



Aquatic Invasive Species News

February 20, 2025

[RECOMMENDED READING](#) * [PUBLIC COMMENT](#) * [NEW SPECIES](#) * [WATCH LIST](#) * [DREISSENID MUSSELS](#) * NEW: [GOLDEN MUSSELS](#) * [BOAT INSPECTION/DECON](#) * [BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING](#) * [MARINE](#) * [GREEN CRAB](#) * [AQUACULTURE](#) * [FRESHWATER](#) * [FISH](#) * [AQUATIC PLANTS](#) * [CLIMATE CHANGE](#) * [OUTREACH AND EDUCATION](#) * [OTHER](#) * [JOBS/GRANTS](#) * [LEGISLATION](#) * [EVENTS](#)

RECOMMENDED READING

[DELTA ISB: New threat in the Delta: Golden mussels join the ranks of invasive species \(2/5/25\)](#)

At the Delta Independent Science Board meeting on January 29, Dr. Thomas Jabusch, a senior environmental scientist supervisor with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, outlined the department's ongoing efforts to combat this invasive newcomer...

IS THERE YET ANOTHER MUSSEL INVADER?

Rachel Meyer, a researcher at UC Davis, has been sharing eDNA results from 2020 archive samples, and the green dots show eDNA hits of golden mussels around the Port of Los Angeles.

“My team did due diligence,” said Dr. Jabusch. “I have staff in Seal Beach, just around the corner. So they went looking for golden mussels and found mussels in a water body called the Dominguez Channel. Where the arrow is, the two yellow dots, is where the mussels were found, and they looked darn close to golden mussels. But the salinity seemed a bit high for the golden mussel to establish. So, we insisted on genetic analysis. And we actually found another invasive species that I want to bring to your attention because it's a brackish water species called *Xenostrobus*.”

“We alerted our Marine Region. We're going to do some follow-up monitoring to see if that's already an established population. But that's a new discovery in SoCal, and since it's a brackish water species, it's probably something to put on the radar for our estuary up here as well.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Return to top](#)

Injurious Wildlife Species; Listing Two Freshwater Mussel Genera and One Crayfish Species

A Proposed Rule by the Fish and Wildlife Service on 01/10/2025
Public Comment Closes: 3/11/25

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to add all species of freshwater mussels from two genera, Asian pond mussels (*Sinanodonta* species) and golden mussels (*Limnoperna* species), to the list of injurious mollusks. Additionally, the Service proposes to add marbled crayfish (*Procambarus virginalis*) to the list of injurious crustaceans. Listing these taxa as injurious will prohibit the importation of any live animal, larvae, viable egg, or hybrid of these taxa into the United States, except as specifically authorized. These listings would also prohibit shipment of any live animal, larvae, viable egg, or hybrid of these species between the continental United States, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States, except as specifically authorized. The action is necessary to protect wildlife and wildlife resources by preventing the introduction and subsequent establishment of these foreign aquatic invertebrates into ecosystems of the United States.

A 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule to list the three taxa genera of invertebrates opens January 10, 2025, and closes March 11, 2025. Information on the rule, associated documents and how to submit comments can be found at www.federalregister.gov by searching for docket number FWS-HQ-FAC-2024-0060. Comments received during this time will be evaluated for possible inclusion in a future final rule.

Related:

[Injurious designation aims to protect aquatic environments from invasive invertebrates](#)

[Announcement] Potassium Chloride (KCl); Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption

EPA is announcing a quarantine exemption request from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to use the pesticide potassium chloride (CAS No. 7440-09-7) to treat up to 1.26 acres to control Quagga mussels. The applicant proposes the use of a new chemical which has not been registered by EPA. Due to the urgent nature of the emergency and the very narrow and limited use being requested EPA has eliminated the public comment period. Nonetheless, interested parties may still contact the Agency with information about this notice and treatment program.

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:

[Return to top](#)

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.
- 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.

