



Aquatic Invasive Species News

November 26, 2024

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RECOMMENDED READING

[Marine Corps Veteran continues service protecting Alaska's waters from invasive species](#) (11/8/24)

As a young man with draft number 343, Steve Wogtech didn't have to join the military. But inspired by his father's Air Force service and a desire to pursue education through the GI Bill, he volunteered for the Marine Corps. What began as a career in Military Police on Okinawa has evolved into a lifelong commitment to public service, most recently as a watercraft inspector* for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Alaska-Canada Highway (Alcan) border crossing, adjacent to Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. This strategic location helps protect both the refuge's critical wetlands and Alaska's wider waterways from harmful aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels that can damage ecosystems and infrastructure.

For Steve, each connection and conversation is an opportunity to protect Alaska's pristine waters. The skills he honed at military gates now serve him well inspecting boats at Alaska's primary land entry point. Rather than rely on enforcement alone, he combines thorough vigilance with an easy-going manner and focus on education.

"You've got the people that just don't understand and don't know," he explains about the hidden threats of invasive species that can survive in boat storage compartments and equipment. He carries samples of invasive mussels preserved in acrylic blocks. These tangible pieces of evidence show the threats he works to prevent. When boaters understand that these tiny invaders could damage their expensive equipment or change the waters they love to fish, most appreciate the careful inspection.

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

*Steve obtained his WID 2 through the PSMFC-sponsored virtual class under Quagga D.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

[NOAA advances efforts to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas \(11/15/24\)](#)

Today, NOAA Fisheries released two draft programmatic environmental impact statements (PEIS) to support the identification of proposed Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico. The public is invited to review and submit comments on the draft statements from November 22, 2024, through **February 20, 2025**.

Both draft PEIS are open for public comment via the Federal Register from November 22, 2024, through February 20, 2025. Virtual public listening sessions will be held for both Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico, where the public is welcome to provide comments. Comments received will be assessed and considered by NOAA Fisheries to prepare Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements for both regions.

[More information on the draft PEIS for Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico is available on the NOAA website.](#)

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:

[Iowa]

[Invasive zebra mussels found in Saylorville Lake \(11/6/24\)](#)

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Eagle Lake in Sherburne County \(11/4/24\)](#)

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Turtle River Lake in Beltrami County \(11/7/24\)](#)

Other:

[California] [Hydrocleys nymphoides \(waterpoppy\)](#) was found in Ventura County, CA [[USGS NAS](#)]

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WATCH LIST

Green Crab:

- Alaska: Report your sightings via the [ADF&G Invasive Species Reporter](#) or by calling the Invasive Species Hotline: 877-INVASIV (877-468-2748). If you locate invasive green crab on Annette Islands Reserve, you can call 907-886-FISH to make a report.
- British Columbia: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and email the information about where you saw it and when to: AISPACIoFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Washington: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and report suspect crabs here <http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab>
- Oregon: Retain green crab caught in your gear - it is illegal to return them to state waters. They are part of your “Other Shellfish” daily catch limit. Try them as food with the rest of your catch. Do not mutilate or kill any crab while you are crabbing

Walleye

- Idaho: Anyone who catches a walleye in rivers is asked to kill it, take a photo and contact Idaho Fish and Game Biologist Marika Dobos at the Lewiston Regional Office by email at marika.dobos@idfg.idaho.gov, or call (208) 750-4228.

DREISSENIID MUSSELS

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

[Manitoba MP blames Ottawa for failed curtain meant to address zebra mussels \(11/4/24\)](#)

The curtain was removed in early September after Parks Canada announced it was damaged and no longer an effective means of containment, adding it could not be repaired or replaced.

[How zebra mussels and a Lake Texoma pump station spurred Texas to redraw its border with Oklahoma \(11/8/24\)](#) Texas just altered its border with Oklahoma. Well, a small sliver of it, anyway. And, no, Texas didn't become any bigger.

