



Aquatic Invasive Species News

February 28, 2024

[RECOMMENDED READING](#) * [PUBLIC COMMENT](#) * [NEW SPECIES](#) * [WATCH LIST](#) *
[DREISSENID 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](#)

Going on Now: February 26, 2024 - March 1, 2024 [National Invasive Species Awareness Week](#)

RECOMMENDED READING:

[A Hard Look at Environmental DNA](#)

Paul Zajicek and Nathan Stone

As the costs of DNA analysis have decreased, scientists have increasingly used it for species identification, biomonitoring, disease pathogen detection (e.g., Bass et al. 2023), and for identifying whole community assemblages. Many publications by research scientists now call for resource managers to embrace and adopt eDNA tools to supplement or replace traditional monitoring methods. There is no doubt that eDNA is a phenomenal advancement in science with incredible potential. At the same time, the global aquaculture community should take a hard look at eDNA and fully understand the benefits and limitations, as there are considerable uncertainties associated with eDNA sampling and interpretation....

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

[White House National Science and Technology Council Unveils New Aquaculture Plan, First in 40 Years - Public invited to comment on the National Aquaculture Development Plan through April 5, 2024.](#)

For the first time since 1983, the United States is releasing an updated National Aquaculture Development Plan. It will strengthen U.S. commitment to food security, climate resilience, and the protection of threatened and endangered marine and freshwater species

[Return to top](#)

In a changing climate, aquaculture is becoming increasingly important as a climate-smart and healthy means of food production. Seafood farming, if done responsibly—as it is in the United States—is one of the most environmentally sustainable ways to produce healthy food.

In addition to providing a sustainable source of American-raised seafood, aquaculture plays an important role in fisheries restoration. Hatchery-reared fish (seedstock and fingerlings) are released into the wild to help bolster populations of wild marine species. Aquaculture has helped more than 70 endangered or threatened species, including Pacific Salmon, white abalone, and queen conch. In addition, it's helped restore habitats and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The National Science and Technology Council, Subcommittee on Aquaculture, is soliciting comments on the draft Overview of the *National Aquaculture Development Plan*. It includes three strategic plans.

Two of them, the *Strategic Plan to Enhance Regulatory Efficiency in Aquaculture* and the *National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Research*, were completed and published in 2022. The third plan, the draft *Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development*, is now out for public comment.

Once finalized, together these four documents will comprise an updated National Aquaculture Development Plan that provides a holistic framework describing how federal agencies are advancing the contributions of aquaculture to support public health and nutrition, resilient communities, a strong economy, and a healthy planet.

The 45-day comment period for the draft *Aquaculture Development Plan*, including the draft *Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development*, is open through April 5, 2024.

Comments can be submitted to AquacultureEcoDev@usda.gov.

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>

Dreissenids:

Other:

[Return to top](#)

WATCH LIST

- 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.

[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](#)
[Cover your ash: Keep an eye out for the emerald ash borer in Washington](#)

[Invasive oak borer beetle worries Oregon forestry officials](#)

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[Assessing Pollution in the Great Lakes Through Quagga Mussel Analysis \(1/31/24\)](#) When scientists from NOAA’s National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) examined invasive quagga mussels in Wisconsin’s Milwaukee Estuary, they discovered impacts from pollution on the metabolism of the mussels.

[Okanagan water board need not be lone voice on invasive mussel threat \(2/2/24\)](#) We don’t have to imagine what a walk on an Okanagan Lake beach would be like covered in up to two feet of sharp dead mussel shells washed up on the shore, as that reality already exists across North America. [Related: BC under threat from invasive mussels as provincial funding scales back \(2/4/24\)](#) [Fed's mussel funding appreciated but insufficient, OBWB says \(2/20/24\)](#)

[Invasive Zebra Mussels: A growing concern for Texas lakes and water systems \(2/20/24\)](#) “They attach to all of these structures within the lakes that proves to be very expensive for cities and

[Return to top](#)

counties for water districts to manage. But on top of that, they feed on the microscopic algae that naturally occurs in lakes. In many ways, outcompete some of the native fish.”

