



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

04/25/22

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### **SPOTLIGHT:**

#### [Trojan trout: could turning an invasive fish into a ‘super-male’ save a native species? \(4/21/22\)](#)

On a golden morning in early October, two graduate students from New Mexico State University plunge into the icy current of Leandro Creek. The small waterway flows through the 550,000-acre Vermejo park ranch, a reserve in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and the pair are in search of an unusual fish.

Kelsie Field, 25, from the Department of Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, wears a pair of worn grey waders and carries two eight-gallon buckets, one full of water, the other, of scientific gear: test tubes, an electronic scanner and surgical implements. Michael Miller, 30, shoulders a large, waterproof backpack containing a battery attached to an electrode that resembles a metal detector...

There are just two species here. One is an embattled native, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*), distinguished by its cream-coloured skin, mottling of black spots and a vibrant orange slash under the jaw. Once widely distributed in rivers and streams across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, it is now found across just 10% of its historical range. Today, it is reeling under the pressures of the climate crisis, habitat loss and – in the case of Leandro Creek – a hardy intruder.

The more prolific species writhing in Miller’s net is the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). The smaller “brookies” are sleek and silvery, while the adults sport a riot of red and blue spots on their sides, and an orange belly.

How this beautiful interloper from eastern North America got here is unclear, beyond that it was part of a human-aided diaspora that released brook trout into high-altitude lakes and creeks across the west. The brookies' voracious appetites and rapid sexual maturation have spelled trouble not only for native trout such as bull, rainbow, California golden, and cutthroat, which they out-compete, but also for a host of other aquatic organisms, including frogs and salamanders.

Brook trout may greatly outnumber the Rio Grande cutthroat here, but nearly every brookie the team captures is male. That's because many are a lab-produced variety known as "Trojan" brook trout. They are unique in that they carry not one, but two copies of the Y chromosome that codes maleness; they have no X chromosome to pass on. Since 2018, various streams across the Vermejo reserve have been stocked with this strain in an attempt to tilt the brook trout sex ratio so far male that eventually the population will stop breeding and die out on its own. Similar efforts are under way in a handful of creeks in Idaho, Washington and Oregon, and Nevada plans to embark on its own stocking programme this summer.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

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

#### Informational Webinars

NOAA Fisheries and BOEM will co-host two informational webinars to present the Draft Federal Mitigation Implementation Strategy. Expert staff will be available to answer questions. Everyone is welcome to participate in these events.

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

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

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

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

## **NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS**

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**Want to get more new species alerts?**

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

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

### **DREISSENIDS**

[\[Oklahoma\] Invasive Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Shawnee, Ardmore Lakes \(4/15/22\)](#)

Ardmore City Lake and Shawnee Twin Lakes now contain invasive zebra mussels for the first time, according to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. ODWC's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program has confirmed invasive zebra mussels in 24 different water bodies throughout Oklahoma, including Kaw, Sooner, Hefner, Keystone, Robert S. Kerr, Grand, Skiatook, Eufaula, Oologah, Claremore, Greenleaf and Texoma lakes, as well as in the lower Canadian, Cimarron, Arkansas, Verdigris, Washita and North Canadian rivers.

[Texas] [Melanoides tuberculata \(red-rim melania\)](#) was found in Aransas Bay, Rockport, TX  
[\[USGS NAS\]](#)

### **OTHER AIS**

[Arizona] [Oreochromis niloticus \(Nile Tilapia\)](#) was found in Upper Santa Cruz, Rancho Sahuarita, Sahuarita, AZ [\[USGS NAS\]](#)

[Montana] [Culaea inconstans \(Brook Stickleback\)](#) was found in Bitterroot River, Slevin's Island Slough near Fort Missoula [\[USGS NAS\]](#)

[Oregon] [Pectinatella magnifica \(magnificent bryozoan\)](#) was found in the Upper Willamette, OR  
[\[USGS NAS\]](#)

## WATCH LIST

British Columbia: If you spot the European green crab, take a photo — put it back where you found it — and email the information about where you saw it and when to: [AISPACIFIC@dfompo.gc.ca](mailto:AISPACIFIC@dfompo.gc.ca)

## **DREISSENID MUSSELS**

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### [Texas lake eradicates Zebra mussels — here's how it happened \(4/19/22\)](#)

Lake Waco, a popular spot for boaters and fishermen, recently earned a unique distinction — it's the only Texas reservoir that has eradicated its Zebra mussel population.