[Study reveals elevated mercury levels in fish associated with zebra mussel invasions \(11/20/24\)](#)

A [groundbreaking study found](#) that invasive zebra mussels significantly alter aquatic ecosystems, and are associated with elevated mercury concentrations in fish. Mercury, a potent neurotoxin, poses a serious threat to both aquatic life and human health.

[Highline now empty as mussels mitigation measure \(11/22/24\)](#) As of Nov. 17, Colorado Parks and Wildlife had completely drained the popular boating and fishing attraction in hopes that

invasive zebra mussels there will be unable to survive between the lack of water and freezing of the lakebed this winter.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[Nearly 300,000 boats inspected for quagga mussels during 2024 boating season in Utah \(11/12/24\)](#) Statewide, aquatic invasive species technicians with the DWR, Utah State Parks, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the National Park Service have inspected 295,894 boats and performed 6,383 decontaminations since Jan. 1.

[Invasive species interceptions up 28 percent at Lake Tahoe \(11/15/24\)](#) The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, which manage the watercraft inspection program, reported Friday that staff inspected over 5,600 vessels since January and intercepted 59 vessels with invasive species on board.

[Alberta announces successful crackdown on invasive mussels \(11/15/24\)](#) To date this year, more than 13,400 inspections of boats and other watercrafts have taken place; that's the most since 2019. There are also increased fines, expanded stations and more officers, they say.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Invasive \(freshwater mussel\) detected in California \(11/5/24\)](#) To minimize the spread of the golden mussel it is recommended that operators continue to ensure that ballast water management systems are operational and used in accordance with the Operational Manual for that system

[Up to a Third of BWTS Are Failing Port State Inspections \(11/25/24\)](#)

Over 30 percent of all installed ballast water treatment systems fail Port State compliance inspections despite 95 percent of systems having successfully passed commissioning tests according to a new analysis submitted to the International Maritime Organization as it is reviewing BWTS requirements. The report highlights issues with maintenance, record keeping, and crew training while warning that additional requirements are coming into effect in 2025 ahead of completing amendments by the end of 2026.

MARINE

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GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Invasive green crabs reach Alaska, threatening fisheries \(11/6/24\)](#) “I worry about the salmonids,” says Tammy Davis, Invasive Species Program coordinator at the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G). “I don’t have any evidence that they are competing for food at certain life stages, but the green crabs tear up the eelgrass that provides vital habitat for juvenile salmon and their prey, and in an already stressed ecosystem, having another stressor can affect the whole food web.”

[A statewide task force is trying to stop the spread of highly invasive green crabs in Southeast Alaska — and they need your help \(11/19/24\)](#) “We’re kind of on the front lines with the invasion here,” said Ian Hudson. Hudson coordinates the Metlakatla Indian Community’s green crab program.

AQUACULTURE

[Salmon farm transition driven by politics could cost billions \(11/3/24\)](#) “Canadian families across B.C. and beyond will feel the negative impact of this activist-influenced salmon transition policy. It’s bad politics and worse policy.”

[Don’t fret Alaska, kelp is on its way \(11/18/24\)](#) Kelp is good because it provides both a source of food and biomass and can be grown in ways that are beneficial for coastal ecosystems and communities

FRESHWATER

FISH

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[Northern pike kept in check in northeast Wash. \(11/17/24\)](#) Twenty years after the first northern pike was detected in Box Canyon Reservoir on the Pend Oreille River system, state and tribal suppression efforts seem to be keeping the carnivorous fish in check there and in Lake Roosevelt.

[Audio: What's keeping invasive carp away from Chicago's waterways \(11/19/24\)](#) hint: water pollution

AQUATIC PLANTS

[Video: Lake Tahoe sees largest aquatic invasive species removal in its history \(11/4/24\)](#)

[Invasive Eurasian watermilfoil found in Fountain Lake and Arkansas River \(11/14/24\)](#) Eurasian watermilfoil, a fast-growing aquatic invasive plant species that creates dense undergrowth in lakes and rivers, degrades fish spawning areas and interferes with boating, fishing, swimming and other forms of water recreation, has been found in Fountain Lake and its outlet to the Arkansas River.

