



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

February 2, 2023

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## RECOMMENDED READING

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### [Sea vomit: Why DFO is worried about an invasive species with a disgusting name](#)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is asking fishermen to keep an eye out for an invasive species in the Bay of Fundy — one that has an unforgettable nickname.

Pancake batter tunicate — more commonly known by its colloquial name sea vomit — has been spotted on the east coast of North America since 1982. The species is a creamy white colour, is slimy to the touch and is native to the ocean around Japan. It's only been confirmed north of the U.S. border since 2013, but there is some evidence the invasive species is growing more prevalent in New Brunswick waters.

Claire Goodwin, a research scientist at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in Saint Andrews, said at first researchers would only find small samples of the species, but the samples have grown in size [\[cont.\]](#)

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing its [intent to develop a Supplemental Notice to the Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance](#) proposed rule. EPA anticipates that the Supplemental Notice will provide clarification on the proposed rule, share new ballast water data that EPA is receiving from the U.S. Coast Guard, and discuss additional regulatory options EPA is considering for the final rule. EPA intends to sign the Supplemental Notice in the Fall of 2023 and make it available for public comment in the Federal Register shortly thereafter. During the comment period, EPA will solicit comments specific to the issues identified in the Supplemental Notice. EPA anticipates that the final rule addressing public comments received on both the proposed rule and the Supplemental Notice will be signed for publication in the Fall of 2024. This schedule will be reflected in the 2023 Spring Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda.

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Information on the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) and EPA's proposed rule are available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/commercial-vessel-discharge-standards>

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a 60-day public comment period to provide an opportunity for the public to give input and recommendations on the implementation of any provision contained in the WRDA of 2022.

Additionally, the ASA(CW) and USACE will host a series of virtual public listening sessions where participants can provide input and recommendations on the implementation of any WRDA 2022 provision. The public may attend the virtual listening sessions via Webex meeting <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/WRDA2022> or by phone (Phone Number: 844-800-2712, Code: 199 937 4287) on the days and times listed below.

- February 15, 2023 - 2:00-4:00 pm Eastern
- February 22, 2023 - 2:00-4:00 pm Eastern
- March 1, 2023 - 2:00-4:00 pm Eastern

The public comment period will be held from **January 20 through March 21, 2023**. You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID No. COE-2023-0002, by any of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov/>

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## NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

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Want to get more new species alerts?

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

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

[Arizona] [\*Potamopyrgus antipodarum\* \(New Zealand mudsnail\)](#) was found in Verde River at Box Car Recreation Area [[USGS NAS](#)] and Salt River near the N Bush Highway [[USGS NAS](#)] and Colorado River at Davis Camp [[USGS NAS](#)]

[California] [\*Corbicula fluminea\* \(Asian clam\)](#) was found in Mojave Narrows Horseshoe lake on the shore [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Pectinatella magnifica\* \(magnificent bryozoan\)](#) was found in Coyote Creek [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Alternanthera philoxeroides\* \(alligatorweed\)](#) was found in Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Lepomis cyanellus\* \(Green Sunfish\)](#) was found in Tomales-Drake Bays [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Hawaii] [\*Cyperus difformis\* \(smallflower umbrella sedge\)](#) was found on Kauai [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Landoltia punctata\* \(dotted duckweed\)](#) was found in Maui [[USGS NAS](#)]

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[Nevada] [\*Cherax quadricarinatus\* \(Australian redclaw crayfish\)](#) was found in a pond in Clark County Wetlands Park [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Ohio] [\*Dreissena polymorpha\* \(zebra mussel\)](#) was found in Lake Lakengren [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Oregon] [\*Procambarus clarkii\* \(Red Swamp Crayfish\)](#) was found in Sutherlin Creek [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Marsilea mutica\* \(Australian water-clover\)](#) was found in the Middle Rogue [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Texas] [\*Alternanthera philoxeroides\* \(alligatorweed\)](#) was found in Elm Fork Trinity [[USGS NAS](#)]