The lake earned the title back in 2021 after a five-year study of the waters following an infestation that began the same year.

As part of Earth Week, we're taking a closer look at this project and what we can learn from it.

### [Devastating invasive mussel species found on boat in Colorado \(4/8/22\)](#)

For the third time this year, a boat has been found carrying incredibly invasive quagga mussels in Colorado, according to a tweet from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). "Watercraft Inspectors & Decontaminators at our Denver office identified quagga mussels on a boat that was most recently used at Lake Powell. This is the third boat found with invasive mussels in 2022," the tweet said.

Dreissena in Lake Ontario 30 years post-invasion, Karatayev et al., pp. 264-273,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2020.11.010>

Six decades of Lake Ontario ecological history according to benthos Burlakova et al., pp. 274-288, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2021.03.006>

Depth drives growth dynamics of dreissenid mussels in Lake Ontario, Elgin et al., pp. 289-299,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2021.08.006>

## **BOAT INSPECTION/DECON/TECH NEWS**

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### [Aquatic invasive species check stations opening April 15 in Wyoming; all boaters must stop \(4/11/22\)](#)

Aquatic invasive species inspection stations for watercraft are resuming seasonal operations across most of the state beginning April 15, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department said Monday. All boaters must stop when coming upon an AIS inspection station, Game and Fish said.

## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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### [Riviera Maritime: Marine Coatings Webinar Week](#)

Biofouling increases fuel consumption, accelerates corrosion, clogs membranes and decreases vessel buoyancy. The issue is widely touted as "the next ballast water" and forecast to attract comparable scrutiny and calls for regulation. Our panel will share new thinking on the phenomenon, including the role of additives in, and how the latest smart tools can guide, an effective marine biofouling management programme. **Monday 9th May - Time: 15:30-16:15 BST**

## MARINE

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### [Scientists develop a plan to manage lionfish populations in the Mediterranean \(4/11/22\)](#)

Researchers in the UK and Cyprus have said increasing lionfish densities—combined with the species' generalist diet and consumption of ecologically and socio-economically important fish—has the potential to result in further disruption of an already stressed marine environment. They have now published a Guide to Lionfish Management in the Mediterranean, which features a series of recommendations through which they hope lionfish populations can be managed.

### [‘Urgent need’ for volunteers to trap Boundary Bay invasive crabs \(4/11/22\)](#)

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FOSBS) officials have issued an urgent appeal for volunteers to assist with the organization's European green crab project. The search is on for anyone who enjoys getting outside and can commit to helping trap the invasive critters once or twice a month from May till September.

### [Fish And Wildlife Seeks Help Battling Invasive Crab Species \(4/7/22\)](#)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is sounding the alarm — and looking for help — as an invasive crab species gains ground in the state's waterways. The crab in question is the European green crab, which, according to WDFW researchers, is a major threat to the state's native shellfish, particularly other shore crabs, clams, and small oysters. Just one green crab can eat up to 40 half-inch clams a day, plus other crabs its own size. Related: [A better way to identify, stop invasive green crabs in Washington \(4/8/22\)](#)

### [Invasive Species Threaten the Biodiversity of the Adriatic Sea \(4/6/22\)](#)

The arrival of nearly 50 invasive species into the Adriatic Sea over the course of the previous three decades confirms new conditions developing in this Mediterranean sub-basin, but also represents a danger to its biodiversity. Fortunately, there are still ways in which such a threat could be minimised.

## AQUACULTURE

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### [Sea-farmed supercrop: how seaweed could transform the way we live \(4/19/22\)](#)

Experts believe that seaweed could be a key crop in the “protein shift” away from meat. Some of last spring’s harvest here hit about 30% protein, close to the level that would make it compete against the world’s other big protein sources like meat and soya.