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[NPS to Adapt Wild Spotter to Detect Invasive Species in Parks \(11/24\)](#) The National Park Service (NPS) will adapt Wild Spotter for use in national parks. Wild Spotter is a citizen science application to engage the public to help detect invasive species in America's wilderness areas, wild rivers, and other natural areas. Through the application of Wild Spotter, the NPS will garner support for scientific efforts such as controlling invasive species in 35 parks, while helping address a problem where impacts are felt the strongest. This engaging method of conservation will help parks remove invasive species more quickly.

[Curious People Lead the Way in Catching New Invasive Species \(11/19/24\)](#) Curious members of the public can play an additional critical role in helping to identify these new invasion

occurrences. And, crucially, background knowledge on what an invasive species looks like, or even what invasive species are at all, is not required.

OTHER

JOBS/GRANTS

Resources:

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

Jobs

[Virginia Tech: Associate or Full Professor – Invasive Species Economist](#)

Job no: 530578

Work type: Teaching & Research Faculty

Senior management: Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department: Agricultural & Applied Economics

Location: Blacksburg, Virginia

Categories: Agriculture / Life Science

Open until filled

Job Description

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) and the College of Science (COS) at Virginia Tech are inviting applications for a 9-month (academic year) tenure-track research and teaching position at the Associate or Full Professor level in applied economics with a focus on invasive and other harmful species

[Park Ranger \(Aquatic Nuisance Species\)](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

NPS Regions 6, 7 & 8, **closes December 6th**

This position educates and informs visitors about the significance of the natural resources, about the laws, rules, and regulations relating to the protection of resources from aquatic nuisance species for the purpose of containment and/or prevention programs, and about operations and

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safe use resources. Performs systematic work inspecting and decontaminating boats of all types and sizes with varying internal operating systems and water intake functions.

Marine Debris Extension Fellowship

Apply by December 16, 2024

California Sea Grant and the NOAA Marine Debris Program are soliciting applications for a 2-year fellowship to support the NOAA Marine Debris Program's work in California and assist with the planning and implementation of the next iteration of the state's Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy (OLS).

MS Graduate Research Assistant: Minimizing Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways

South Dakota State University (State)

Details: Application Deadline - 11/22/2024

Starting Date: between 5/1/2025 and 7/31/2025

Hours per Week: at least 40

Applications are open for a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) position (M.S. Level) in the Department of Natural Resource Management department at South Dakota State University (SDSU) under the supervision of Dr. Alison Coulter.

The selected student will lead collaborative work between SDSU and USGS to explore current preventative strategies for aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Upper Mississippi River, rank which pathways pose the most risk for introductions of AIS, and identify barriers for why states may not be able to implement actions to reduce risk. Interested students will be responsible for designing and conducting interviews/email surveys with AIS experts, collecting and analyzing data, and drafting publications and education materials. Opportunities for undergraduate student mentoring.

The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) is seeking 2 graduate research assistants (GRAs) starting Summer or Fall 2025 to conduct research in the areas of aquatic ecology, invasion biology, or fisheries ecology. MS or PhD GRAs are available to research topics such as sport fish growth and recruitment, habitat enhancements for reservoir fisheries, riverine larval fish ecology, and harvest regulations. The deadline to apply is February 14, 2025.

Public Affairs Specialist, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Traverse City, MI: The bi-directional selective fish passage (FishPass; <https://www.glfsc.org/fishpass.php>) project at the Boardman/Ottaway River's Union Street Dam in Traverse City, MI is a multi-agency collaboration aimed at providing up- and down-stream passage of desirable fishes while simultaneously blocking or removing undesirable and invasive fishes. FishPass is a multifaceted project that is prominently located in downtown Traverse City and, therefore, prominently featured to its many residents and visitors. Applicants are encouraged to submit a cover letter addressing competencies in the above qualifications, CV or resume, and names and contact information for three references to Dan Zielinski (dzielinski@glfc.org) by **November 30, 2024**. The PAS will start at a GS-9 (salary \$59,966- \$71,959 plus benefits, dependent on experience). The anticipated start date for the position is January 1, 2025 or sooner. The PAS will be stationed at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission office at 310 W. Front Street Traverse City, Michigan. Learn more about the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and FishPass [here](#).