[TPWD launches awareness of zebra mussels, other invasive species \(2/23/24\)](#) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is encouraging Texans to take action against invasive species — including zebra mussels in Bell County lakes — that negatively impact the state’s natural resources and economy.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[ISDA looks to bolster water monitoring for invasive species \(1/30/24\)](#) The funds would pay for two additional watercraft decontamination stations, another roadside check station, improvements to existing stations, two additional full-time employees and 18 temporary staffers, enhanced surveillance, increased monitoring of water bodies and new equipment and public outreach, state Department of Agriculture director Chanel Tewalt said.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[High non-compliance rates found in treated ballast water in Australian ports \(2/5/24\)](#) Australia has submitted a study to IMO MEPC 81 on the effectiveness of ballast water management systems (BWMS) in relation to the BWM Convention, and non-compliance was observed for 36% (16) of detailed tests for biological compliance

MARINE

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Invasive European green crab could spell disaster for Washington’s seafood industry \(2/2/24\)](#) As Washington’s coastal Dungeness crab commercial season opens this week — a mean, green menace continues to threaten to create a “crab crisis” in the Pacific Northwest.

[Join Washington's Crab Team in 2024!](#)

Washington Sea Grant's Crab Team monitors are gearing up for the 10th season of early detection and monitoring of invasive European green crab. Tracking green crab populations is an essential tool for effective management - and it's pretty fun!

[Despite attempts to control invasive green crabs in Oregon's coastal waters, researchers say "they are here to stay" \(2/15/24\)](#) These attributes make green crabs excellent survivors and formidable invaders, as well as a significant threat to the state's shellfish industry.

[Opinion: Return of sea otters could help reduce green crab invasion \(2/21/24\)](#) Bringing back sea otters to our state would help restore our ecosystem to its natural order. If reintroduced, they'd bolster our coastal ecosystems from invaders like green crabs and make our ocean more resilient. There's a lot of work to be done to conserve our ocean and our coast, and sea otters should play a part in that. Officials in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have the authority to bring otters back and must expedite their rulemaking to reintroduce them into their natural habitat.

AQUACULTURE

[Factually incorrect anti-salmon farming ads removed, again \(2/1/24\)](#) The ads by the anti-fish farming group Wild First claimed that wild Pacific salmon are "on the brink of extinction" and called for the removal of ocean salmon farms to protect wild Pacific salmon.

[First Nations group criticizes federal fish policies, conflict of interest in B.C. \(2/13/24\)](#) An Indigenous-led group is criticizing what it says is the "gross mismanagement" of aquaculture in British Columbia by the Fisheries Department, as it calls for a separation of its regulatory and promotional responsibilities.

[Cracking the Code: Scientists Use DNA to Examine Differences between Hatchery and Wild Chinook Salmon in Southeast Alaska \(2/14/24\)](#) Hatchery-reared salmon show genetic differences from wild populations in only a few generations, but those differences vary among hatcheries.

FRESHWATER

[\[Idaho\] Researchers work to protect Alpine Lake from invasive species \(2/8/24\)](#) [Podcast] Meanwhile, another invasive snail was recently discovered in the largest Alpine Lake in our region. The Mountain West News Bureau's Kaleb Roedel tagged along with researchers working to monitor – and control – the spread.

[Research reveals hope for managing invasive red swamp crayfish \(2/22/24\)](#) Originally from the southeastern U.S., the red swamp crayfish has become an unwelcomed world traveler. They have drained wetlands in Europe and ruined rice crop in Asia. These invasive crayfish are highly

[Return to top](#)

aggressive and mobile. Here in the U.S., they are commonly spread by unsuspecting aquarium-hobbyists or biology teachers releasing the unwanted pet into their backyard ponds and rivers. Despite the destructive nature of this species, we at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service haven't given up the fight.

[The less traveled pathways for species introduction to the Great Lakes \(2/23/24\)](#) While ballast water has been a major way species have entered the Great Lakes, it hasn't been the only way.

FISH

[Minnesota Releases 10-Year Carp Plan \(2/1/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources released its updated Invasive Carp Action Plan on January 18 for the next 10 years of prevention and management efforts in Minnesota. The announcement closely followed the biggest-ever capture of invasive carp in early December in Pool 6 of the Mississippi River near Trempeleau, Wis., across the river from Minnesota, when 410 fish were taken.

[Grand Canyon Under Threat From Invasive Species If Lake Powell Plan Fails \(2/13/24\)](#) The Bureau of Reclamation has proposed a new water plan to stop invasive fish in the Colorado River from wreaking havoc—but a conservation group has warned that it isn't enough.