DREISSENID MUSSELS

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

[‘We take this seriously’: ISDA director on out-of-state boat traffic, Idaho quagga mussels \(2/5/25\)](#) State’s quagga mussel elimination effort has been the biggest ever attempted in U.S., agriculture director says

[Parks Canada adjusts Clear Lake boating restrictions for 2025 \(2/5/25\)](#) But while access to the lake will be restored, it will not be a free-for-all as Parks Canada is looking to implement a “one boat, one lake” aquatic invasive species prevention program. The program will be similar to

[Return to top](#)

2023, where boat owners had their trailers tagged to only be used in Clear Lake and nowhere else.

[Zebra mussel battle headed to courtroom in Minnesota \(2/8/25\)](#) Lake enthusiasts from Carver County are taking their fight against zebra mussels from the shoreline to the courtroom. This week the residents filed suit against the head of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the city of Chanhassen claiming not enough has been done to prevent the spread of the aquatic invasive species.

GOLDEN MUSSELS

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

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife assigns temporary aquatic nuisance species designation to golden mussel \(2/6/25\)](#) This week Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Director Jeff Davis temporarily designated golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*), a highly invasive mussel species, as an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) “for a period not to exceed nine months.”

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[California Boaters, Don't Forget Your Mussel Fee Sticker \(2/13/25\)](#) Displaying the Mussel Fee Sticker on your vessel is more than just adhering to regulations; it's a proactive measure to protect California's aquatic habitats.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

MARINE

James J. Corbett, Geoffrey C. Trussell , Evolution in changing seas: The loss of plasticity under predator invasion and warming oceans.Sci. Adv.11,eadr6947(2025).

[DOI:10.1126/sciadv.adr6947](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adr6947)

[Return to top](#)

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Invasive green crabs offer lessons on ecosystem management amid environmental change \(2/4/25\)](#) As ecosystems around the planet undergo rapid transformations, policymakers and land managers are grappling with a pressing question: When is it time to stop resisting ecological changes and accept a new normal?

Abigail G. Keller et al, The transition from resistance to acceptance: Managing a marine invasive species in a changing world, Journal of Applied Ecology (2025). [DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.14881](#)

AQUACULTURE

[Are studies used by activists to attack salmon farmers really independent? \(2/12/25\)](#) Despite being backed by scientists with decades of experience in fish pathology and marine biology, the study is under attack by activists insinuating it was “bought and paid for” by the aquaculture industry.

[Closure of USAID fishery, aquaculture programs will hurt US seafood sector, aquaculture consultant warns \(2/14/25\)](#) “In the larger sphere, projects are being canceled and frozen that affect all kinds of fisheries and aquaculture efforts. I have been on the phone with and emailed various agencies and project leaders, and the most common response is, ‘I wish I knew more and could answer your questions.’ There seems to have been no planning or thought given to process or procedure.”

FRESHWATER

[‘It’s not supposed to be here’ | Invasive crayfish discovery raises red flags for Texas wildlife \(2/10/25\)](#) The Australian redclaw crayfish, an aggressive crustacean native to northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, has been spotted in South Texas.

FISH

[Return to top](#)

AQUATIC PLANTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[National Invasive Species Awareness Week \(NISAW\) 2025: Focus on Biosecurity in North America \(2/3/25\)](#) The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is thrilled to announce the return of National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) from February 24–28, 2025. This year's event will focus on Biosecurity in North America, a critical theme addressing the prevention and management of invasive species threats across borders and ecosystems.

[New Zealand] [New card game 'Marine Invaders' is teaching young people about invasive species \(2/3/25\)](#) [radio story]

[Governor Ferguson urges action during Invasive Species Week in Washington \(2/11/25\)](#) The Washington Invasive Species Council announced a collaboration with the governor to highlight the risks invasive species pose to agriculture, recreation, and natural resources.

