



Aquatic Invasive Species News

January 31, 2024

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

RECOMMENDED READING:

Antarctica's Looming Threat

Ocean waters warmed by climate change could open the door for marine invasive species in one of the world's most pristine ecosystems.

Hundreds of scientists journey to Antarctica each year to work in the continent's 77 research stations, used by some 30 countries. Many are there to study how the unique ecology and endemic wildlife in this faraway land is changing with human pressures like climate change.

These scientists, along with the 50,000 tourists and dozens of fishing boats in the offshore waters, pose a threat themselves: accidentally providing passage to nonnative species. Antarctica and its waters have remained relatively isolated, thanks to its distance from other places, frigid temperatures and ocean currents.

But in recent decades an increase in human traffic and pressures from climate change are opening the door for invasive species — those nonnatives that can rapidly spread, outcompeting native plants and animals, or become unchecked predators.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

On 12/26/23 the USFWS posted the *Draft Revised National European Green Crab Management and Control Plan* to the *Federal Register* <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-12-26/pdf/2023-28361.pdf> ...and for reference the draft plan can be found

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here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/management-plan-european-green-crab> .Written comments should be received on or before **February 9, 2024**

The National European Green Crab (EGC) Management and Control Plan was developed by a multi-agency European Green Crab Working Group for implementation by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force following final approval. The purpose of the EGC Management Plan is to guide local, state, and federal agencies, Tribal communities, and other stakeholders in detecting EGC in the earliest stages of invasion, responding rapidly to new detections to determine extent of invasion, and implementing immediate containment or eradication actions. The overall objective is to minimize the likelihood of further spread and establishment in other locations, and reduce the impacts in areas where EGC are already established. This plan aims to serve as the baseline for the development and implementation of, as well as the integration with, regional plans such as the Salish Sea Transboundary Action Plan for Invasive European Green Crab and the Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for Invasive European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) in Alaska 2023–2028” (previously known as the “Alaska Action Plan for Invasive European Green Crab”).

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:

[Oregon] *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (New Zealand mudsnail) was found in South Santiam River [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Washington] *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (New Zealand mudsnail) was found in McAllister Creek at Steilacoom Road crossing [[USGS NAS](#)]

WATCH LIST

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- 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

[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

[How Idaho lawmakers could respond to invasive quagga mussels \(1/12/24\)](#) Idaho is also looking to its neighbors for additional policy ideas to keep the invasive species under control. One question is whether to require out-of-state boaters to dump their ballast tanks before entering Idaho. Strategic investments now could prevent hefty costs down the line, Tewalt said. If the invasive quaggas took hold in the Snake River, they would wreak havoc on the state’s infrastructure by clogging pipes and latching onto hard surfaces.

[\[B.C.\] Efforts to prevent spread of mussels likely doomed \(1/19/24\)](#) Efforts to prevent the spread of environmentally-damaging invasive mussels into Okanagan Lake are probably doomed to fail, a Lake Country town councillor predicts.

Related: [Kelowna to join other communities demanding invasive mussel testing continue \(1/23/24\)](#)

[Idaho Gov. Brad Little seeks \\$6.6M for state's ongoing response to invasive quagga mussels \(1/16/24\)](#) Idaho Gov. Brad Little is asking for almost \$6.6 million in the Idaho Department of Agriculture's fiscal year 2025 budget to continue the state's response to invasive quagga mussels detected last year in the state's longest river.

Related: [Idaho Department of Agriculture details Quagga fight to JFAC \(01/22/24\)](#)

[Zebra mussels population dropped in Central Texas waters — for now \(1/18/24\)](#) New reports indicate zebra mussel populations are down in Central Texas — but experts suggest that decline might not last long.

Simmons, M., Horbelt, N., Sverko, T., Scoppola, E., Jackson, D. J., & Harrington, M. J. (2023). Invasive mussels fashion silk-like byssus via mechanical processing of massive horizontally acquired coiled coils. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(48), e2311901120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2311901120> [\$]

Guo, Wei, Shiguo Li, and Aibin Zhan. 2024. "eDNA-Based Early Detection Illustrates Rapid Spread of the Non-Native Golden Mussel Introduced into Beijing via Water Diversion" *Animals* 14, no. 3: 399. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14030399>

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[Invasive quagga mussels found on boat at Ashland, Oregon inspection station \(1/9/24\)](#) ODFW staff at the Ashland Boat Inspection Station found quagga mussels on a pontoon boat that was being transported from Lake Mead, Nev., into Oregon on Jan. 4. This was the first instance in 2024 where crews have found quagga mussels. The watercraft was decontaminated at the inspection station.