[US Rivers Are Filling Up With Invasive Fish \(2/19/24\)](#) The rivers of the U.S. and other countries around the world are becoming more diverse and filling up with a wide range of invasive fish, but that may pose a threat to the "delicate balance" of native species, [a study](#) has found.

[Brown Trout Spring Bonanza March 1 through April 7, 2024 - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#) Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, in partnership with Glen Canyon Conservancy, is pleased to announce we are extending the Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest program. The program is expected to continue at least through this calendar year. The Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest program was begun so anglers could help manage and reduce the number of invasive brown trout in this stretch of the Colorado River.

Hopf, J., Davis, S., Graham, K. et al. Linking demographic and habitat suitability modelling identifies the environmental determinants of successfully controlling invasive common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in south-eastern Australia. *Biol Invasions* 26, 651–670 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03198-x> [\$]

AQUATIC PLANTS

[Invasive phragmites are needlessly sucking water out of Great Salt Lake \(2/1/24\)](#) “In 2016, there was a study that showed that phragmites coverage at that date used about 71,000 acre-feet of water and while you know native vegetation also uses water, it's considerably less water,” he

[Return to top](#)

said. Stireman said it's estimated the state could save tens of thousands of acre-feet of water by removing the invasive plant and replacing it with native vegetation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[Washington Governor Proclaims February 26 to March 3 Invasive Species Awareness Week \(2/6/24\)](#) Gov. Jay Inslee, in partnership with the Washington Invasive Species Council, has proclaimed February 26 through March 3 as Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week in solidarity with National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

[AquaDePTH-Aquatic Disease and Pathogen Repository](#)

The Aquatic Disease and Pathogen Repository (AquaDePTH) will be a public-facing national repository to support biosurveillance of aquatic animal diseases and pathogens. By collating historically published data, plus new aquatic pathogen and disease information, stakeholders will be able monitor fish kill and aquatic pathogen trends spatially and temporally in freshwater and marine environments. The USGS invites partners to engage in the development of this new repository by reaching out to the contacts listed here.

Schwindt, E., August, T.A., Vanderhoeven, S. et al. Overwhelming evidence galvanizes a global consensus on the need for action against Invasive Alien Species. *Biol Invasions* 26, 621–626 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03209-x>

OTHER

[Nature Doesn't Care Where a Species Is From \(2/2/24\)](#) A new study finds that large herbivores have the same impact on plant diversity whether they're native or introduced. Related: [Are Wyoming's Wild Horses As 'Invasive' As Cocaine Hippos And Australia's Camels?](#)

[Cats: Cuddly fluff balls or world's worst invasive species? \(2/2/24\)](#) [podcast] They're fluffy, cuddly – and sometimes deadly. Turns out cats are very good at killing things, all sorts of things:

[Return to top](#)

from birds to sea turtles – yes, they eat the eggs of sea turtles. And that’s something even devoted cat lovers need to think about.

[The bees learning to fight off invasive hornets \(2/9/24\)](#) It might seem to spell doom for the bees, with many wild populations already in decline. But a resistance is growing.

JOBS/GRANTS

New:

- *The Office of Personnel Management launched a [new portal](#) as part of USAJOBS for students interested in applying for internships at federal agencies, billed as a “one-stop shop” for those interested in exploring a career in government.*
- *Are you ready to make a contribution to fisheries of the West Coast? Begin your job search and application process by searching for [specific jobs at PSMFC](#)*

Jobs

[Oregon: ODFW Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist \(Invasive Species, Wildlife Integrity Supervisor\)](#) **Close Date: March 1, 2024**

This full time, permanent position is with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) located in Salem, Oregon.

Salary Range: \$5,409 - \$7,981

Position Type: Employee

Position Title: Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist (Invasive Species, Wildlife Integrity Supervisor)

Do you have experience managing invasive species and wildlife integrity programs? If so, this position may be for you! The Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is looking to fill a permanent, full-time Invasive Species, Wildlife Integrity Supervisor in Salem, Oregon.

Please contact Human Resources at 503-947-6051 with any questions.

