



Aquatic Invasive Species News

April 3, 2025

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RECOMMENDED READING

[DOGE's Cuts at the USDA Could Cause US Grocery Prices to Rise and Invasive Species to Spread \(3/17/24\)](#)

Thousands of US Department of Agriculture employees, including food inspectors and disease-sniffing-dog trainers, remain out of work, leaving food to rot in ports and pests to proliferate.

Before he received his termination notice, he says, Copeland had just spent several months training the only dog stationed in Florida capable of detecting the Giant African land snail, an invasive mollusk that poses a significant threat to Florida agriculture. “We have dogs for spotted lantern flies, Asian longhorn beetles,” he says, referring to two other non-native species. “I don’t think the American people realize how much crap that people bring into the United States.”

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Request for Information: APHIS Seeks Data on Small Aircraft’s Risk of Introducing Invasive Pests As Compared to the Risk Posed by Commercial Aircraft](#)

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to determine whether there is validity to statements that small commercial passenger aircraft have less chance of introducing plant pests and animal diseases into the United States than larger commercial aircraft. APHIS seeks data that proves whether small aircraft warrant reduced or no agricultural quarantine and inspection (AQI) user fees. These are the fees charged to inspect parts of the aircraft not associated with passengers (cargo hold, wheel wells, exterior of the aircraft), cargo, packages, parcels, international mail, and other products they carry into this country.

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APHIS included aircraft with 64 or fewer seats in a revised AQI fee structure when the Agency's analysis revealed that the risk of introducing pests is not based on the number of seats in an aircraft. Rather, the risk is based on the country where the flight originated, which countries the aircraft traveled through before arriving in the U.S., the origin, type and volume of cargo it carries, and environmental conditions at the point of departure. These aircraft are capable of picking up hitchhiking pests and bringing them into the United States.

After the close of the proposed rule comment period, some small aircraft operators stated the aircrafts do not pose a risk of introducing plant and animal pests and diseases because they do not have cargo holds. Others said that, while they do not have the same level of risk as larger commercial aircraft, they should have a lower fee due to their claimed lower risk.

In this RFI, APHIS seeks specific, factual evidence that supports an alternate fee structure for smaller aircraft so that any new information can be considered before fees go into effect on June 2, 2025.

To respond to this RFI please visit www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS-2022-0023 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, review the documents to determine exactly what information APHIS is requesting in this RFI, then select the Comment button in the list of documents when you are ready to reply. Response to this RFI is voluntary. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one response. Responses should include the name of the person(s) or organization(s) completing the response. **We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 21, 2025.**

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>

Mussels:

Other:

WATCH LIST

Green Crab:

- 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.

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- 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

Walleye

- Idaho: Anyone who catches a walleye in rivers is asked to kill it, take a photo and contact Idaho Fish and Game Biologist Marika Dobos at the Lewiston Regional Office by email at marika.dobos@idfg.idaho.gov, or call (208) 750-4228.

DREISSEINID MUSSELS

[Keep Up with the Idaho Quagga Mussel Response @ ISDA](#)

[Lake Nasworthy ‘Infested’ with Invasive Zebra Mussels \(4/3/25\)](#) AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has designated Lake Nasworthy, near San Angelo, as “infested” with invasive zebra mussels. This designation signifies there is an established reproducing population present in the lake.

[Idaho: Second phase of quagga removal treatment wraps up \(3/12/25\)](#) [video]

[Highline Lake to start being refilled in early April \(3/17/25\)](#) Highline Lake is set to be refilled in early April after months of sitting empty — and although the lake is expected to be full in time for wakeboarding nationals this summer, the state park has not yet set a reopening date for boating and waterfowl hunting.