Grants

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is pleased to announce a new, one-time funding opportunity in the Northwest Region. The Region has received \$2.4 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to distribute competitively to Tribes and Tribal organizations to combat the spread of European Green Crab (EGC). If you have any questions regarding this funding opportunity, please contact Ashton Harp, Fisheries Biologist, at ashton.harp@bia.gov or (971) 378-2302. **Due Date for applications 12/13/24**

[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.

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 **November 15 – January 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1. All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria.

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\) Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity](#)

Requesting proposals that support the eradication of a newly introduced or established invasive species in terrestrial or aquatic habitats of the United States, including the U.S. territories (aquatic habitats include freshwater, wetland, riparian, estuarine, and marine environments).

While preference will be given to proposals that result in eradication of invasive species, research proposals that advance the effectiveness and availability of eradication tools will be considered.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorization for ecosystem restoration, the Department of the Interior (DOI) invested \$3 million to establish an Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity. It is administered within the existing authorities of DOI and administered by the USFWS in collaboration with DOI bureaus. The intent of this funding opportunity is to promote and invest in those projects with a high likelihood of achieving eradication success and that have existing partnerships and plans in place.

Please note that projects responding to founding populations of aquatic invasive species within the early detection and rapid response context should instead apply for funding through the [Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#). Projects addressing established aquatic invasive species infestations with a high likelihood of eradication can apply for this Eradication Funding Opportunity.

General information about the funding for invasive species eradication can be found [HERE](#). Additional questions may be directed to myself at jarrad_kosa@fws.gov.

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 the response to the ongoing [European green crab emergency](#). Please visit

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<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

State/Provincial

Federal: Executive

[Could Trump sideline government watchdogs? Some are already quitting \(11/25/24\)](#)

Two in-house investigators at U.S. intelligence agencies recently quit their jobs. There's growing fear in Washington that they could be the start of an exodus — or a purge — of government watchdogs.

Federal: Congressional

[Shaheen, Crapo, Risch Send Bipartisan Letter Urging Coast Guard to Allow States to Collect Fees When Vessels are Registered to Help Fund Boating and Water Safety Efforts \(11/8/24\)](#)

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Jim Risch (R-ID) sent a bipartisan letter urging the U.S. Coast Guard to revert to its longstanding statutory interpretation that allowed states to collect fees for boating-related programs during the boat registration and Certificate of Numbering (CON) process. Recently, the Coast Guard blocked a number of states from coupling CON fees with state fees, which, the Senators note, help fund programs to address aquatic invasive species, boating safety, search and rescue and others. Earlier this year, the Senators introduced the bipartisan State Boating Act [[S.4113](#)] that would make clear the ability of states to collect state boating fees alongside CON fees and registration.

[Hageman Introduces Bill to Protect the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund \(10/15/24\)](#)

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Harriet Hageman introduced legislation [[H.R. 9969](#)] that would require the Bureau of Reclamation to analyze the economic consequences of drawing from the customer-funded Basin Fund to implement the experimental actions called for in the July 2024 SEIS Record of Decision – which would result in Reclamation having to incorporate

these costs into its annual budgeting. ...The Biden-Harris Administration's Colorado River Long Term Experimental Management Plan SEIS Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on July 5, 2024, with Reclamation implementation beginning just 3 days later, on July 8. The ROD calls for bypass flows at Glen Canyon Dam, meaning higher flows to combat the presence of **predatory smallmouth bass that** threaten the federally protected humpback chub. These higher flows bypass hydropower generators in order to cool the river temperature below the dam to attempt to disrupt smallmouth bass downstream...