[ISAN Outreach Coordinator: Apply by April 30, 2024](#)

[Open Call for Editors-in-Chief of Biological Invasions](#): Closing date: **1 March 2024 or until filled.**

The Editors-in-Chief are supported by a board of handling editors, a Journal Editorial Office, and a Publishing Editor at Springer Nature. The Editors-in-Chief make decisions on approximately 600 manuscripts each year and work together to shape the journal’s profile and strategic development. We value the diversity and wide range of perspectives that people from different backgrounds and areas of specialization bring to our journal. Biological Invasions is a strong supporter of students and early career researchers, including with the Daniel Simberloff awards for research presented at the Ecological Society of America meeting each year.

[Return to top](#)

About the positions: We are seeking two highly motivated, established ecologists with interest in biological invasions. The responsibilities of the editors will include working with Springer Nature to increase the visibility and reach of the journal in the scientific community.

An ideal candidate will have research experience and an interest in any areas of biological invasions. They will have an excellent publication record in their own field, multidisciplinary interests covering a range of ecological systems, and experience with the editorial process. They will be enthusiastic, interested in issues related to academic publishing, and committed to leading the growth of the journal and increasing the journal visibility and impact while maintaining high editorial standards.

To apply, please use this [form](#) attach your CV and a cover letter stating your interest in the position, proposed editorial goals, and editorial experience. If you have questions about this position, please contact the Publisher at Springer Nature, Janet Slobodien (Janet.Slobodien@springer.com).

[Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspector \(NM Dept Game and Fish\)](#)

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (State) | <https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

Application Deadline: 04/17/2024

Starting Date: between 4/13/2024 and 5/11/2024

Ending Date: between 8/2/2024 and 9/13/2024

Hours per Week: 40

Salary: \$17.80 to \$28.48 per hour

Education Required: High School Diploma

Experience Required: at least 2 years

Locations: Ute Lake (Logan, NM, New Mexico) [View Location](#)

Conchas Lake State Park (Conchas Dam, New Mexico)

[Fisheries Research Technician - Charleston, Illinois](#)

[Location: Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL](#)

When: Start date from April – June 2024, this is a full-time 12-month position and may be renewed annually depending on performance and funding availability.

Description: The Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at Eastern Illinois University is seeking a full-time research technician to lead various field and laboratory work related to applied research in fisheries and aquatic ecology. The position involves assisting with diverse projects such as studying invasive carp reproduction ecology, monitoring stream fish communities, and analyzing sportfish population dynamics along the Wabash River. Field work responsibilities include supporting graduate students in conducting fisheries surveys, recording biological and environmental data, and maintaining field equipment. Study locations span streams, the Wabash and Illinois Rivers, and reservoirs throughout Central Illinois. Survey methods include barge electrofishing, electric seining, larval fish sampling, boat electrofishing, hoop netting, water quality sample collection, and macroinvertebrate sampling. Laboratory work will involve processing larval fish samples, aiding in stream fish identification, assisting with fish aging, and maintaining a clean and organized workspace.

Salary and benefits: A salary of \$35,000 per year and a generous benefit package will be provided to the successful candidate. Benefits include health, dental, and eye insurance, as well

[Return to top](#)

as inclusion in the state of Illinois pension program. Leave time includes 24 vacation days, 10 sick days, and 12 university holidays per year.

To Apply: **For full consideration please apply by March 31st, 2024, however additional applicants may be considered until all positions are filled.**

Montana: AIS Watercraft Inspector - (24140323)

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

This position runs from late April through mid-September, with mandatory training in April. Hours of site operation will vary with length of daylight. Schedules will vary and include weekends, evenings, and holidays. Inspectors are responsible for their own transportation to either the duty station, or to the watercraft inspection station. The watercraft inspection station is located at the Troy Rest Area.

Mandatory Training for this position will be held on April 16th and 17th .

Station opening date: 4/20/2024

This position is open until filled.

Montana: AIS Watercraft Inspector - Roving Site Lead - (24140317)

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

This announcement looks to fill one seasonal position. This position will work at watercraft inspections stations across Montana. A department vehicle is provided, and overnight travel is required.

This position is open until filled.