Related: [Lake Mead Infestation Could Impact Water 800 Miles Away \(1/9/24\)](#)

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[US EPA VIDA: What you need to know for 2024 \(1/15/24\)](#) 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.

[Australian hull biofouling management regulation now in full force \(1/18/24\)](#) The 18-month education period for the maritime industry to come to terms with Australia's biofouling management practices ended in December 2023 and full implementation is now expected from vessels calling at Australian waters

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Rolla, M., Hernandez, M.R., Bradie, J. et al. Ballast water management systems protect the Great Lakes from secondary spread of non-indigenous species. *Biol Invasions* 26, 437–449 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03182-5> [\$]

MARINE

Carlton, J.T., Schwindt, E. The assessment of marine bioinvasion diversity and history. *Biol Invasions* 26, 237–298 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03172-7>

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[\[Oregon\] Invasive crabs threaten local shellfish industries \(1/11/24\)](#) Tolerant, adaptable species could dominate local marine environments

[Makah Tribe goes to year-round green crab trapping as invasive species is found within Neah Bay \(1/24/24\)](#) Dungeness Refuge sees highest catch rate ever, Salt Creek and Neah Bay net new discoveries in ‘23

Tummon Flynn, P., Poirier, L.A., Beaulieu, G. et al. On the rebound: removal programs yield local-scale benefits but do not sustainably suppress populations of invasive European green crabs (*Carcinus maenas*). *Biol Invasions* 26, 451–469 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03183-4> [\$]

AQUACULTURE

[Energy risks grow for land-based salmon farming in British Columbia \(1/17/24\)](#) A new report showing British Columbia emerging as an ‘at-risk area’ for energy as soon as 2026 does not bode well for anti-marine aquaculture activists, who have been campaigning to transition salmon sea farms to land-based operations.

FRESHWATER

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[These furry-clawed crabs are causing havoc in Europe's rivers. Scientists believe they have a solution \(1/30/24\)](#) Scientists across the continent are looking for ways to reduce the mitten crab population, and in doing so protect the native ecosystems being destroyed by the invasive species. In 2023, they united under an EU-funded project named “Clancy.”

[Rare funding helps Tahoe partners turn the tide against aquatic invasive species \(1/29/24\)](#) Lisa G. Heki says it's rare in her career to see this much funding invested in national ecosystems. The biologist and project leader for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says ... The funds come from a \$455 million pot through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for nationwide programs related to the Biden-Harris Administration's America the Beautiful initiative.

[Scientists work to stop self-cloning crayfish after first detection in Canada \(1/14/24\)](#) An invasive species of crayfish that reproduces by cloning itself was discovered last summer in a Burlington, Ont., park — the first time the marbled crayfish has been identified in the wild in North America. Since then, a group of experts has been working to stop the species from spreading.

[Oh rats! BC watching spread of invasive species that looks like giant rodent \(1/24/24\)](#) Thankfully, there have been no sightings of nutria in BC for what the ministry says has been decades, and there's no evidence that nutria currently exists in BC. “We are monitoring the spread of nutria closely, as populations exist in Washington State and may spread to BC.”

[\[Alaska\] Invasive crayfish at Buskin Lake here to stay for the long run based on Sun'aq biologist report \(1/10/24\)](#) Kodiak Island's invasive crayfish population has reached levels that make it too difficult to completely eradicate. That's according to a biologist running a program to remove signal crayfish from Buskin Lake.

Sheppard, N.L.M., Pham, J. & Ricciardi, A. Influence of reproductive state and temperature on the functional response of the marbled crayfish, *Procambarus virginalis*. Biol Invasions 26, 9–16 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03166-5>

FISH

[Addressing the future of Norway's pink salmon \(1/26/24\)](#)

In recent years, the presence of pink salmon in Norwegian rivers has dramatically increased. Fishermen, anglers and researchers alike are concerned that this non-native species could pose a significant threat to native species and ecosystems. Moreover, the fact that pink salmon decomposes and ultimately dies during its spawning stage can lead to severe contamination of the rivers it inhabits.

[Sustainable Dining and Commercial Fishing: The answer to invasive Asian carp? \(1/18/24\)](#)
[Mark Morgan] started the research project Eat Mo' Carp to raise awareness and funds to harvest

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further and diminish the invasive carp population in the Midwest. He believes changing the public perception of Asian carp as a trash fish can be daunting. However, the nutritional benefits and how carp is framed as a delicacy in other countries should be the wake-up call that the U.S. needs to take care of the overpopulation.