Federal: Appropriations

[Congress Debates Another CR \(11/20/24\)](#)

...House Speaker Mike Johnson has indicated that he would prefer to pass another CR, likely funding the government through March of 2025. This would allow Republicans to exert greater control over the funding process, as they will hold majorities in both chambers in the 119th Congress. This move would have the added benefit of preventing the Speaker from having to strike a large budget deal with a Democratically -controlled Senate and the Biden Administration—a move likely to be unpopular with his conservative base—before the Speaker election in January. Johnson is expected to run again for Speaker in the 119th Congress...

EVENTS

Archived Events:

[Recording Available: The duality of shell deposition: how zebra mussel shells introduce a novel substrate in urban and degrade habitat in rural streams](#)

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

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

- [December 10-11, 2024](#)
- [January 28-29, 2025](#)
- [February 25-26, 2025](#)
- [March 11-12, 2025](#)
- [April 1-2, 2025](#)
- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

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

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- [December 10-12, 2024](#)
- [January 28-30, 2025](#)
- [February 25-27, 2025](#)
- [March 11-13, 2025](#)
- [April 1-3, 2025](#)
- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

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

- December 17-19: CLASS FULL!
- January 21-23: CLASS FULL!
- [March 4-6, 2025](#)
- [April 15-17, 2025](#)
- [May 13-15, 2025](#)

[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

December

December 3, 2024 9am – 4pm [Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting](#), ODFW HQ, Salem OR

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

December 5, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia WA

[December 10-11, 2024, 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team Meeting](#) - Northern Quest Resort & Casino, Spokane, WA. Please contact [Leah Elwell](#) for agenda questions or [Amy Stark](#) for all other questions.

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Council staff and partners are pleased to invite you to the third annual [Pulling Together to Prevent and Stop Noxious Weeds](#) in Washington webinar! Join us on December 12 from 1 - 4 p.m. to learn all about noxious weeds, identification, management, and reporting. There are three pending Washington State Department of Agriculture pesticide recertification credits for those who attend the entirety of this free event. For registration, please visit: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/event/pulling-together-to-stop-and-prevent-noxious-weeds-in-washington/>

2025

January

[Conservation Detection & Nosework Seminar 2025](#) Holne Park House - River Dart Country Park
We're thrilled to announce that we are co-hosting the Conservation Detection & Nosework Seminar from 28 - 30 January 2025, in Devon, United Kingdom. This exciting event, held in partnership with Dogs with Jobs, promises to be a unique opportunity for learning and collaboration.

February

[2025 Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training Course](#) Feb 04, 2025 - Feb 06, 2025
Lake Guntersville State Park, Guntersville, Alabama

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

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

April

April 14, 2025 @ 8:00 am - April 17, 2025 @ 5:00 pm CDT
[National Forum on Biological Control Conference](#)

[2nd National Forum on Biological Control Conference, April 14-17, 2025, Annapolis, MD.](#) This event, led by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with NAISMA and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), is the premier gathering for biocontrol practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other professionals dedicated to addressing the challenges and exploring the opportunities in weed and arthropod biocontrol.

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The **2025 Pacific Ballast Water and Biofouling Group Meeting** has been scheduled for April 29 & 30, 2025. It will be held at Hyatt Centric The Pike Long Beach in Long Beach, California. Registration and hotel room block information will be released in early 2025. Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

May

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia's 2025 Research Conference Call for Proposals is Open! The conference theme is "Getting Ahead of the Invasion Curve: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Management" and it will be held at University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C on May 13 –15, 2025.

This is a fantastic opportunity to present research you and your teams might be doing, and to engage in critical discussions on the management of invasive species. Abstract submissions are scheduled to close **November 30, 2024**.

To submit and find detailed information on submission guidelines for presentations and posters, requirements, and event specifics can be found in the **Proposal Application** [here](#), while **Event Details** can be found [here](#).

October

[2025 Society for the Study of Marine Bioinvasions \(SSMB\)](#) 12th International Conference (ICMB XII) Oct 07, 2025 - Oct 09, 2025 Hotel VidaMar Madeira Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal

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