### [Why a federal salmon study that found viruses at B.C. fish farms took 10 years to be released \(4/14/22\)](#)

For ten years, Kristi Miller-Saunders could not fully disclose the results of her study that showed a virus spreading among fish-farmed salmon in British Columbia.

The federal Fisheries Department in the government of Stephen Harper would not release the 2012 report into open-net fish farms, a position that continued with the Trudeau government. In March, the federal Information Commissioner ordered the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to release the information that found pathogens among open-net fish farms in the province. The commissioner ruled that suppressing publication of the document was not justified. “The complaint is well-founded,” the commissioner said of a request to access the material.

### [Mixed reactions to NOAA biological opinion on impact of fish-net pens \(4/13/22\)](#)

A biological opinion that fish-net pens are harmful to habitat and threatened species in Puget Sound but not so much that it could wipe them out has led to mixed reactions among some stakeholders. NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service released its opinion in February regarding the Environmental Protection Agency’s approval of revisions to Washington State’s Sediment Management Standards for marine finfish rearing facilities. The opinion said that fish-net pens will likely cause some harm to the critical habitats of Puget Sound marine species, but are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence, nor destroy the critical habitats of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Puget Sound steelhead, Hood Canal summer-run chum, Puget Sound/Georgia Basin yelloweye rockfish and bocaccio.

### [Land-based salmon farming not for us: First Nations coalition \(4/7/22\)](#)

Aquaculture-dependent First Nations decry Ottawa’s lack of understanding on what transitioning open-net salmon farming to growing fish on land means to remote Indigenous coastal communities.

## FISH

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### [\[Video\] Invasive fish species Alberta researchers want you to know about \(4/24/22\)\](#)

### [Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee \(ICRCC\)](#)

The Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ICRCC) last week released its 2022 Invasive Carp Action Plan, which details a series of projects focused on protecting the Great Lakes from invasive carp. The Action Plan, which the ICRCC has released on an annual basis,

serves as a strategic plan outlining the work by 28 U.S. and Canadian federal, state, provincial, tribal, regional, and local agencies, to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), highlights of the 2022 Action Plan include:

[Biologists Begin Tagging Study of Pike Movement, Breeding Areas in Three Western Montana Watersheds; Anglers Urged to Report Tagged Fish \(4/7/22\)](#)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks fisheries biologists began tagging northern pike in portions of the Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Clearwater rivers this week as part of a new study on pike movement in the Missoula area. The success of the study depends on reports from anglers who catch tagged fish. Biologists believe the research will help identify movement patterns and extent, as well as identify key breeding areas in local watersheds. In recent years, biologists have observed greater numbers of pike in rivers within the study area and consistent production of larger pike. While valued by many anglers, northern pike are also an introduced species that can impact wild trout populations and other species through predation and competition.

[Redneck Fishing Tournament Founder Inducted into Illinois Conservation Foundation Hall of Fame \(4/7/22\)](#)

It just goes to show that you, too, can become famous if you have a big heart, a love for the environment, and start a weird fishing tournament that is won by someone brandishing a big dip net and, as likely as not, wearing a hockey mask. That's what's happening to Betty DeFord, who started the Redneck Fishing Tournament on a channel of the Illinois River in Bath, Illinois, in 2005.

## AQUATIC PLANTS

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[Patch of invasive algae species discovered about 1.5 miles away from China Cove in Newport Harbor \(4/15/22\)](#)

Another patch of *Caulerpa prolifera* was discovered in Newport Harbor late last month about 1.5 miles away from where the invasive algae species was initially discovered in China Cove. The algae was initially discovered in Newport Harbor in March 2021 by a diver and was removed last summer. City officials confirmed in March this year, however, that though they felt they had "100% removal" that didn't necessarily mean eradication.

## FRESHWATER

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[8 Invasive Species in The U.S. That You Can Eat \(4/20/22\)](#)

Invasive wildlife species aren't bad by nature: The trouble starts when they go where they're not wanted. When animals are transplanted to areas where they have no predators or other environmental checks, they can wreak havoc on habitat, threaten native wildlife, and levy huge economic costs. In the U.S. alone, 6,500 alien species take an estimated \$123-billion bite out of the economy annually—numbers that might make you throw up your hands and ask, "What can I possibly do?"