[Texas water treatment facility gets rid of pesky invaders thanks to unique and unexpected solution: 'It was completely infested' \(3/25/25\)](#) The trick? A copper ion generator that puts just enough copper into the water to render the mussels harmless. The amount of copper in the water is well below the maximum contaminant level set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

[Evaluation of Carbon Dioxide to Control Dreissenid Mussels \(3/28/25\)](#) USGS research on carbon dioxide (CO₂) has shown its effectiveness and relative selectivity as a control tool for nuisance mussels, zebra and quagga mussels (*Dreissena* spp.). Infusing low concentrations of CO₂ into water lines can prevent settlement and attachment of larval (veliger) stages of dreissenid mussels. Short-term exposure to higher concentrations of CO₂ can cause detachment and mortality of juvenile and adult mussels. Our research is evaluating different CO₂ delivery

systems in closed water lines to protect infrastructure and open water to restore high value fish habitat.

[Pre-print under review: Angelique D. Dahlberg, Matthew T. Barbour, James A. Luoma et al. Assessing low-dose copper treatment for dreissenid mussels: effects on nontarget organisms, 14 March 2025, PREPRINT (Version 1) available at Research Square [<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-6205980/v1>]

GOLDEN MUSSELS

[WDFW Golden Mussel Risk Screening Summary \(12/2024\)](#)

[Golden mussels found in California on the radar for the Okanagan Basin Water Board \(3/21/25\)](#)
Littley said the OBWB is still calling on the province to have mandatory inspections for all out-of-province watercraft.

[Dogs to help fight spread of invasive golden mussels at Rancho Seco Lake \(3/31/25\)](#) “Dogs in their mind, they’re playing a huge game of hide and seek,” DeShon said. She’s the pack leader of Mussel Dogs, a company that specializes in mussel detection. The newest tool in fending off invasive species in our waterways.

[Lake Tahoe to beef up boat inspections, add fee in response to invasive golden mussels \(3/27/25\)](#)
Lake Tahoe requiring mandatory boat decontamination and new fee after the discovery of golden mussels in California waters just hours away.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[WGFD offers free, public aquatic invasive species inspection trainings \(3/10/25\)](#) The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) announced on Monday, March 10, that the agency is offering free training for members of the public to become certified Wyoming aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspectors.

[Watercraft Inspection Stations Open for 2025 Season in Idaho \(3/28/25\)](#)

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[How digital technology can support ballast water compliance \(3/31/25\)](#) Tommi Vihavainen, logbook and safety solutions product owner, NAPA, on how inadequate record-keeping leads to breaching the BWM Convention

[2 environmental activists are worried about proposed cuts at the EPA and deregulation on Great Lakes \(3/25/25\)](#) Recently announced environmental rollbacks from the EPA and agency layoffs raise concerns about the Great Lakes under President Trump.

[US Coast Guard scrutiny deepens on ballast water \(4/1/25\)](#) USCG flags chemical risks and coral disease in latest ballast water management updates

MARINE

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[1 million green crabs removed from WA waters \(3/14/25\)](#) Wildlife officials announced that green crab catch numbers have decreased in areas of the North Puget Sound Region in recent years due to sustained heavy trapping by WDFW, tribes, shellfish growers, and partners.

[Volunteer Recruitment Open for Makah Tribe's 2025 Green Crab Trapping Season \(3/27/25\)](#) The Makah Tribe is excited to announce that volunteer recruitment is now open for the 2025 green crab trapping season. This is a unique opportunity for individuals interested in hands-on conservation work to help protect the reservation's coastal ecosystems.

AQUACULTURE

[Aquaculture: Salmon Farmers call for "Team B.C." Strategy for Seafood Sector Growth \(3/10/25\)](#) As global seafood demand skyrockets and U.S. trade tariffs loom, British Columbia's salmon farmers say they are ready to invest millions of dollars, creating thousands of jobs to solidify Canada's position as a leader in sustainable food security. For this to happen, the salmon farmers say they need firm commitments on business certainty and policy support rooted in clear, science-based regulations from all levels of government.

[US court strikes down Army Corps' offshore aquaculture permit \(3/18/25\)](#) The Army Corps can no longer approve new projects under the Nationwide 56 permit.

