



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

November 20, 2023

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## RECOMMENDED READING:

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### [Army Corps of Engineers: Better Data and Planning Needed to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species:](#)

Quagga and zebra mussels are invasive species in the U.S. that threaten ecosystems and infrastructure. They can spread by clinging to watercraft that have been in infested waters. This GAO Q&A report looks at how the Army Corps of Engineers partners with certain states to help fund inspection and decontamination stations to remove invasive species. Corps and state officials told us that these stations help to prevent infestation, but there wasn't enough data for us to verify such statements. In addition, the Corps doesn't have a strategic plan for managing its program or how to expand it to more states.

Recommendations: GAO is making three recommendations, including that the Corps, (1) in consultation with states, develop a system to collect timely, accurate, and consistent data to inform its Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program, and (2) develop a strategic plan that incorporates all basins and waters the Corps is directed to protect under its Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program and that includes clear goals, measurable targets, and accountable milestones.

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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### [Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)

On October 18, 2023, [EPA's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to the Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance was published in the Federal Register \(88 FR 71788\)](#). The Supplemental Notice shares new ballast water information that EPA

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received from the U.S. Coast Guard and discusses additional regulatory options for ballast tanks, hulls and associated niche areas, and graywater systems that EPA is considering for the final rule.

Comments on the Supplemental Notice must be received no later than **December 18, 2023**. EPA is soliciting comments solely on the information presented in the Supplemental Notice. Please do not resubmit comments from the 2020 Proposed Rule or submit additional comments on topics not addressed in the Supplemental Notice. EPA's final rule will consider comments received on both the Proposed Rule and the Supplemental Notice.

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[Request for Information on Identifying Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in Alaska: NOAA Fisheries is seeking public input via a 60-day comment period on the identification of study areas, data, and analyses relevant to identifying AOAs in Alaska state waters](#)

As a follow-up to our June 1, 2023 announcement beginning the process to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in Alaska state waters, in partnership with the State of Alaska, NOAA Fisheries requests data, comments, views, information, analysis, or suggestions from the public to support the identification of AOAs in Alaska state waters, including siting parameters that can be used to select potential study areas for further analysis.

The public input provided in response to this Request For Information (RFI) will inform NOAA as it works with Federal, State, and Local agencies, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, and in coordination with appropriate Tribal governments to identify AOAs.

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## NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

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[Want to get more new species alerts?](#)

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

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

[Colorado] Colorado Parks & Wildlife has confirmed the presence of New Zealand Mudsnaills in the Poudre River near Greeley, Colorado (11/9/23) New Zealand Mudsnaill (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) have been positively identified in the Poudre River near Greeley, Colorado. The population was initially reported by Timberline Aquatics, visual identification was confirmed by ANS Lab Staff and confirmed through molecular analysis by Pisces Molecular.

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[Minnesota]

[Signal crayfish confirmed in Minnesota \(11/3/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of signal crayfish, an invasive non-native species, in Lake Winona, adjacent to Alexandria in Douglas County. This is the first confirmation of signal crayfish in Minnesota waters. A commercial harvester contacted the DNR after trapping two signal crayfish in Lake Winona. Since the first catch, the harvester has found eight additional signal crayfish in Lake Winona. The DNR followed up with trapping in Lake Winona and in two adjacent connected lakes but did not capture additional signal crayfish.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in 3 Itasca County lakes \(11/3/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Jessie Lake near Talmoon, Turtle Lake near Marcell and Trout Lake near Coleraine, all in Itasca County.

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## 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](mailto: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](#)

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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['Large number' of dead birds found at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore \(11/4/23\)](#) Park officials believe avian botulism is the cause of death for the birds... It is believed that the invasion of dreissenid mussels created conditions that help native green algae grow. As water warms and algae decay at the bottom, anaerobic conditions develop and the bacteria produce the toxin. The toxin is eaten by the invasive round goby and other fish that feed on plankton. Birds get sick by eating contaminated fish or by scavenging dead birds that died from the toxin.

[Invasive mussels could cost BC economy \\$129M annually if they take hold in province \(11/6/23\)](#)  
The rapidly spreading species are expected to cost the province more than \$129 million annually should they take hold, based on costs for infrastructure, maintenance for boats and marinas, lost profits and provincial revenue and loss in residential property values and lost property taxes.  
Related: [Vernon council backs out-of-province boat ban suggestion despite dissenting opinions \(11/6/23\)](#)

[Shuswap watershed groups warn watercraft users after invasive mussel species detected in Idaho \(11/8/23\)](#)

[Interior MPs call on Ottawa to take invasive mussel threat seriously \(11/9/23\)](#)

### IDAHO QUAGGA RESPONSE:

[Time for a 'long wait': Victory against quagga mussels not yet a sure thing \(11/4/23\)](#) The quagga mussel treatment that concluded last month on a section of the Snake River went as planned, but officials aren't yet ready to claim success against the invasive pest. It's time for a "long wait," said Lloyd Knight, deputy director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, told the Times-News.

[College of Southern Idaho students get real world experience due to the Quagga Mussel \(11/6/23\)](#) The College of Southern Idaho has many majors and programs that offer students real-world-hands-on experience. One of those is the aquaculture program that teaches classes like fish health management and fisheries management to name a few.