[Thwarted by thuggish frogs, WA newts couldn't find love until students came to rescue \(4/15/22\)](#)

There's a march underway in the wild spaces of Lacey. Over leaves and around blades of grass, thousands of tiny feet plod with a single-minded purpose. It's mating season for the rough-skinned newt. The lovelorn amphibians, in search of a mate, have spent hours, maybe days heading toward a group of retention ponds on the edge of Saint Martin's University where they can finally find a desirable ... fence?

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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### OTHER

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[Alberta introduces wild pig bounty in effort to control invasive species \(4/14/22\)](#)

Alberta is launching a bounty on the province's wild pig population to try to stem the pest's expanding range. The provincial government is also offering producers compensation for damage caused by wild pigs.

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[Oregon Invasive Species Council Launches Digital Information Hub \(4/12/22\)](#)

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) has created an interactive tool to search, learn, compile and share available information for aggressive non-native species that pose a threat to Oregon's environment, economy, or public health. Species profiles provide information about numerous species from various taxa groups. The profiles include recent and active alerts, species descriptions, introduction pathways and distributions.

[NPMA Launches New Video Series on the Threat of Invasive Pests to the U.S. \(4/6/22\)](#)

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) is educating Americans about the spread of invasive pests throughout the U.S. with the launch of its latest animated video project, Invasive Species. This new video series, featuring six episodes of custom-animated illustrations, shines a spotlight on the various invasive species that have traveled far and wide to the United States, where they continue to spread at increasingly alarming rates.

National Invasive Species Council

The NISC FY 2022 Work Plan has been finalized and distributed to NISC member agencies. It's also available on the NISC website at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/nisc-fy2022-annual-wp-march312022.pdf>

### [APHIS Through the 1970s: Continuing the visual history through 50 years of APHIS](#)

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) celebrates 50 years of serving the public. While a lot has changed in 50 years, our key mission remains protecting American agriculture and natural resources.

To celebrate, we are looking back through our history and posting decade-by-decade timelines. Stay tuned for future updates! First we will focus on the 1970s—the decade APHIS was founded.

## **JOBS/GRANTS**

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### [Conservation agencies plan hiring sprees for FY 2023 \(4/13/22\)](#)

The U.S. Department of the Interior outlined a strategic plan for the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management to take on significant hiring efforts and diverse workforce initiatives in Fiscal Year 2023.

### [Outreach for Permanent Fish Biologist \(Modeler\) FWS Position - La Crosse FWCO, Onalaska WI Closes 5/2/2022:](#)

The La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office is pleased to announce that we are recruiting a permanent GS-0482-12 Fish Biologist (Modeler) to serve as a modeler working within the Mississippi River Basin. The selected applicant will develop, maintain, and apply fish population and community models to evaluate fish community dynamics with the goal of informing management decisions to increase the sustainability of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin Fisheries. This position will also serve as a technical expert in statistical modeling of fish populations that will be used to evaluate control techniques for established populations of invasive species. The selected applicant will also supervise lower graded AIS staff. Knowledge and experience with fisheries and aquatic ecological principles, sampling methodologies, mathematical principals, concepts and theories in data driven decision making to independently apply appropriate statistical analysis and develop analytical models to inform decisions.

Conducts biological surveys on complex systems (e.g. Great Lakes and the Mississippi River) for the preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of fish populations and to determine status and trends of native or invasive aquatic species.

Works with the Project Leader and partners to identify priority projects, determine objectives, and develop procedures for conducting studies. Ensure those studies meet identified needs, that data will be statistically representative, and that results reported will be valid and reliable for decision-making. Work in cooperation with various Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies and other partners to disseminate information and guide biological work.

Directs the work of subordinates based on priorities, selective consideration of the difficulty and requirements of assignments, and the capabilities of employees.