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FRESHWATER

[Proposed cut in local aid to prevent aquatic invasive species sparks fears of more infested lakes \(4/2/25\)](#) For the past decade, Minnesota has distributed about \$10 million a year to counties for aquatic invasive species prevention. Gov. Tim Walz's proposed budget reduced that amount by 50 percent

[Opportunistic Crayfish Eradication Benefits Local Sonora Mud Turtle Population \(3/25\)](#) Since their establishment, crayfish have become invasive throughout much of Arizona's aquatic systems. Virile crayfish may compete with and/or have contributed to the decline of native species in the Southwest.

[Wake boats stirring up controversy in Wisconsin waters \(4/1/25\)](#) Counties near Lake Superior cite particular concerns about invasive species in ballast tanks

[Swamp to skillet: Oregon's tastiest solution to tackle invasive nutria problem \(3/20/25\)](#) The founder and chief scientist at the Institute for Applied Ecology, Tom Kaye, joined ARC PDX to talk about Oregon's invasive species, the harm they cause, and the "invasive species cookoff" he hosts.

FISH

Michael W. Frett, Jessica L. Kozarek, Amelia L. Berry, Allen F. Mensinger. 2025. Evaluating CO2 and sound as an invasive bigheaded carp deterrent in a model lock and dam. Environmental Pollution. Volume 372. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2025.126056>

AQUATIC PLANTS

[USACE, ISDA describe invasive species risks, plans \(3/13/25\)](#) Idaho State Department of Agriculture and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff gave a public presentation Thursday describing the invasive species that threaten Lake Pend Oreille and their organizations' efforts to control them. USACE representatives said the corps will chemically de-weed about 20 acres of lakebed in April that is currently exposed due to Lake Pend Oreille's annual off-season drawdown.

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

OTHER

[Alarming new study finds over 700 different species in the stomachs of highly invasive predators: 'Poses an extra threat' "The diet varied strongly over the seasons." \(3/21/25\)](#) While the food chain can already seem cruel for some species, the introduction of highly invasive species can have devastating effects. A study looked into the diets of a particularly hostile predator – Northern Giant Hornet -, and the results are astounding.

JOBS/GRANTS

Resources:

- *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

[Volunteer Recruitment Open for Makah Tribe’s 2025 Green Crab Trapping Season \(3/27/25\)](#)

The Makah Tribe is excited to announce that volunteer recruitment is now open for the 2025 green crab trapping season. This is a unique opportunity for individuals interested in hands-on conservation work to help protect the reservation's coastal ecosystems.

[MTFWP, AIS Watercraft Inspector, Anaconda, Montana](#)

The AIS Watercraft Inspector position assists the AIS Area Supervisors, the AIS Prevention Specialist and the AIS Prevention Coordinator in carrying out specified inspector duties and tasks at watercraft inspection stations to prevent the movement of AIS and educate the public on AIS and best prevention practices.

[MTFWP, AIS Watercraft Inspector - Roving Site Lead, Helena, Montana](#)

The Fisheries Division develops programs and budgets to manage for aquatic resources. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Bureau is managed and coordinated by staff within the Department headquarters. Implementation of programs are accomplished by the respective AIS coordinators. The AIS Watercraft Inspector - Roving Site Lead position assists the AIS Area Supervisors, the AIS Prevention Specialist and the AIS Prevention Coordinator in carrying out specified lead inspector duties and tasks at watercraft inspection stations to prevent the movement of AIS and educate the public on AIS and best prevention practices.