OTHER

[Where do invasive species spread and why? Researchers take a novel approach to find the answer \(2/12/25\)](#) Researchers at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences took a deep dive to understand why certain locations are more susceptible and attractive to invasions by non-native plants or animals, making them prime targets for these species to

[Return to top](#)

spread. What they came up with is a novel approach updating what scientists call environmental resistance (ER) modeling that adds a layer researchers consider has been missing from the modeling strategies.

[‘Way of Life’: Protecting Indigenous lands and culture from invasive species \(2/10/25\)](#) The Mountain West News Bureau's Rachel Cohen spoke with Mitzi Reed, an enrolled citizen of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians who also leads the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society’s invasive species program, about how she works with tribes on invasive species challenges — from freshwater mussels to plants like water primrose.

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

[Invasive Species Management Assistant WNY PRISM, NY](#)

The WNY PRISM Invasive Species Management Assistants (3) will work closely with the WNY PRISM Terrestrial Program Manager, Field Crew Leader and partners to implement invasive species prevention, early detection, management, and habitat restoration projects within the 8-county WNY PRISM region. The selected candidates will conduct invasive species surveys and assessments, assist with priority invasive species removal and restoration projects, provide project reports and may assist with outreach events such as tabling at farmers’ markets. Invasive species removal efforts will include use of both manual and chemical (herbicide) methods. This is primarily a field position, and the selected candidates can expect to spend the majority of their time working outdoors in remote locations and will experience inclement weather conditions. WNY PRISM seeks highly motivated candidates with the education and experience necessary to succeed. The deadline for applications is **Monday, March 3, 2025**

[Wildlife Specialist Supervisor Statewide "Fish Health Program Manager"](#)

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Phoenix, Arizona (Hybrid)

Salary - \$56,098 Per Year

Education - Bachelor's Degree

Type - Full Time

Currently recruiting for the Fish Health Program Manager position, which will manage and

[Return to top](#)

supervise the state's fish health program. Responsibilities include conducting fish health inspections and analyses, and verifying certifications at Department hatcheries and prior to importing, stocking, and/or transferring wild fish. Makes recommendations on treatment of diseases at hatcheries, coordinates medication requests with the Department veterinarian, and oversees treatments. Conducts eDNA analyses for aquatic invasive species identification or species of management interest. The position is the main point of contact for Arizona on all fish health concerns, questions, and informational needs, and works regularly with many other state, federal, NGO's, and private customers on jurisdictional and regulative fish health matters. Maintains AFS FHS Tier 1 laboratory certification. Establishes and maintains protocols and procedures following quality assurance and quality control guidelines. Reviews scientific publications pertinent to fish health to remain current on pathogens and testing methodologies. Supervises one employee.

[Invasive Species Strike Team Technician](#)

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

Arkville, New York, United States Full Time, 3-6 mo duration

We are seeking four motivated and reliable Invasive Species Strike Team Technicians to join us in controlling invasive species throughout the Catskills this season:

Two Aquatic Strike Team Technicians and two Terrestrial Strike Team Technicians.

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 will span two years.

\$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

[Return to top](#)

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

AFS Highlights Fisheries Policy Priorities for the Trump Administration (2/4/25)

Aquatic Invasive Species: The introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is one of the foremost challenges facing the United States, altering natural ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, harming water quality, and degrading waterways—with significant impacts on human health and recreational, commercial, and subsistence uses of waterways, fisheries and other natural resources. From invasive fish like silver carp to invertebrates like zebra mussels and nuisance plants like hydrilla, the many challenges that AIS pose come with a steep price tag: an estimated global economic cost of \$345 billion since 1960 – nearly half of which has been incurred in North America.

AFS supports updating federal law and policy that builds upon and modernizes the existing AIS framework to enhance prevention, reduce spread, and increase management. We support increased federal funding that is coordinated, strategic, and targeted across federal entities and in collaboration with states and Tribal organizations to provide effective tools to address AIS at the regional and watershed levels. We encourage efforts to enhance collaboration, communication, and planning for the prevention, detection, management, and eradication of AIS. In particular,

[Return to top](#)

we support funding for early detection and rapid response, the most effective tools for combatting and controlling the spread of AIS.