Salary: \$79,363 - \$103,176 per year; Pay scale & grade: GS 12; Location: Onalaska, WI

[Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Research Scientist - Fish & Wildlife Research Scientist 1 - \\*05790-22](#)

Salary \$61,224.00 - \$80,292.00 Annually; Location Thurston County – Olympia, WA

Job Type Full Time – Permanent Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Job Number 2022-05790

Closing 5/18/2022 11:59 PM Pacific

WDFW is seeking a Research Scientist to protect state waters by serving as the expert on European Green Crab (EGC) Research. This role will be the principle researcher for assessing EGC populations and the primary author for the development of the EGC state management plan – both of which provide sound, science-based management recommendations for decision makers in meeting resource and economic needs for the state.

Please note: This job is posted until May 18, 2022, with a 1st Review of Applications taking place on May 4, 2022. Application review will be ongoing, and therefore we encourage you to submit your application materials as soon as possible. The Hiring Manager reserves the right to close the posting at any time once a selection has been made.

[North American Lake Management Society \(NALMS\) JEDI Internship](#)

Internship Site: Remote/Virtual

Description: The intern will work with the NALMS Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee to support the process of completing a 5-year plan for NALMS to use in incorporating JEDI into all facets of the organization. To achieve this goal the intern will focus their efforts in these areas:

- Internal Assessment
- Outreach
- Internal Planning and Strategy
- Symposium Planning

The intern will take the lead on assessing previously collected information, and possible collection of further data, to help define this plan. The intern will have an integral role in writing the plan for NALMS JEDI incorporating the topics above, and will help present the plan to the NALMS Board for approval. The plan will be invaluable to NALMS as a guide for the JEDI Program, with a clear list of tasks to be prioritized by future JEDI interns, and a step towards making NALMS a welcoming organization for all. To review steps NALMS is taking to further our JEDI goals please visit [NALMS website](#) Open until filled

[Huron Pines MI](#)

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

exempt position running from May 23, 2022 to Aug 31, 2022. For more information visit:  
<https://huronpines.org/jobs/>

### **American Conservation Experience Opportunities**

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

American Conservation Experience  
Virginia Beach, VA, United States

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

American Conservation Experience  
Point Reyes, CA, United States

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

American Conservation Experience  
Davis, WV, United States

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

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

### [Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)

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

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

EMPLOYER: NEIWPC, Wannalancit Mills, 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 410, Lowell, MA 01854  
LOCATION: NYSDEC Region 5 Warrensburg Office, 232 Golf Course Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885

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

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

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

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

Salary \$16.32 Hourly; Location City of Bellingham, WA Job Type Seasonal Recurring Positions (3-4mo, 6 mo, 8-9mo); Seasonal Positions are available in the Public Works Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Length of season will vary depending on position but will fall within the 2022 season which runs April through the end of September. These positions are open until filled and may be closed at any time. Starting hourly rate is at Step 1 (\$16.32/hour). The current full salary range for this position is \$16.32/hour - \$19.85/hour. This position is required to work a varied schedule at multiple sites including weekends, holidays, early mornings and evenings.

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

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

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Staff

15 positions - 6 Month Season

5 positions - 3 Month Season

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### [USDA ARS Seeking Shellfish Geneticist -Supervisory Research Biologist](#)

The US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Pacific Shellfish Research Project in Newport, Oregon is seeking a Supervisory Research Biologist (Research Leader).

The mission of the program is to develop genetically improved shellfish stocks, promote enhanced disease resiliency, modernize production technologies, and transfer technologies and improved stocks to shellfish farmers. Responsibilities of the Research Leader include:

Leading and performing research on shellfish production in the Pacific West.

Enhance and extend management practices for shellfish aquaculture that reduce juvenile mortality and optimize estuarine habitat function. Advance and implement genome-enabled improvement technologies for the Pacific oyster. Establish working relationships, communication channels, cooperative research, and research priority setting with state agricultural experiment stations, universities and industry, and national and international organizations. Lead and coordinate stakeholder relations to promote problem-solving research for the shellfish industry. Supervise program scientists and manage human, fiscal, and physical resources. Provide internal and external technical information and consultation and ensure proper interpretation and reporting of scientific research results and information. For more information on the research program, please visit

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/research/project/?accnNo=437681>

