12](#)

Level 3

- [December 17-19](#)

[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

**2024**

**September**

September 30, 2024 @ 8:00 am - October 3, 2024 @ 5:00 pm CDT  
[North American Invasive Species Management Association 32nd Annual Conference](#)

**October**

NAISMA: October 16, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: White-Nose Syndrome and Bats](#)

This year the [annual WRP meeting](#) will be in Grand Junction, Colorado on October 23-25 and hosted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

**November**

[2024 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference!](#) Duluth, Minnesota  
Tuesday, November 12th - Thursday, November 14th, 2024

**December**

December 3, 2024 9am – 4pm [Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting](#), ODFW HQ, Salem OR

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December 5, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm CST [NAISMA Annual Biocontrol Summit](#)

[December 5, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia OR](#)

December 10-11, 2024, 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team Meeting - Northern Quest Resort & Casino. Spokane, WA. Please contact [Leah Elwell](#) for agenda questions or [Amy Stark](#) for all other questions.

## 2025

### January

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

### February

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

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

### April

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

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

The **2025 Pacific Ballast Water and Biofouling Group Meeting** has been scheduled for April 29 & 30, 2025. It will be held at Hyatt Centric The Pike Long Beach in Long Beach, California. Registration and hotel room block information will be released in early 2025. Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

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October

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

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