[Maryland embarks on marketing campaign for invasive blue catfish \(1/10/24\)](#) ...Decades later, harvests of blue crab in the Chesapeake Bay have plunged to record lows, with some of the blame falling on the voracious blue catfish.

AQUATIC PLANTS

Link, N.T., McLaughlin, D.L., Bush, N. et al. Phragmites-fire feedbacks: the influence of fire and disturbance-altered hydrology on the abundance of *Phragmites australis*. *Biol Invasions* 26, 135–150 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03163-8> [\$]

Kim, S., Hong, JS. & Kim, D.W. Diffusion model for initial colonization of *Spartina* patches on Korean tidal flats. *Biol Invasions* 26, 403–421 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03179-0> [\$]

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[New boot brush stations at local trails combat invasive species spread \(1/10/24\)](#) Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society installs boot brush stations at Mt. Begbie and Begbie Falls trailheads.

[Negative emotions drive preference for herbicide treatments for aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin lakes:](#) A new study published by University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers is the first to explore what drives lakeshore property owners' preferences for herbicide treatments of aquatic invasive plants over other management options, even if those treatments may harm native plants and animals. The study found that negative emotions and believing that aquatic invasive species are present in the lake where a property owner lives were the strongest predictors for

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preferring herbicide treatments. Surprisingly, perceived impacts of aquatic invasive species did not affect preferences for herbicidal treatment of aquatic invasive species.

OTHER

[Space Invaders: Solving the invasive species explosion \(1/29/24\)](#) Human-wrought changes to the biosphere are causing species to cross ecosystem boundaries en masse. The challenge now is to curb their spread.

[Survey says 57 percent of U.K. fishermen saw lower catches, profitability around wind turbines \(1/21/24\)](#)

According to Szostek, “80 percent of the 43 wind farms that are currently operational or under construction are viewed as impacting fishing activity. The majority of fishers have had to use different fishing grounds due to wind farms, with a few choosing to change gear and one fisher leaving the industry as a result.”

['Everybody has them': Invasive, toxic New Guinea flatworms now found in most Florida counties \(1/8/24\)](#) Unless you know what you're looking for, there's a good chance your backyard is loaded with invasive flatworms without you knowing it.

[Feral swine] Fischman, H.S., Smyth, A.R. & Angelini, C. Invasive consumers provoke ecosystem-wide disruption of salt marsh functions by dismantling a keystone mutualism. *Biol Invasions* 26, 169–185 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03167-4>

[Can Killing One Species of Owl Help Save Another? \(1/10/24\)](#) Biologists and conservationists are grappling with a controversial plan to kill 470,000 barred owls in the Pacific Northwest over the next 30 years

[Lions are being forced to change the way they hunt. It's all because of a tiny invasive ant, scientists say \(1/26/24\)](#) A tiny invasive ant muscled into a Kenyan savannah and sparked such a dramatic transformation in the landscape that even the local lions changed the way they hunt, according to research published Thursday.

Haubrock, P.J., Cuthbert, R.N., Balzani, P. et al. Discrepancies between non-native and invasive species classifications. *Biol Invasions* 26, 371–384 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03184-3>

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

[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.

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).

[Washington: Aquatic Invasive Species Support Developer - IT App Development--Entry - Permanent - *00832-24](#)

Full Time – Permanent, \$6,147.00 - \$8,266.00 Monthly Salary.

Job Number 2024-00832

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Closing Date 2/5/2024 11:59 PM Pacific

In this dynamic role, you will serve as the technical specialist for the Aquatic Invasive Species

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(AIS) unit. With your experience, you will assist in the design and development of AIS related data structures and interfaces. You are excited to seek and test new technologies that can be used to improve data and reporting systems and make recommendations on their implementation. We are seeking a candidate to serve as the primary web developer for AIS related projects.

[Invasive Species Member - Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)

American Conservation Experience
Ruby Valley, Nevada, United States (On-Site)

Description:

Invasive Species Member - Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Summary:

American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking 1 Member to contribute to invasive species management alongside FWS Staff.

For more information about ACE, please visit: www.usaconservation.org

Start Date: April 15, 2024

Estimated End Date: September 28, 2024

Oregon: Aquatic Invasive Species Technicians

Help the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fulfill its mission: To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The goal of this recruitment is to fill the positions at the Fish & Wildlife Technician (FWT) level. However, we encourage candidates to apply for the Fish & Wildlife Technician Entry level (\$3,006/mo.), as the department may consider under-filling the positions.