Washington: Lake Chelan

Full-Time Seasonal AIS Watercraft Inspector

Department: County of Natural Resources

Application Deadline: **Position open until filled.**

Part-Time Seasonal AIS Watercraft Inspector (4 Positions)

Department: County of Chelan Natural Resources

Application Deadline: **Position open until filled.**

Research Ecologist, Fish Biologist, Wildlife Biologist (Assistant Unit Leader)

Department of the Interior – USGS

Open & closing dates: 02/06/2024 to 03/20/2024

As an Assistant Unit Leader of the Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, some of your specific duties will include:

Plans, conducts, and directs research related to quantitative analysis of wildlife ecology, fisheries ecology, or human ecological interactions.

Conducts research that is cooperator driven and provides scientific basis for management and policy decisions.

Serves as subject matter expert in fish and wildlife ecology, providing leadership and guidance to government and private agencies and university representatives through participation in meetings, conferences and work groups.

Disseminate research results via final reports, peer reviewed print scientific journals, online scientific journals, books, book chapters or other outlets. Make presentations on findings to scientific and conservation organizations.

Serves as graduate faculty member, contributing to both the research, graduate student mentorship, and teaching mission of the university.

Invasive Species Program Support Specialist

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

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

Application Deadline: 04/01/2024

Location: Sheridan, WY 82801, USA

Description

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

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

NALMS JEDI Internship

The intern will work with the NALMS Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee to support JEDI goals and incorporate those goals into the NALMS Strategic Plan. This will ensure JEDI priorities are embedded in the organization and promoted within the larger lake management community. To achieve this goal the intern will focus their efforts in these areas:

Organize ACCESS+ documents/exercise materials and help plan implementation steps

Update JEDI social media materials and create draft posts for activities or days of interest (ex. Lakeline JEDI articles, intern updates, heritage month posts, JEDI conference session updates)

Work with Host Committee for educational opportunities at the 2024 conference in Tahoe

Initiate activities for the 2025 conference in South Carolina

Assist with revising strategic plan

Act as liaison with Student programming and get JEDI solidified in mentorship program

To review steps NALMS is taking to further our JEDI goals, please visit the NALMS program website.

Supervision: Mark Rosenkranz, chair of the NALMS JEDI Program will be the primary supervisor. The intern will collaborate with other members of the North American Lake Management Society, including NALMS JEDI Program co-chairs Keiko Wilkins, Camille Mosley, and Vinicius Taguchi. A work plan will be developed with supervisors at the beginning of the summer.

Start and End Dates: May through November; schedule is flexible

Estimated hours: 400 hours (flexible weekly hours, up to a maximum of 400 total hours)

Compensation: \$18-\$20/hour

How to apply: Send cover letter, current resume, and contact information for three references as one pdf with your last name in the filename to jedi@nalms.org. You must be a resident of the US or Canada to apply.

Deadline: March 15, 2024

Wyoming Game & Fish Department Multiple openings:

- 2 [Biologist Technician Fisheries-Jackson](#) These seasonal positions will assist the regional fisheries management crew with all aspects of aquatic resource management activities. Positions will be based in Jackson, Wyoming.
- 26 [Seasonal Biologist Technician Fisheries-Statewide](#) These seasonal positions will assist fisheries management crews with all aspects of aquatic resource management activities. Positions will be based out of Casper, Cody, Green River, Lander, Laramie, Pinedale, and Sheridan, Wyoming.
- 3 [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Specialist-Statewide](#) These regional positions implement the AIS program to protect the state's aquatic resources and infrastructure from the introduction of AIS.

Grants

QZAP: The [Funding Opportunity for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife QZAP FY2024](#) has officially been posted. The total funding amount for projects is approximately \$2,200,000.00, which is similar to last year. There has been significant change in the application process over the past three years, resulting from our transition to [GrantSolutions.gov](https://grantsolutions.gov). This opportunity will be open for application through **April 15, 2024**. Applications will need to be submitted through grantsolutions.gov, and you will need to create a login and password to access the system. There are recipient tutorials online linked below. The funding announcement number is F24AS00264 and the full title is "F24AS00264 FY2024 Implementation of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) in the Western United States" Please feel free to reach out to barak_shemai@fws.gov. The opportunity can also be found at grants.gov but applications may NOT be submitted through grants.gov. The grants.gov announcement can be found here [2024 QZAP Grant](#).