[\*Nymphoides humboldtiana\* \(Humboldt's floating-heart\)](#) was found in Aransas Bay [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Utah] [\*Amphilophus labiatus\* \(red devil\)](#) was found in the Southern Great Salt Lake Desert drainage [[USGS NAS](#)]

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## WATCH LIST

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### 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@dfp-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:AISPACIoFIC@dfp-mpo.gc.ca)
- Washington: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and report suspect crabs here <http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab>

[5 invasive pests to look out for in WA and how to report sightings](#)

[Destructive forest pest, the emerald ash borer, arrives in Oregon; public asked to report sightings](#)

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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[Plymouth startup AntiMussel is tackling Lake Michigan's zebra mussel problem \(1/3/23\)](#) "The innovation here is the process of removal (of the mussels), processing and

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the end product,” Rezachek said. “We normally get calcium carbonate from rocks. The process right now is mining big rocks, smashing them into a really fine powder, putting it into a pill form, and selling it. The rocks they’re mining are limestone, which are several million year old seashells. In my mind, you can just skip that million years and we can pull them off the lake.”

[County to hold virtual forum on how to respond in case of invasive mussel introduction \(1/26/23\)](#) The Lake County Water Resources Department, partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and consultants at Creative Resource Strategies, invites the public to attend a virtual forum to discuss how the county will respond in the event invasive quagga or zebra mussels become introduced or established in Clear Lake.

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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[Bellingham WA says boat inspections kept invasives out of lakes in 2022 \(1/23/23\)](#) Whatcom County Public Works says its boat inspection program successfully kept invasive species out of local lakes in 2022.

[Wyoming Game and Fish: Help wanted \(1/24/23\)](#) Responding to a higher threat from aquatic invasive species, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has increased the department’s 2023 budget by more than \$400,000 to hire additional employees and purchase equipment to respond to the fight to keep zebra mussels out of Wyoming waterways.

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[New Zealand calls foul \(1/18/23\)](#) A fourth cruise ship has been refused entry into a port in New Zealand due to fouling on the hull, a trend that may spread worldwide.

[US EPA VIDA: What you need to know for 2023 \(1/25/23\)](#) When finalized, this new rule will streamline the current patchwork of federal, state, and local requirements that apply to the commercial vessel community and better protect US waters.

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## MARINE

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[Invasive green crab presence remains on Olympic Peninsula \(1/11/23\)](#) Record numbers found in Neah Bay, spotted in Discovery Bay

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[All hands on deck to slow spread of European green crab \(1/21/23\)](#) We need management and funding to support a coordinated effort with boots on the ground.

[Fish and houseguests: Shoalwater Bay Tribe pushes back against green crab \(1/27/23\)](#) Richard Ashley, part of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's Department of Natural Resources, resets a crab trap as members of the department remove of European green crabs.

Beshai, R.A., Truong, D.A., Henry, A.K. et al. Biotic resistance or invasional meltdown? Diversity reduces invasibility but not exotic dominance in southern California epibenthic communities. *Biol Invasions* 25, 533–549 (2023).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02932-1>

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## AQUACULTURE

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[Kelp farms could help reduce coastal marine pollution \(1/18/23\)](#) The water-filtering abilities of farmed kelp could help reduce marine pollution in coastal areas, according to a new University of Alaska Fairbanks-led [study](#).

[Plan outlines First Nations-led salmon farming transition in BC \(1/19/23\)](#) The report, called [BC Salmon Aquaculture Transition: Then & Now](#), also outlines how the sector's deep history of innovation supports the federal government's vision for BC aquaculture, reconciliation, food security, the blue economy and climate friendly protein production.

[As sea lice feast away on dwindling salmon, First Nations decide the fate of salmon farms \(1/19/23\)](#) Concerned about the future of the Pacific salmon—an economically, ecologically, and culturally vital fish in the region—the Mamalilikulla, 'Namgis and Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations began their decades-long struggle to get rid of salmon farms from wild salmon migratory routes.