## GRANTS

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

Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service

**Closes: Apr 29, 2022**

The response provides a unique opportunity to review, evaluate, and recommend strategies to prevent and to rapidly respond to the introduction, establishment, and spread of AIS in the waters of the United States. Accordingly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or Service) requests proposals to conduct an assessment and draft an after-action report for the Marimo moss ball incident that is national in scope to evaluate the effectiveness and timeliness of actions taken and provide recommendations for future actions needed to mitigate risk and improve preparedness for response. It is anticipated that the work will be completed through a cooperative agreement with the Service. Service staff will be substantially involved throughout the assessment to provide details about the response, to provide additional points of contact, and access to additional documents that may be needed to adequately assess the moss ball response. However, it is expected that the grantee will draft the report and develop conclusions and recommendations independently.

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

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

Enter to win the use of a FlowCam instrument for up to 4 months, including remote training, technical support, and temporary software licenses. Winners will also receive funding to present at a major scientific conference in North America within twelve months of project completion. Eligible expenses include conference registration, travel, food, and lodging.

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

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

**Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service**

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

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

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

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

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### **Advocacy:**

### **State/Province**

[\[British Columbia\] Province rejects mandatory watercraft invasive mussel inspections \(4/5/22\)](#)

A proposal requiring all watercraft entering B.C. to be inspected for invasive zebra and quagga mussels is not being actively pursued by the province, says Environment Minister George Heyman.

### **Executive**

[Biden-Harris Administration Launches \\$1 Billion America the Beautiful Challenge to Support and Accelerate Locally Led Conservation and Restoration Projects \(4/11/22\)](#)

The America the Beautiful Challenge is anchored by an initial commitment of \$440 million of Federal resources over the next five years to a new public-private grant program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), that will support locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the America the Beautiful Initiative. The historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a major source of the initial Federal investments for the America the Beautiful Challenge.

[America the Beautiful Challenge](#) – NFWF - The America the Beautiful Challenge is a public-private grant program for locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the America the Beautiful Initiative.

New Funding to Recover Endangered & Threatened Species:

Specifically, the Legacy Fund provides funding for the following four priority areas:

- 1) \$300 million (4 years funded at \$75 million / year through FY25) to address the backlog in the development and implementation of recovery plans for species listed as a threatened or endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act
- 2) \$300 million (4 years funded at \$75 million / year through FY25) to address interagency consultation responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- 3) \$112.5 million (4 years funded at \$28.125 million / year through FY25) to work with non-Federal entities, including through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Coastal Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other eligible programs like Joint Ventures
- 4) \$37.5 million (4 years funded at \$9.375 million / year through FY25) to address the development and permitting of voluntary conservation agreements under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act

Changes to Address Accountability:

- 1) Creates a “Statement of Purpose” to identify the intent of the bill. While conservation education and wildlife-associated recreation, and law enforcement are not specifically mentioned, these remain as eligible expenses in the Act provided these efforts are related to SGCN and are conducted within the sideboards of the Act. For instance not more than an average of 15 percent over a 5-year period of amounts apportioned to each State, territory, or the District of Columbia may be used for wildlife conservation education and wildlife-associated recreation. Regarding LE, the only side-board is that it must be used on activities and efforts associated with SGCN.

Reporting:

Rather than 56 individual state, District and Territorial reports going to Congress, the amendments suggest that the reports would go to the USFWS so they can summarize the reports and consolidate them into one report to the Congressional Committees identified in the Act. The Service would work collaboratively with AFWA to determine the content and format of the state reports.

## Congressional

### [Bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act Passes Out Of Senate Committee \(4/7/22\)](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), and Tom Carper (D-Del.) are one step closer to getting the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act [[S.2372](#)] across the finish line. Today, the landmark conservation legislation was voted out of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) with bipartisan support. The legislation now heads to the Senate Floor for consideration. The House legislation advanced out of the House Natural Resources Committee in January.

According to [GREENWIRE](#) (4/8/22):

It took months of tinkering to get a big wildlife bill shipshape enough to sail out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee harbor yesterday. The overhaul, while modest in many respects, was enough to secure the panel's 15-5 approval of the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act." The changes range from an important shift in how funding will flow in the first four years to a minor addition to a new grant review committee. More changes will come.