State/Provincial

[Hawaii] [Biosecurity bill could move invasive species council under Agriculture Department \(2/10/24\)](#) State lawmakers are moving along a bill [[SB110](#)] that would bring a host of biosecurity improvements to the state — but stakeholders feel uneasy about a provision that could have a significant impact on the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council.

[Illinois] [Pritzker halts Joliet Great Lakes carp project until Trump promises not to yank federal funds \(2/11/25\)](#) Blaming the “uncertainty” of federal funding under President Donald Trump’s administration, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker is delaying a massive project to help stop invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes. Pritzker said in a statement that the Trump White House “has shown it cannot be trusted to legally uphold its financial commitments” to Illinois, by withholding funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[Montana] [Flathead Lawmaker Wants to Double Fines for Watercraft Inspection Station Scofflaws \(2/3/25\)](#) Rep. Tom Millett, R-Marion, says [House Bill 242](#) would sharpen the enforcement teeth for wardens who since 2017 have issued twice as many warnings to boaters who drive by stations than citations.

[Oregon] [Legislation would raise boat fees to ward off invasive mussels \(2/29/25\)](#) The effort to keep the invasive quagga mussel out of Oregon may get help from legislators in the current session.

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

[House Passes Harder’s Swamp Rat Bill to Protect Farms and Waterways \(2/5/25\)](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Josh Harder’s bipartisan bill [[H.R.776](#)] to continue funding eradication efforts of nutria – the giant swamp rats with an exploding population that cause massive damage to crops, levees, and the Delta. The overwhelmingly bipartisan passage of the Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act comes as current funding is set to expire this year, and on the heels of the most captures in a single year in 2024

Federal: Appropriations

[Collins: Spending negotiations 'not going well' ahead of March shutdown cliff \(2/19/25\)](#)

Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins told reporters Wednesday afternoon that funding negotiations with Democrats “are not going well” as lawmakers stare down a government shutdown deadline in just over three weeks.

NOW WHAT: According to [E&E Daily](#) (2/20/25):

It usually takes congressional leaders at least a month to finalize a dozen annual funding bills after top appropriators strike an initial agreement on overall totals for the military and nondefense programs. But the Maine Republican and her fellow top appropriators have yet to strike that “toplines” deal to lay the groundwork for negotiating the details of the 12 bills — and the shutdown deadline on March 14 is quickly ticking closer. Given the time crunch, lawmakers are likely to fall back on at least a short-term stopgap next month, if not a “full-year” funding patch that would keep agencies running on current spending levels through September. As Democrats demand commitments that the Trump administration actually spend the money they enact, some lawmakers have begun to voice concerns that there's a higher chance of a shutdown this time around.

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

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

- [February 25-26, 2025](#)
- [March 11-12, 2025](#)
- [April 1-2, 2025](#)
- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

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

[Return to top](#)

- [February 25-27, 2025](#)
- [March 11-13, 2025](#)
- [April 1-3, 2025](#)
- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

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

- [March 4-6, 2025](#)
- [April 15-17, 2025](#)

[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

February

Feb. 24-27th, 2025 [INVASIVES 2025](#), ISCBC’s Annual Forum & AGM in New Westminster, B.C.! With early bird pricing through December 20th and [discounts for members](#), don’t miss the 20th anniversary of this special, in-person event!

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

March

[Oregon Invasive Species Council Business Meeting, March 4, 2025 Salem](#)

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, March 20, Olympia](#)

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

[Return to top](#)

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. Guest rooms are \$191/night in the room block which closes March 30, 2025. **Reserve a room using this [link](#) and 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 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.

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

[Return to top](#)

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

TO UNSUBSCRIBE/SUBSCRIBE to the AIS NEWS email
sphillips@psmfc.org. AIS NEWS was compiled by Robyn Draheim
(robindraheim@gmail.com) and Stephen Phillips. Past issues of AIS NEWS
can be found @ <https://www.westernais.org/western-ais-news>