[Government of Canada finds “no statistically relevant association” between sea lice and the production of farmed salmon \(1/25/23\)](#) Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) have published a peer-reviewed science response report that concludes that sea lice on farmed salmon does not impact sea lice levels on wild juvenile salmon in British Columbia.

[Virus plus microplastics equal double whammy for fish health \(1/23/23\)](#) “Our study shows there is an interaction between microplastics and IHNV. What we don't know yet is how this interaction is playing out in aquaculture or wild environments, which will ultimately depend on the amount of plastic pollution and IHNV in any given area.”

Evans Seeley, M. et al. (2023), Microplastics exacerbate virus-mediated mortality in fish. *Science of The Total Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.161191>

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[Opinion: Biden needs to help California fishers in our dispute over dangerous fish farms \(1/25/23\)](#) This spring, we're joining Californians across the state in calling on the federal government to protect our local ocean ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

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## FRESHWATER

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[Invasive snails become gourmet meal in Wisconsin episode of cooking show \(1/11/23\)](#) Minneapolis chef Yia Vang and Titus Sielheimer, a fisheries outreach specialist for the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant... filmed themselves harvesting and cooking up Chinese mystery snails in northern Wisconsin.

[B.C. ice fishers asked to carefully clean equipment to avoid spreading invasive species \(1/16/23\)](#) "You may think because it's cold, frozen or dead that invasives are dominant, and the impacts may slip your mind this time of year, but invasive species can be spread from one body of water to the next even in winter"

[Wisconsin DNR: Investigation into invasive crayfish distribution ends with convictions \(1/20/23\)](#) Nearly 150 citations were issued at the conclusion of an investigation into wholesalers after Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources officials say invasive crayfish were illegally distributed.

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## FISH

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[Rivers in the Sky: How Atmospheric Rivers Impact Fish Communities \(1/16/23\)](#) Native fish species may also be better adapted to these flashy environments and atmospheric river conditions, giving them a leg up over non-native species that are not as accustomed to these conditions.

[Anglers asked to catch Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt for reward \(1/25/23\)](#) The Lake Roosevelt co-managers (Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) have been working to remove northern pike.

Poole, A. S., Koel, T. M., Zale, A. V., & Webb, M. A. H. (2022). Rotenone induces mortality of invasive Lake Trout and Rainbow Trout embryos. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 00, 1– 1. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tafs.10394>

Werner, J.P., Dean, Q.J., Pegg, M.A. et al. Patterns in spatial use and movement of Silver Carp among tributaries and main-stem rivers: insight from otolith microchemistry analysis. Biol Invasions 25, 471–484 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02927-y>

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## AQUATIC PLANTS

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[Searching for the Missing Pieces of the Invasive Plants Puzzle \(1/11/23\)](#) [There] is currently a lack of comprehensive knowledge on how many invasive plant species there are in the world and where they have already invaded.

Ren, G., Du, Y., Yang, B. et al. Influence of precipitation dynamics on plant invasions: response of alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) and co-occurring native species to varying water availability across plant communities. *Biol Invasions* 25, 519–532 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02931-2> [\$]

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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[Scientists move seabirds in hopes of protecting the species \(1/18/23\)](#) The potential danger — and debate — lies in what humans cannot predict. Humanity has been moving species around for centuries, often accidentally, and sometimes causing great harm.

[Researchers seek statewide changes to save clam fishery from climate-driven collapse \(1/30/23\)](#) Warming weather has kept clam predators like green crabs active, and a slow response to possible solutions has led to frustrations

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[The IMC's Great Lakes Experimental Mussel Suppression Site Screening Tool \(GLEMST\)](#) allows users to compare potential locations for applied research and management activities by reviewing data that includes fish spawning and nursery habitat, native mussel habitat, water intake infrastructure, threatened and endangered fish species, and distribution of nuisance algae. A detailed report describing the development of the tool and the various inputs can be accessed [here](#).