[Utah DNR: Aquatic Biologist \(Wildlife Biologist II\) - Southeastern Regional Office \(SERO\)](#)

This biologist is responsible for ensuring that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) of various types (mollusks, noxious weeds, illegally moved fish, etc.) do not negatively impact our fisheries management and conservation efforts. Responsibilities include conducting AIS inspections of hatcheries, fish trap/spawning sites, and wild fish transfer sources within the assigned region to prevent AIS spread through fish stocking activities. The role will also lead fish population monitoring, invasive vegetation removal, and management strategies for illegal fish introductions at specific regional waters. Additionally, this position will develop and implement regional AIS outreach and survey strategies in collaboration with Salt Lake Office (SLO) and regional aquatics sections. **Closes: 4/16/2025 11:59 PM Mountain**

Grants

[Save-The-Date Grant Announcement](#)

[California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways \(DBW\)](#)

QZ Grant Program:

The application period for the 2025 cycle will **open on March 10, 2025 and will close on April 18, 2025** at 5:00 p.m. Up to \$2M is expected to be awarded, pending available funding. If a reservoir is currently covered by a two-year 2024 QZ Grant, that reservoir will not be considered for a QZ Grant until the 2026 solicitation.

A presentation will be conducted via MS Teams on March 13, 2025; information will be posted on our webpage at QZGrant@parks.ca.gov. The 2025 QZ grants are expected to begin in August and span two years.

NOTE: Golden Mussel Work is not fundable for the QZ Grant Program - Applications which discuss the golden mussel may be disqualified during the interagency review process.

\$100M in NOAA funding available for transformational habitat restoration

NOAA announced the [availability of up to \\$100 million in funding](#) for transformational projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats and that strengthen community resilience. This is the third and final round of this funding opportunity under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Of the \$100 million available, up to 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements, through direct awards or subawards. The remaining funding will be available to all eligible applicants.

NOAA will accept proposals between \$750,000 and \$10 million for the entire award, with typical funding anticipated to range from \$4 million to \$6 million. The application deadline is **April 16, 2025**. More information, including details about webinars for potential applicants, can be found on the [Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#) page.

TRAINING:

Certified Tribal Technician Program

NAFWS' vision for the Certified Tribal Technician Program is to offer professional certification training for tribal staff with the equivalency as a Fisheries Technician or an Invasive Species Technician to assist building tribal capacity for Tribes.

To achieve this, we will:

- Promote tribal programs and assist in the building of tribal capacity by offering professional training opportunities.
- Provide training skills that expand or enhance knowledge for professional fish and wildlife/natural resources staff.
- Focus on concepts related to Fishery and/or Invasive Species Management to build tribal capacities to implement in comprehensive Fish and Wildlife/Natural Resources Management Programs.

The goal of the training program is to increase awareness, knowledge, and implementation of best management practices related to fisheries and invasive species management, and monitoring by tribal professionals and field staff.

LEGISLATION

[Advocacy](#)

[State/Provincial](#)

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[Alberta boosts investment to stop invasive species \(3/13/25\)](#) If passed, Budget 2025 will invest \$18.2 million over five years to expand Alberta's aquatic invasive species inspection, detection and rapid response programs.

[HI Lawmakers vote to keep invasive species council housed under land department \(3/19/25\)](#)
Local conservation advocates and invasive species experts opposed moving HISC from the start.

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

[Senator Wicker introduces bill to establish Mississippi River Basin Fisheries \(3/14/25\)](#) The legislation would establish a federally funded commission to combat the spread of invasive Asian carp and strengthen conservation efforts. [HR1514](#)

[Cornyn, Colleagues Introduce Bill to Make the Feral Swine Eradication Program Permanent \(3/31/25\)](#)

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Katie Britt (R-AL), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) today introduced the Feral Swine Eradication Act, which would extend and make permanent a pilot program to safeguard public health, agriculture, and local ecosystems against the threat of feral swine:

“Feral hogs can inflict serious economic and environmental damage to our agricultural communities by destroying crops, trampling farmland, and threatening other livestock,” said Sen. Cornyn. “This legislation would support our farmers, ranchers, and producers in Texas and across the country by promoting removal and restoration efforts to mitigate the risk posed by this invasive species.”