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

Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

[Return to top](#)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity requests proposals for projects that support efforts to plan a response or deploy response measures to a new detection of a potentially invasive species. Response efforts must target an aquatic invasive species, defined as non-native plants or animals that reside in fresh, wetland, estuarine, or marine waters.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis; submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis: Proposals submitted from **April 16 - July 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1. All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria

DOI- Department of the Interior- Bureau of Land Management

IJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management Alaska Aquatic Resource Management Synopsis 1: Funding Opportunity Goals 1. Ensuring water availability to sustain healthy riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats. 2. Restoring degraded water resources, riparian and wetland areas, and aquatic habitats, with a focus on process-based approaches and promoting riverscape health. 3. Advancing decision support models, and the inventory, assessment, and monitoring information that feeds such models, to inform the protection of remaining high quality habitats and the strategic restoration of degraded systems. **Open Round 2: February 6, 2024 through March 8, 2024**

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

State/Provincial

[Idaho Legislature's JFAC signs off on \\$6.6M to fight invasive quagga mussels](#)

[The invasive mussels can reproduce rapidly and were discovered in the Snake River near Twin Falls \(2/19/24\)](#)

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee voted Wednesday to provide \$6.6 million in next year's budget to fight invasive quagga mussels that were detected last year in the Snake River near Twin Falls. The money is included in the new spending requests in the enhanced fiscal year 2025 budget for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Idaho Gov. Brad Little recommended the funding, which includes a \$5 million transfer from the state's general fund to the invasive species fund.

[2 Hawaii bills propose stronger action on invasive species \(2/11/24, \\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\)](#)

The bills were supported by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Big Island and Oahu Invasive Species Committees, Sierra Club of Hawaii, and Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, but opposed by the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association.

[Return to top](#)

For a list of HI invasive species bills go to <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/2024-legislative-session/>

Federal: Executive

[Invasive Species Advisory Committee; Request for Nominations \(2/27/24\)](#)

Nominations must be postmarked by April 29, 2024. For Further Information Contact: Kelsey Brantley, NISC Operations Director, at (202) 208-4122, or by email at Kelsey_Brantley@ios.doi.gov.

[Reclamation formally advances options to counter threat of nonnative fish in Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam \(2/7/24\)](#) Environmental process identifies and analyzes a range of releases from the dam to disrupt spawning of smallmouth bass; effort also considers revising protocol for high-flow experiments

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$157 Million from Investing in America Agenda to Restore Our Nation's Lands and Waters \(2/28/24\)](#)

COLUMBIA, N.C. — The Department of the Interior today announced more than \$157 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to restore our nation's lands and waters through locally led, landscape-scale restoration projects. The funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will support 206 ecosystem restoration projects in 48 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Territories and will advance the Department's ongoing work across several restoration and resilience programs. A full project list is available on the [Department's website](#). Key funding that advances the various programs and initiatives in the Department's Restoration and Resilience Framework includes, but is not limited to:

- More than \$25 million to support the National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework to give land managers an upper hand in [safeguarding the nation from invasive species](#). Invasive species are among the most significant drivers of global biodiversity loss and in some parts of the U.S. are driving native species to the point of extinction. Given their threat to commercial, agricultural and recreational sectors, invasives are estimated to cost the U.S. economy tens of billions of dollars annually, with climate change only expected to increase new introductions and persistence of these species. The National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework is a coordinated and strategic set of actions to find and eradicate initial invasive species infestations before they establish, spread, and cause harm and become costlier to manage, thereby protecting the nation's lands and waters and the communities they support.

[Government of Canada invests in the ongoing prevention of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels on the west coast \(2/14/24\)](#) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is committed to preventing the introduction, establishment, and spread of aquatic invasive species, including Zebra and Quagga Mussels. In May 2023, DFO announced \$8.75 million in contribution funding over five years as

part of the newly created Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund (AISPF). The AISPF funds eligible organizations and projects that focus on preventing the introduction and establishment of aquatic invasive species across Canada.

[Federal Program Inventory to Make Federal Spending More Transparent and Accessible \(2/15/24\)](#) Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) launched the [Federal Program Inventory \(FPI\)](#) – a new comprehensive, searchable tool with critical information about all Federal programs that provide grants, loans, or direct payments to individuals, governments, firms or other organizations. The FPI demonstrates how the Biden-Harris Administration is delivering for the American people by making it easier for potential beneficiaries to find the programs they need and ensuring the effective stewardship of taxpayer funds. Today’s launch of the FPI will further increase government transparency and accessibility and fulfills Congressional mandates to create and publicly post an inventory.