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## OTHER

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Barrios-Garcia, M.N., Gonzalez-Polo, M., Simberloff, D. et al. Wild boar rooting impacts soil function differently in different plant community types. *Biol Invasions* 25, 583–592 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02936-x> [\$]

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## JOBS/GRANTS

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### Jobs

#### [Vessel Incidental Discharge Act \(VIDA\) Section Lead - Environmental Planner 5 - Perm - \\*01359-23 Full-Time/Permanent Fish Program WDFW](#)

Olympia, Washington – Thurston County

Help prevent the introduction of, and early detection monitoring of, marine and freshwater Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) transported into or spread within the state through multiple pathways. Lead the VIDA Section of the AIS Unit and serve as the Department expert and strategic advisor to the AIS Unit Manager on statewide VIDA planning, policies, and state and federal laws. Please note: This recruitment is posted until filled, with a **first review of applications to take place on February 9, 2023**. 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.

#### [King County: Noxious Weed Control Specialist I Field Assistant](#)

Hourly Work Location: Seattle Regional Area

Job Type: Short-Term Temporary (STT), April-October 2023 DEPARTMENT: DNRP - Natural Resources & Parks King County's Noxious Weed Control Program Unit is currently seeking three candidates for the position of Field Assistant. The King County Noxious Weed Control Program works to prevent and reduce the economic, environmental and social impacts of noxious weeds in King County. The program's focus is to achieve voluntary control of listed noxious weeds through education and technical assistance to landowners.

**Closes February 12, 2023**

Oregon Department Of Agriculture is issuing a Request For Proposals (RFP) under Oregon Buys Bid Number S-60300-00005425 for

#### [Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator](#)

Date of Issue: January 26, 2023

**Opening Date and Time: February 23, 2023, 3:00pm**

#### [City of Boulder, CO: Lead Boat Inspector/cashier, Full Time](#)

Summary:

Under the general supervision of the Recreation Program Manager provides consistent education to patrons about our Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program, performs watercraft inspections and decontaminations (WID), and monitors and updates ANS program related data. Provides exceptional customer service, performs cash handling duties and registration system functions. Assists in facility operations and performs related duties as required.

Job Description:

Provides consistent education to patrons and the community about the Aquatics Nuisance Species (ANS) program. This includes the following:

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Conducts incoming and outgoing inspections on ALL watercraft and inflatables to ensure they clean, drained, and dry.

[The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council](#) is a non-profit organization based in the East Kootenays, who builds partnerships and supports collaborative projects on the ground, and in natural and applied science, policy research with outreach and education to protect our forests, fields, gardens, waterways and cities from the damaging effects of invasive species.

- **Field Operations Coordinator**

The Field Operations Coordinator will coordinate + conduct fieldwork to mitigate the impacts of invasive species within the East Kootenays. This position will be the technical lead regarding terrestrial invasive species identification, impacts, management options, + restoration techniques.

**Deadline to apply is Feb 10**

Application to: [katie@ekisc.com](mailto:katie@ekisc.com)

- **Invasive Species Field Assistant**

The Invasive Species Field Assistants are our boots on the ground WEED WARRIORS! Pulling, conducting inventories, reseeding, researching, lake monitoring, data collecting and so much more, all to help reduce invasive impacts throughout the East Kootenays

**Deadline to apply is Mar 24**

Application to: [emma@ekisc.com](mailto:emma@ekisc.com)

- **Invasive Species Education Assistant**

The Invasive Species Education Assistants are the FACE of EKISC! Raising awareness across the East Kootenays about the negative impacts of invasive species through workshops, courses, interpretive walks + events!

**Deadline to apply is Mar 24**

Application to: [megan@ekisc.com](mailto:megan@ekisc.com)

### [SCA: Invasive Species Strike Team Member](#)

Morris, Minnesota, United States

This position will be part of a four member crew comprising the Morris-Big Stone Strategic Weed Assault Team (SWAT). The crew will be dedicated solely to mapping and treating invasive plant species in high quality and highly threatened prairies across the project area. Work will take place on National Wildlife Refuge System Lands in Morris Wetland Management District, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge/Wetland Management District, and Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

Expected Dates: June 12, 2023 - September 29, 2023

### [Invasive Species Strike Team Technician](#)

#### [Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership \(CRISP\)](#)

Arkville, New York, United States (Hybrid)

We are seeking 4 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. These seasonal Technicians are anticipated to work 37.5 hours/week for 14 weeks, beginning mid-May. The Terrestrial Strike Team will focus control efforts on terrestrial plants and animals.