[Kaine, Chesapeake Bay State Lawmakers Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation to Help Farmers Cut Costs, Enhance Bay Health; Includes Invasive Catfish Provision \(3/19/25\)](#)

...This legislation transfers primary regulatory oversight of domestic wild-caught catfish invasive to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem from the Department of Agriculture to the Food and Drug Administration. In 2017, all catfish were placed under the regulatory jurisdiction of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, including wild-caught, domestic blue catfish. The establishment of this inspection program has placed constraints on catfish processing in the Bay region. The full text of the bill is available [here](#).

Federal: Appropriations

[Shutdown averted: Enough Senate Democrats vote with the GOP to pass a government funding bill \(3/14/25\)](#)

The Senate on Friday [3/14/25] approved, 54-46, a House-passed continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown that would have otherwise begun at midnight. [The House passed the CR](#) on Tuesday [3/11/25] in a mostly party-line vote.

Now What: The FY 2026 fiscal process has begun. According to [E&E Daily \(3/24/25\)](#): ...House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) has [told committee chairs](#) that he expects Appropriations subcommittees to begin marking up fiscal 2026 bills in late April...The Trump administration wants to slash EPA's funding by 65 percent and shift the focus of Interior's energy programs more toward fossil fuel development and mining on public lands.

The House passed a number of fiscal 2025 spending bills last year, including a conservative Interior-Environment bill, that proposed steep cuts to EPA and a number of Interior Department bureaus and offices. None of the House's fiscal 2025 bills became law — Congress instead extended fiscal 2024 levels for another year — but they could be a foundation for the fiscal 2026 bills.

House Republicans' fiscal 2025 Interior-Environment bill, which advanced out of the House last fall on a tight 210-205 vote, would have cut EPA's budget by 20 percent and reduced Interior's funding by about \$42 million. It proposed cuts to the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and National Park Service.

[Senate Republicans eye budget resolution vote this week with reduced spending cuts \(4/2/25\)](#)

...There is more than a trillion dollars' worth of daylight between the House budget resolution and the resolution under consideration by the Senate. The House bill called for \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts, with a goal of \$2 trillion in total spending reductions. Much of that is supposed to come from Medicaid. The Senate bill sets a spending cut floor of just \$3 billion.

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

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Virtual Level 1: [Level 1 - Inspector Training | westernais](#)

- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

Virtual Level 2: [Level 2 - Inspection and Decon Training | westernais](#)

- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

Virtual Level 3: [Level 3 - Trainer Training | westernais](#)

- [April 8-10, 2025 \[date change!\]](#)

[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[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

2025

April

[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. The room block is closed, however you can contact Amy Stark to check on remaining availability. **Register online [here](#).** Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

May

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia's 2025 Research Conference Call for Proposals is Open! The conference theme is "Getting Ahead of the Invasion Curve: Bridging the Gap

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Between Research and Management" and it will be held at University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C on May 13 –15, 2025.

Registration Link: Register | [2025 Invasive Species Research Conference](#)

Register now! If you have any questions or still have a presentation proposal to submit, feel free to reach out to Diane at dwatson@bcinvasives.ca.

June

Registration is now open for the next meeting of the 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team; scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 3 & 4, 2025 at the Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown in Boise, ID.

[Click Here to Register](#)

HOTEL: Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown \$191/night per diem rate.

AGENDA: A draft agenda will be on the registration website and also on Westernais.org. Please contact Leah Elwell for agenda questions at: leah@conservationcollaborations.com.

LOGISTICS: This will be a hybrid meeting. Meeting materials such as minutes and presentations will be made available post-meeting.

QUESTIONS: You may contact Amy Stark at (astark@psmfc.org) or call her at (503) 595-3112.

July

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, July 17, Olympia](#)

September

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, September 25, Olympia](#)

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](#)

December

[Oregon Invasive Species Council Business Meeting, December 2, 2025 Salem](#)

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, December 9, Olympia](#)

2026

August

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The 24th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species will be hosted by Queen's University Belfast, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Aug. 23-27, 2026.

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(robindraheim@gmail.com) and Stephen Phillips. Past issues of AIS NEWS
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