April – September

[Brookings, OR](#)

[Ontario, OR](#)

[Lakeview, OR](#)

[Klamath Falls/Central Point, OR](#)

[Umatilla, OR](#)

[New Mexico: Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspector - Seasonal \(DGF #10107352+\)](#)

Agency: Department of Game & Fish **Posting End Date 02/17/2024**

Job Posting Type: Continuous Job Opening

Job ID140428, Location Santa Fe

Part-Time, Temporary

Salary \$17.80 - \$28.48 Hourly

This position is a Pay Band 55

Posting Details

Continuous: This posting will be used for ongoing recruitment and may close at any time.

Applicant lists may be screened more than once.

[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.

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.

BC: The Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council. We are currently welcoming applications for the following positions: Field Crew Member, Field Crew Lead Hand, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Education & Outreach Assistant. Go to <https://ssisc.ca/jobs/>

BC: The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) is hiring (Outreach & Aquatics Assistant). Deadline to Apply: 4:00 pm on Feb 23, 2024* (Applications will be reviewed as they're received. Positions may be filled prior to the deadline if an appropriate candidate is found). Got to: <https://ckiss.ca/2024/01/hiring/>

Grants

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

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

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.

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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 **January 16 - April 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of June 1. 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 1: December 7, 2023 through February 5, 2024 Round 2: February 6, 2024 through March 8, 2024**

[FY24 IJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management Oregon/Washington \(ORWA\) Youth Conservation Corps Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management](#)

Closes: Feb 21, 2024

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon/Washington (ORWA) offices have collaborated with Qualified Youth and Conservation Corps, as authorized by the Public Lands Corps Act (PLC), to accomplish conservation projects for numerous years. This program's projects provide employment for participants and opportunities to learn about and gain work experience in public lands and natural resources management while promoting long-term interest in public lands stewardship and the BLM. The BLM Youth Program assists the BLM with diversifying the workforce while exposing participants to complex cultural and natural resource issues. This program supports the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Public Law 117-58, Sec. 40804(b) Ecosystem Restoration and Section 40803 Wildfire Risk Reduction. This program supports projects funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Sections 50221 Resilience, 50222 Ecosystems Restoration and 50303 DOI.

Projects include Habitat restoration and wildlife protection, including reduction of invasive species, tree planting, fence removal/installation, riparian area restoration, etc.

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993

[FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

Department of Commerce **Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 23, 2024**

[2025 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program](#)

Apply by February 15, 2024

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 legislative and executive offices in the

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Washington, D.C., area. The fellowship is paid and lasts one year. Past fellows have developed successful careers in a variety of sectors, including government, academia, consulting, private companies and nonprofit.\

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>

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

[BC Wildlife Federation sounds alarm as invasive mussel prevention funding vanishes \(1/8/24\)](#)
Funding to stop the spread of invasive mussels and parasites to B.C. has dried up, according to the BC Wildlife Federation. The nonprofit said Monday in a news release it is “deeply concerned” that the federal government, BC Hydro and FortisBC are “failing in their duty to protect our fish.”

State/Provincial

[\[Hawaii\] Invasive species are top of mind for Department of Agriculture this legislative session \(1/9/24\)](#) At the minimum, the agricultural department wants \$2.9 million in general funds to implement dozens of state inspection agents with its Plant Quarantine Office who could check shipped goods in Hawai‘i for pests.

[\[New Jersey\] Governor Murphy vetoes bill to battle invasive plant species in New Jersey \(1/9/24\)](#) Support for the bill began to fray about a month ago, when state environmental officials requested state funds for “stewardship” to eradicate invasive plants around the state — even though such stewardship wasn’t part of this bill, Smith said. The senator has a separate bill he introduced last month on forest stewardship that includes fighting invasive plants and calls for a \$60 million appropriation, and he thinks someone “got confused.”

[\[Virginia\] State group says Virginia should budget more for invasive species management \(1/9/24\)](#) A state group dedicated to dealing with invasive species in Virginia is recommending

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that the General Assembly include an extra \$2.45 million in its next budget to limit the spread of invasive plant and animal species in the commonwealth.

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

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

Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a full committee markup and favorably reported eight bills. Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) issued the following statement in response:

"Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources is kicking off the year by advancing a slate of solutions for Americans that includes supporting access to affordable energy, a landmark outdoor recreation package, solutions for tribal land issues and efforts to address water resource challenges. I'd especially like to highlight the EXPLORE Act, a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that provides an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities across our public lands and waters by modernizing the visitor experience, reducing overcrowding, improving access for those with disabilities and streamlining the permitting process for small businesses that rely on our public lands. As we continue our work in the new year, this committee is focused on advancing policy to improve access to our natural resources as well as supporting conservation and innovation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance these bills through the Senate and into law."