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The Aquatic Strike Team will focus efforts in and around lakes, rivers, and streams, working from boats or shore in waders or similar gear.

#### [Biotech Crew Member \(NPS Invasive Species Early Detection\)](#)

Great Basin Institute Ashland, Oregon, United States (On-Site)

The Great Basin Institute is working cooperatively with the National Park Service Klamath Network (KLMN) Inventory & Monitoring (I&M) program to recruit a Biotech Crew Member for invasive species early detection. The overall objective is to perform surveys of park roads and trails and make observations of invasive species within the Klamath Network parks: Crater Lake National Park (Crater Lake), Lava Beds National Monument (Lava Beds), Lassen Volcanic National Monument (Lassen), Oregon Caves National Monument and Reserve (Oregon Caves), Redwood National and State Parks (Redwood), and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (Whiskeytown), located throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Data collected will contribute to a multi year dataset aimed at detecting status and trends in park invasive species and is intended to provide decision-makers with location data of prioritized invasive species. Training and oversight will be provided for all duties.

#### [Invasive Species Member, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex American Conservation Experience](#)

Shirley, New York, United States (On-Site)

American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit conservation corps, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking TWO Shorebird Monitoring and Biology Support Members to contribute to the biology program alongside Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Staff.

For more information about ACE, please visit: [www.usaconservation.org](http://www.usaconservation.org).

Start Date: May 22, 2023 Estimated End Date: September 22, 2023

#### [Natural Resources Technician \(Invasive Species Management\) Jefferson County Colorado](#)

Jefferson County Open Space is currently hiring limited-term Natural Resources Technicians to assist with our invasive species management program. The Natural Resources Technicians assist with invasive species management on JCOS Parks and properties by safely operating light and heavy equipment, and hand tools during implementation of invasive species management projects; mixing, loading, and applying herbicides using motorized and/or hand-held equipment; following requirements and regulations of local, county, state, and federal weed control programs, including all requirements relative to pesticide storage, mixing, application, and disposal; collecting vegetation field data; and, working effectively as part of a team in challenging conditions and remote locations. These are limited-term positions with projected start and end dates of April 11th and October 27th, 2023. These positions are eligible for personal medical coverage the first of the month after you start.

#### [Cattail Treatment Research Technician](#)

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

Bemidji, Minnesota, United States (On-Site)

The DNR is currently seeking a temporary Natural Resources Technician. The technician will assist with a research project evaluating vegetative responses and responses by waterfowl after cattails are treated in Minnesota wetlands. Invasive cattails form dense monotypic stands, displacing native aquatic plants and impacting fish, amphibians, and wetland birds via changing habitat structure and displacing food resources. A common management goal to benefit waterfowl is a 50:50 ratio of emergent vegetation to open water (“hemi-marsh”). The technician will assist the Research Scientist 2 and other project personnel in field and lab work, including conducting waterfowl pair surveys, invertebrate sampling, waterfowl brood surveys, and emergent vegetation surveys. The position will be based at the Wetlands Research Group office in Bemidji, MN, with travel to field sites. The anticipated dates for this temporary position are April 3, 2023 through September 29, 2023.

[Invasive Species Member Rydell and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuges American Conservation Experience](#)

Erskine, Minnesota, United States (On-Site)

American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking one Invasive Species Member to contribute to work alongside Rydell and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge Staff. During this term, the ACE members will work on meaningful conservation projects such as invasive species inventory and removal.