Federal: Congressional

[Huizenga, Dingell, Joyce, and Kaptur Introduce Legislation to Reauthorize Key Great Lakes Funding Program \(2/6/24\)](#)

“As Co-Chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I have worked to build a bipartisan coalition in Congress to make the Great Lakes a national priority,” said Congressman Bill Huizenga, Co-Chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force. “The Great Lakes serve as a vital source of economic activity, recreation, and drinking water for millions of Americans. For us in Michigan, the Great Lakes are a way of life. Studies from Grand Valley State University and the University of Michigan demonstrate how the economic health of the Great Lakes is directly tied to their ecological health. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the leading federal program designed to clean up legacy pollution, restore habitats, and combat **invasive species** across the basin. I will continue to lead efforts that prioritize the Great Lakes and work to protect, preserve, and strengthen these precious resources for future generations.”

[Archived Hearing: Water Resources Development Act 2024: USACE Water Infrastructure Projects, Programs and Priorities \(2/28/24\)](#)

[The Honorable Michael C. Connor](#)

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

[02-28-2024 Connor Testimony.pdf](#) (150.4 KBs)

[Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon](#)

55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

[02-28-2024 Spellmon Testimony.pdf](#) (110.8 KBs)

[Carper, Capito Introduce Legislation to Bolster Wildlife Conservation \(1/9/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, introduced the America’s Conservation

Enhancement (ACE) Reauthorization Act [[S.3791](#)], which he co-authored alongside EPW Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.). The ACE Act will reauthorize important habitat and wildlife conservation efforts throughout the country. The legislation also builds on previous efforts to protect and preserve ecosystems from evolving threats such as **invasive species** and wildlife diseases.

Sec. 104. Protection of water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species.

Section 10(p) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 666c–1(p)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2025” and inserting “2030”.

UPDATE* [House Natural Resources Committee Passes Legislation Delivering Energy Solutions and Expanding Outdoor Recreation Opportunities, including H.R. 6492 \(1/17/24\)](#)

On 1/17/24 the House Committee on Natural Resources held a full committee markup and favorably reported eight bills. Part of the package included [H.R. 6492](#), the *Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE) Act*, introduced by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), which would expand public land access by supporting recreation opportunities like biking and rock climbing, addressing access barriers for veterans and people with disabilities, streamlining the permitting process for small businesses and more.

NOTE:

UPDATE, Amended Bill: Sec. 128. of the introduced [H.R. 6492](#), is entitled “Aquatic resource activities assistance.” Similar to the [S.873](#), America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023 (Sens Manchin (D-WV) and Barrasso {R-WY}), H.R.6492 establishes a competitive grant program within the Bureau of Reclamation to help non-Federal partners conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft around reservoirs administered by the DOI, including a 75% federal cost share.

The introduced version of H.R. 6492 bill included some controversial language on access to federal waters:

~~*(4) LIMITATION—The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to Federal land and water for vessels under this subsection in the absence of an inspector.*~~

Amended Bill Language*: An amended bill [[GO HERE](#)] was passed out of committee on 1/17/24 (the amended bill has not been updated on the congress.gov website). The amended bill has the following Limitation Language

(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to vessels due solely to the absence of a Federal, State, or partner’s inspection program or station.

While this language is more acceptable to state AIS programs, we are still evaluating what the impact will be to watercraft inspection programs and recreational watercraft access....[stay tuned](#)

Bennet Bill as an alternative: An alternative to the H.R 6492/S.873 limitation language comes from Senator Michael Bennet's (D-CO) [S.2105](#) – the “Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2023”. S. 2105 does not have limitation language.

Now What: H.R 6492 is a large bipartisan bill with 45 co-sponsors and has passed out of committee. S. 2105 has not had a committee hearing and S. 873 passed out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 7/26/23. Stay tuned...

[McConnell to step down as Senate GOP leader \(2/8/24\)](#)

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) is stepping down from his leadership post in November, ending his history-setting tenure as longest serving Senate party leader.

Federal: Appropriations

[Schumer: Negotiators ‘very close’ to deal to avoid shutdown \(2/28/24\)](#)

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) told colleagues Wednesday that congressional negotiators are “very close” to reaching a deal to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the week, announcing that they “continue to make very good progress on an agreement.”