The biggest change in the Senate bill would steer money in the first four years toward the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The congressionally chartered foundation, for instance, would get \$75 million a year for a new competitive matching grant program in the first four years of the bill's taking effect. The grants would support projects that cut the backlog in completing species recovery plans. The National Wildlife Federation has noted that one-quarter of the species listed under the Endangered Species Act still lack a species recovery plan, while some existing plans are outdated. As part of this change, the amount going to states would initially be less than the \$1.3 billion annually that has long been a selling point of the legislation. Instead, the states' funding would start with \$850 million in the first year, go to \$1.1 billion in the second year and reach the \$1.3 billion in the fourth year. The funding shift was aimed at securing support from senators who had previously voiced concern about persistent shortfalls in federal conservation resources.

For now senators left intact the bill's provision that funding come from pollution fees. Specifically, the bill identifies the source as "all civil or criminal penalties, fines, sanctions, forfeitures, or other revenues resulting from natural resource or environmental-

related violations or enforcement actions by any Federal agency that are not directed to be deposited in a fund other than" the general U.S. Treasury. "I believe that more work will be needed to offset the cost of this bill once we receive the [Congressional Budget Office] analysis before it is considered on the floor," cautioned Senate Environment and Public Works ranking member Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.).

Related: [AFS Policy Column: Crossing the Finish Line: Help Pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act this Congress \(4/12/22\)](#) and [NWF: Senate Panel Advances Most Significant Wildlife Conservation Bill in Half Century \(4/7\)](#) and ['Game changing' bill for fish and wildlife agencies in America moves closer to passing \(4/10/22\)](#)

[U.S. Competitiveness Package: Recent Developments, Anticipated Timeline and Conferees \(4/11/22\)](#)

A formal process can only begin once the Senate votes to go to conference. There were hopes that could occur this week. However, the conference now appears as though it will be approved once the two chambers return from recess the week of April 25. The delay is due in large part to congested floor time.

**Note:** The two bills are the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA, [S.1260](#)), which passed the Senate in July 2021, and the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act ([H.R.4521](#)), which passed the House in February 2022.

Within HR 4521 bill is Section 71102 which amends the Lacey Act. This language is similar to [S. 626: Lacey Act Amendments of 2021](#). Please see [February 22 AIS News](#) for more information and for background information on the Lacey Act see the TWS [What is the Lacey Act is and isn't](#) Webinar with Sue Jewell, USFWS (3/29/22).

## APPROPRIATIONS

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

## TRAININGS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

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## Archived Materials

WPR eDNA Workgroup Series: The most recent webinar from April features Taylor Wilcox with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation

### Events: Webinars, Trainings, Conferences and Meetings

#### **Watercraft Inspection Training**

Coming This Fall: Advanced Decontamination Training:

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

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

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

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

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

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### DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet

#### April

#### (AIS) Prevention Workshop For California Waterways Users!

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

Workshop participants will:

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

Advance registration is required here.

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

Date: Tuesday, April 26th

Time: 9 am - 12 pm

For questions about this AIS workshop, please contact Vivian Matuk at:  
Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov.

## May

### [Riviera Maritime: New insights on marine biofouling management \(May 9\)](#)

Biofouling increases fuel consumption, accelerates corrosion, clogs membranes and decreases vessel buoyancy. The issue is widely touted as "the next ballast water" and forecast to attract comparable scrutiny and calls for regulation. Our panel will share new thinking on the phenomenon, including the role of additives in, and how the latest smart tools can guide, an effective marine biofouling management programme.

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

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

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

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

## June

### [Invasive Mussel Collaborative Webinar: Recent IMC Tools and Accomplishments](#)

On Monday, June 6 at 11:00 p.m. ET, the Invasive Mussel Collaborative is hosting a webinar that will feature presentations from Ashley Elgin with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Diane Waller with the U.S. Geological Survey, and Jeff Tyson with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

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

## October

### [Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference 2022](#)

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

## November

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

December

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

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN

December 13th-16th, 2022

Primary meeting dates will be December 14th and 15th

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