Start Date: May 2023 Estimated End Date: September/October 2023

## Grants

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, on behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is soliciting proposals for interagency agreement funding to support response to the ongoing [European green crab emergency](#). Please visit <https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/> for more information about the available funding for public agencies. **(Rolling deadline until funds fully allocated)** For more information on European green crab and the state response, please visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas> and <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters>

USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS [Related Opportunities]

[R9 BIL High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects \(Non-Federal Lands\)](#)

[Department of Agriculture](#)

Forest Service

**Closes 2/3/23**

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's (BIL) broader ecosystem restoration objective, the non-federal lands portion of the invasive species provision enables the USDA-Forest Service, States, and other agencies to strategically sustain the health of forest ecosystems or tree species with high ecological value by taking stronger action in the early phases of the invasion curve at regional or sub-regional scales and at points of

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entry. Specifically, we aim to work collaboratively to scale-up the implementation of management actions in the field for the prevention of introductions or spread, prevention of damage, early detection of introductions, rapid response and eradication of invasive forest insects, worms, pathogens, and plants. It is expected that new projects will be complementary to existing cooperative and federal forest health protection programs and will sustain high value forest ecosystems or tree species (see, e.g., multi-state priority areas identified in State Forest Action Plans (SFAPs) or Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance, Forest Health Committee (NMSFA FHC) 2021 priority needs document).

[John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program, Coastal Management Fellowship Program & NMFS-SG Fellowship](#)

**Applications are due by February 16, 2023 5:00 PM PT.**

California Sea Grant is now accepting applications for three fellowship programs:  
2024 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program

The Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

The program, which is sponsored by NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program, matches highly qualified graduate students with hosts in the legislative and executive branches of government located in the Washington, D.C. area for a one-year paid fellowship.

To apply, please visit the [California Sea Grant website](#) (or your local Sea Grant program if not in California).

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## LEGISLATION

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### Advocacy

[Conservation and science organizations call for implementation improvements for infrastructure funding \(1/20/23\)](#)

.....On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations, scientific societies, and businesses contributing to the \$862 billion outdoor recreation economy write to express our continued commitment to working closely with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on implementation of the landmark Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

### State/Provincial

#### **68th Montana State Legislature**

Helena welcomes Montana's 100 representatives and 50 senators to the Capitol City. Information about the session can be found here - [Session Information](#)

Bills MISC [[Montana Invasive Species Council](#)] is following:

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- HB 34 - [Exempt certain DNRC grants from MEPA](#)
- HB 84 - [Revise laws related to treatment of garbage fed to swine](#)
- HB 86 - [Remove sunset from MT Wildlife Habitat Improvement Act \(WHIP\)](#)
- HB 93 - [Eliminate noxious weed seed free forage advisory council](#)
- SB 28 - [Provide funding for conservation districts](#)
- SB 83 - [Create western Montana Conservation Commission](#)
- SB 88 - [Exempt lifetime fishing licenses for the blind from AIS pass](#)

Unintroduced bills still in draft form

- LC 0230 - Transfer Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act to DNRC
- LC 1721 - Generally revise pesticide disposal laws
- LC 1853 - Generally revise aquatic invasive species laws
- LC 3469 - Referendum to repeal Art. IX, section 6 of MT Constitution
- LC 3470 - Make Art. IX, sec 6 of MT Constitution statutory
- LC 3999 - Revise laws related to certain mussels
- LC 4265 - Generally revise aquatic invasive species funding laws

## Federal: Executive

### **EPA and Army Publish Final WOTUS Rule (1/18/23)**

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army) published a final rule in the Federal Register which will become effective on March 20, 2023: [Final Rule Notice: Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States” \(pdf\) \(1.54 MB\)](#)

[\\$7.1 Million Awarded To Fight Invasive Species And Recover Rare Native Plants And Wildlife in Hawaii \(1/30/23\)](#) The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Integration Program (REPI) is awarding Hawai'i \$7,123,851 for restoration and recovery projects on O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island

## Federal: Congressional

### [Stefanik Reintroduces Bipartisan Bill to Combat Invasive Species \(1/19/23\)](#)

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik reintroduced the Stamp Out Invasive Species Act [[HR 210](#)] to help combat and raise awareness about the threat invasive species pose to Upstate New York and North Country ecosystems.