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:

Sec. 128. of [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 (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 bill includes 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.

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 has more AIS protective access language that is favored by many western state AIS programs, stating "to the maximum extent practicable, inspect watercraft in a manner that minimizes disruptions to public access for boating and recreation in noncontaminated watercraft."

Now What: H.R 6492 is a large bipartisan bill with 41 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...

Federal: Appropriations

[Biden signs stopgap funding bill to keep government open into March \(1/19/24\)](#)

...Biden signed the two-step continuing resolution a day after Congress voted to send the legislation to the president’s desk. The bill punts the government funding deadline to March 1 for four appropriations bills, and it extends the deadline for eight others until March 8.

Now What: According to [E&E Daily \(1/18/24\)](#):

.. Congress will have until March 8 to tackle the rest of the 12 annual spending measures, including Interior-Environment, Defense and Homeland Security. Despite bipartisan

agreement on a third stopgap to prevent a shutdown and the recent top-line deal, it remains unclear whether lawmakers will be able to settle on final fiscal 2024 bills. Republicans are demanding riders and cuts rejected by Democrats.

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>

[February 7 - 8, 2024](#)

[March 5 - 6, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 3, 2024](#)

[April 16 - 17, 2024](#)

[April 23 – 24, 2024](#)

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

[February 7 - 9, 2024](#)

[March 5 - 7, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 4, 2024](#)

[April 16 - 18, 2024](#)

[April 23- 25, 2024](#)

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

[January 30 – February 1, 2024](#)

[February 20 – 22, 2024](#)

[March 12 - 14, 2024](#)

[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

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[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

Northern Pike Information Sharing Workshop

When: February 15, 2024, from 12 PM to 3 PM PST (1 PM to 4 PM MST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81699344412?pwd=aTlDWUEzUUUqKzhMSnhqMTQzL01Ddz09>

Meeting ID: 816 9934 4412

Passcode: 930964

We will be distributing the final agenda the week of January 29. Topics will include:

- Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike work and lessons
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Northern Pike surveys
- Okanagan Nation Alliance Northern Pike work
- Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife's work to quantify the impacts of invasive Northern Pike
- Discussion of topics of mutual interest and concern

[Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce Developing Solutions to Mitigate Risks](#)

Webinar: Project Outcomes February 20, 2024, 1PM-2PM Eastern Time

This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Canadian and U.S. representatives have been working together since the Fall of 2022 to identify key pathways that contribute to AIS in Commerce and develop strategies to address those challenges. Project deliverables include a governance and biosecurity framework, case studies, and industry and agency toolkits. Join us for a 1-hour webinar to review draft products that can be used to minimize AIS in Commerce Learn more about the project here:

<https://www.aisincommerce.org>

WEBINAR: Call Before You Haul 2.0 Reducing Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species via Trailered Watercraft from the Great Lakes Region

FEBRUARY 22, 2024 | 10AM-11AM PACIFIC TIME

To register for the webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3208053209538554208>

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[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.

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

Communicating about invasive species can get complicated! On February 27-28, in partnership with NAISMA for National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Sea Grant is proud to present The Invasive Species Language Workshop, bringing together invasive species researchers and science communication professionals to share best practices for communicating about biological invasions to scientists, stakeholders, and the public.

Day 1 (February 27) will feature a webinar on communications issues in invasion biology, including inclusive language, effective use of metaphor, changes to species names, and more. These hybrid presentations will be available to watch online for free, and virtual attendees will be able to send in questions for discussion. Register for the webinar [here](#) or at the link below.

- <https://naisma.org/event/nisaw-webinar-the-invasive-species-language-workshop/2024-02-27/>

Day 2 (February 28), held in-person in Washington, DC, will feature in-depth discussion to develop research topics and interventions to improve communication strategies in invasion biology, including the process for changing species names, harmonizing communications strategies across agencies and research groups, tailoring messaging to different stakeholder groups, and more. Attendance for this portion is limited: reach out to Tim Campbell (tim.campbell@wisc.edu) if interested in participating in person.

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.

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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](#)

April

The next meeting of the of the [Pacific Ballast Water Group](#) will be held April 24-25 at the Portland Airport Hyatt. Contact Amy Stark for further information (astark@psmfc.org)

May

The [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 research and management projects. Stay tuned for more details.

June

June 1 – June 8: PlayCleanGo Awareness Week

September

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

December

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

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sphillips@psmfc.org. AIS NEWS was compiled by Robyn Draheim

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