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Streaming available – [Oregon Green Crab Invasion \(OPB\) Oregon Field Guide](#)

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training

Virtual: ****** 2024 Schedule Now Available******

- Virtual WIT or Level 1 – Inspector Training (2 days - 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-1-inspector-training>

[Return to top](#)

[March 5 - 6, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 3, 2024](#)

[April 9 -10, 2024](#)

- WIT or Level 2 – Inspector & Decon Training (3 days – 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-2>

[March 5 - 7, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 4, 2024](#)

[April 9 - 11, 2024](#)

- WIT or Level 3 – Trainer Training (3 days- 9 am – 4pm PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/le>

[March 12 - 14, 2024](#)

[April 23- 25, 2024](#)

[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

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

Calendar of Events

2024

February

[INVASIVES 2024 Annual Forum & AGM](#), February 26th – 29th, 2024, Anvil Centre, New Westminster, BC! This large-scale in-person event is oriented towards educating and connecting stewardship groups, natural resource professionals, governments, Indigenous communities, youth, and the broader public – all coming together for big conversations around invasive species and their impact. We’ll be sharing the latest best practices, cutting-edge research, and updates on government initiatives.

[Return to top](#)

February 26, 2024 - March 1, 2024 National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Hosted by the North American Invasive Species Management Association ([NAISMA](#)) from February 26, 2024 – March 1, 2024, NISAW 2024 promises a week filled with educational initiatives, community engagement, and a shared commitment to protecting our natural heritage.

March

Western Aquatic Invasive Species Short Course

Dates: March 5th – March 6th

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

Location: Holiday Inn - 200 S Pattee St. Missoula, MT 59802 (in-person only)

Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension is excited to announce the second annual Western Aquatic Invasive Species Short Course. This event will bring together scientists, educators, and land managers to share knowledge and develop solutions to prevent and manage AIS. This year, the short course will host twenty-one speakers from across the Pacific Northwest and Midwest covering aquatic plant management, species identification workshops, emerging herbicide and eDNA technologies, as well as question and answer panels to facilitate discussion on regional management practices.

Mark your calendars!

NAISMA Webinar: March 11, 2024 @ 8:00 am - March 14, 2024 @ 5:00 pm CDT
[2024 National Forum on Biological Control](#)

2024 Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium – Portland OR

The symposium will be on March 11th, and will be held at Reed College. The symposium features two keynote presenters, Dr. Sara Petrita Bombaci and Dr. Mason Fidino, and a series of brief presentations, lunch discussions, and posters about urban ecology research and programs. A social hour follows the presentations.

March 21, 2024 Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting, Salem OR

March 21, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia OR

May

The next [ANSTF meeting](#) will be held May 8 and 9, 2024 in Saratoga Springs, New York

[23rd International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#) will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from May 12 – 16, 2024. The conference theme is ‘Meeting Challenges with Innovation’. The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species addresses emerging freshwater, marine and estuarine AIS issues by involving scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and industry professionals in the presentation of research, and opportunities for collaboration on

[Return to top](#)

research and management projects. Stay tuned for more details. **Early bird registration ends this Thursday, Feb 29.**

June

June 1 – June 8: PlayCleanGo Awareness Week

Please save the date for the next meeting of the 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team; scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4 & 5, 2024 at the Residence Inn Missoula Downtown in Missoula, MT. We anticipate starting at 10am on 06/04 and ending ~ 3pm on 06/05. Please contact Leah Elwell for agenda questions at: leah@conservationcollaborations.com.

On June 10-11, 2024 the [Flathead Lake Biological Station](#) and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks will conduct a 2 day aquatic invasive species training event including AIS identification and sampling methods, eDNA sample collection, and equipment decontamination. An integral portion of the training will be spent overviewing and using Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), a “point of use” technology capable of real-time presence/absence detection. Training time will also be spent in the field collecting specimens following MTFWP all taxa protocols. Upon completion, participants will be provided access to additional AIS training resources, equipment loans, and sampling events. Lunch for both days will be provided, and lodging at FLBS is available upon request. For more information please send questions to phil.matson@flbs.umt.edu

[June 27, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia OR](#)

September

[September 12, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia OR](#)

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

October

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

December

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

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

[Return to top](#)

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>

[Return to top](#)