RAWA: [The US was poised to pass the biggest environmental law in a generation. What went wrong? \(1/11/23\)](#)

Recovering America's Wildlife Act died last year in Congress, but lawmakers may soon get another shot.

[House passes bill to end coronavirus-era telework policies for executive agencies \(2/1/23\)](#)

The House on Wednesday passed a bill [[HR 139](#)] that would force executive agencies to end teleworking policies implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, ordering the entities to revert back to plans in place in 2019.

Federal: Appropriations

[Zinke lands on powerful House Appropriations Committee \(1/11/23\)](#)

Western Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke will serve the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, making him the state's first congressman to do so in nearly two decades. The Appropriations Committee regulates federal spending in the House. That power of the purse makes it one of four Class A committees whose membership was announced before Class B appointments this session. The last Montanan selected for Appropriations was Republican Denny Rehberg in the 2000s. Rehberg's committee advancement preceded a U.S. Senate candidacy in 2012.

**Top House appropriator Mike Simpson says the Interior Department and EPA should prepare for some big spending cuts (1/31/23).**

According to [E&E Daily](#):

The Idaho Republican will chair the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, a position he last held after Republicans retook the House during the Obama administration. And although he said cuts were certainly expected with GOP in control of the House, he brushed off the idea House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) agreed to slash spending to fiscal 2022 levels as "rumors and stuff." "We don't know yet what those [cuts] are going to be," Simpson said during an interview last week.

**Related:** [Meet the House GOP's appropriations 'cardinals': The 12 subcommittee chairs who'll have big power of the purse in the new Congress \(1/11/23\)](#).

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EVENTS

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Archived Events:

[1/19/23 Invasive Mussel Collaborative Webinar: Lessons Learned and Alternative Management](#)

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## Ongoing Training Opportunities:

### Watercraft Inspection Training

#### Virtual:

- Virtual WIT or Level 1 – Inspector Training (2 days - 8 am – Noon PST)  
<https://www.westernais.org/level-1-inspector-training>
- WIT or Level 2 – Inspector & Decon Training (3 days – 8 am – Noon PST)  
3 classes available in 2023  
<https://www.westernais.org/level-2>
- WIT or Level 3 – Trainer Training (3 days- 9 am – 4pm PST)  
3 classes available in 2023  
<https://www.westernais.org/le>

#### In-Person:

May 2-4 – North Dakota

Classes do fill up quickly and registrations will close, so if you are planning to attend or send students, it is recommended to get registrations in soon.

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)

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Training Announcement

Train the Trainer: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species.

This course will be held April 4-5, 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the USFWS Regional Office, 5th Floor Conference Room.

Course Description: HACCP Train the Trainer: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning is a structured process that assesses a natural resource management activity, identifies possible risks, and facilitates removal or reduction of non-target species. HACCP is a five-step process of 1) Activity Description, 2) Activity Flow Chart, 3) Identify potential Non-Targets, 4) Non-Target Analysis Worksheet, and the 5) Non-target Risk Assessment Plan (NTRAP). This course will provide participants with the tools (instructional, presentation and classroom management skills) needed to deliver a HACCP course.

Prerequisite: It is required that you have taken the 2-day HACCP course. There are several courses planned prior to this training, and there may be an opportunity to complete this prerequisite prior to the training. Please contact Barak Shemai to inquire.

To Register: Email [barak\\_shemai@fws.gov](mailto:barak_shemai@fws.gov) with the following information: Name, Agency, Work Location, contact phone number, and contact email.

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## [DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

### [PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

[InvasivesU – NAISMA](#) - InvasivesU is NAISMA's exclusive online learning library intended to provide professionals, students, and interested individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent and manage invasive species in North America. NAISMA experts have thoughtfully curated and developed this content, especially for you!

## Calendar of Events

### February

The virtual [Invasive Species Forum](#) is an annual event that brings attention to invasive species issues, research, and advances in prevention and management occurring across Canada, and in neighbouring U.S. States. Mark your calendars for the 2023 Invasive Species Forum, taking place from February 7 to 9.

Northwest Pike Coordination Forum – Virtual Information Session February 13, 2023  
Zoom Meeting 9 am to 12 PM Pacific ID: 847 0492 3903 Passcode: 712474  
For Information Contact Alison Squier 208-367-9366,  
[Alison@Zijicreativeresources.com](mailto:Alison@Zijicreativeresources.com)

[Northeast Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change \(RISCC\) Symposium](#) February 14-15, 2023; Virtual meeting

North American Invasive Species Management Association Webinar Series  
February 15, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CST: [Webinar: Miller Creek Watershed Restoration: The Value of Partnership During a Pandemic](#)

Mississippi River Science Forum, February 15-16, 2023, hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey! This meeting will be virtual, and a more formal invitation and agenda will be sent out at a later date. The Mississippi River is a multi-faceted, complex resource in the United States that needs a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address science and management needs.

Because the Forum is a Microsoft Teams Live event, there will be no formal registration. Here are the links to each day's venues:

[Day 1 - February 15, noon to 5pm, central time](#)

[Day 2 - February 16, 9am to 5pm, central time](#)

[USGS Research on Invasive Species: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Effects of Climate Change on Invasive Species](#) February 21, 2023 @ 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm CDT.

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## March

Registration is now open for the first annual [Western AIS \(Aquatic Invasive Species\) Short Course!](#) This annual AIS Short Course provides a vital bridge between landowners, aquatics professionals, researchers, and aquatics contractors. We are pleased to announce that our inaugural course will be held at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown in Missoula, Montana on March 7th - 8th, 2023. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days, as well as complimentary swag with each guest registration.

### VIRTUAL SUMMIT MARCH 8, 2023 10AM-1PM PACIFIC TIME

#### Developing Solutions to Mitigate Risks

This 3-hour summit will identify gaps and issues and set the stage to develop strategies and actions to minimize risks posed by aquatic plants and pets in commerce. Expert presenters and panelists will share information on e-commerce, monitoring and inspection, labeling and recordkeeping, regulations and enforcement, voluntary industry standards, and outreach associated with plants and animals in trade. The summit will conclude with the launch of seven work groups from industry and government to focus on key gaps that contribute to the spread of AIS in commerce as well as potential solutions to address those gaps.

Learn more about the project here: <https://www.aisincommerce.org/>

North American Invasive Species Management Association Webinar Series

March 15, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT: Webinar: [Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species through PlayCleanGo and WorkCleanGo](#)

The next meeting of the [Pacific Ballast Water Group \(PBWG\)](#) will be March 28-29, at the DoubleTree, Seattle Airport. We anticipate the meeting starting at 9:00 am PDT on Tuesday, March 28 and ending ~ @ 12 pm on Wednesday March 29.

The meeting will have a virtual option.

Registration and Hotel details will be coming shortly.

Agenda recommendations are welcome. Email [Amy Stark](#) for details.

## April

[Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium \(UERC\) 2023 Symposium](#) 21st Annual Urban Ecology Symposium 2023. Hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium. Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Portland, Oregon

## May

[11th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions](#) May 15 – 19, 2023; Baltimore, Maryland

## June

## July

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[32nd PNWER Annual Summit](#) July 16 – 20, Boise, ID

### August

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

[American Fisheries Society 153rd Annual Meeting](#) August 20-24, 2023 | Grand Rapids, Michigan

### September

[Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 113th Annual Meeting](#) September 24-27, 2023; Calgary, Alberta

### October

2023 Montana Lakes Conference, October 18-20. The theme for the conference is "[Montana Lakes at Risk; Challenges and Opportunities.](#)" Whitefish, MT

### November

[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation \(CERF\) 2023: Resilience & Recovery](#) Portland, Oregon, USA | 12–16 November 2023

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