[After \\$3M effort, Idaho officials hope they killed off invasive quagga mussels in Snake River \(11/6/23\)](#) Idaho state officials are hopeful that the approximately \$3 million effort to kill invasive quagga mussels detected in the Snake River in September was successful. But they don't expect to know if they wiped out all of the mussels until waters warm up and water sampling surveys resume next spring.

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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[Canmore canine conservationist sniffs out invasive species \(11/3/23\)](#) "Mussels are a hugely important issue, but they're kind of not sexy, and the dogs bring the wow factor."

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[Over 268,000 boats inspected for quagga mussels during 2023 boating season \(11/14/23\)](#) The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other partnering agencies worked hard inspecting and decontaminating boats across the state this year to prevent the spread of invasive quagga mussels.

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[New Study Shows Alarming Increase in Invasive Species Colonization Due to Marine Debris \(10/28/23\)](#) A groundbreaking scientific study conducted along the Southeast coast of India has unearthed a pressing environmental concern -- the increasing risk of invasive species colonization on marine debris. The research delves into the critical interplay between plastic pollution and the introduction of non-indigenous organisms into Indian waters.

[EPA's Proposed Rule on Vessel Incidental Discharges Brings VIDA One Step Closer to Full Implementation \(11/17/23\)](#) On October 18, 2023, the EPA published a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("SNPR") regarding incidental discharges from vessels, proposing national performance standards under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act ("VIDA"). The VIDA, enacted in December 2018, will standardize incidental discharge permits and regulations, replacing the 2013 Vessel General Permit ("VGP") that commercial vessels are currently required to follow.

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## MARINE

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[Hong Kong customs seize 3.4 tons of hairy crabs worth HK\\$2.3m, suspected to be smuggled from mainland China \(11/03/23\)](#) Autumn sees the production of large volumes of hairy crabs, also called the Chinese mitten crab. The departments warned that local traders should not import, or put on sale, hairy crabs "with an unknown origin," and consumers should purchase them at "reputable shops with the Shell Fish (Hairy Crab) Permit."

[Invasive Species Corporation Receives \\$388,000 Grant from the Washington State Department of Agriculture \(11/14/23\)](#) The Invasive Species Corporation (ISC) (a Delaware public benefit corporation), announces that it has been awarded a \$388,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to discover microorganisms to control burrowing shrimp in native oyster beds.

[Invasive seaweed found in San Diego Bay prompts warning from agencies \(11/17/23\)](#) The Port of San Diego, the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT), the City of Coronado, and the Coronado Cays Homeowners Association (CCHOA) are responding after invasive seaweed — *Caulerpa prolifera* — was found in the Coronado Cays area of San Diego Bay in late September.

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## GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

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[Invasive European green crab report leads to rapid response at Salt Creek Recreation Area \(11/16/23\)](#) In late October, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received a report from the Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI) of a European green crab (EGC) at Salt Creek Recreation Area. The site is a popular Clallam County park on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

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## AQUACULTURE

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[SATS advocates for US aquaculture expansion \(11/7/23\)](#) Stronger America Through Seafood (SATS) is attempting to educate the country's lawmakers on opportunities resulting from the expansion of offshore aquaculture as part of a new "legislative fly-in".

[Island's aquaculture industry leaders see wave of opportunity for the sector \(11/7/23\)](#) State of the Island Economic Summit in Nanaimo includes discussion of region's 'blue economy'

[Sun'aq gets more funding to battle signal crayfish \(11/7/23\)](#) Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak will receive funding to continue its efforts to rid Buskin Lake and the Buskin River of invasive signal crayfish. Sun'aq is one of seven Alaska tribes included in the latest round of Tribal Wildlife Grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[B.C. Indigenous Leaders Lobby for Transition from Open-Net Salmon Farms \(11/10/23\)](#) Indigenous leaders from British Columbia have called on the federal government to stand by plans to transition away from open-net salmon farms, but an industry spokesperson has suggested the leaders were wading into political waters.

[Center for Food Safety asks court to reverse US finfish aquaculture authorization \(11/14/23\)](#) A photo of offshore aquaculture operations. A coalition of conservationists, fishing organizations, and tribal groups has filed arguments in its effort to convince the U.S. court system to overturn a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision allowing finfish aquaculture in U.S. oceans.

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## FRESHWATER

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[This animal looks like a beaver crossed with a rat and lives in Metro Vancouver. But it shouldn't \(11/5/23\)](#) The nutria has taken up residence in the Lower Mainland as an invasive species,

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particularly in places that offer ideal conditions for it to thrive, such as in wetlands...But their presence in B.C. has the potential to wreak havoc on ecosystems and the native species that call them home.

[Invasive snails threaten Lake Tahoe ecosystem \(11/6/23\)](#) "I'm worried because this is something we've tried to keep out," said Dennis Zabaglo, the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

[Bullfrogs will eat nearly anything in Metro Vancouver. Why should we stop them? \(11/10/23\)](#) American Bullfrogs aren't your average carnivore. As researcher Leigh Anne Isaac puts it, "They eat everything." And that spells disaster for native species across the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island where populations of the foreign amphibian are increasing.

[Invasive mudsnails are creeping into Wyoming. A snorkeler recently discovered them in Albany County \(11/17/23\)](#) Loveridge is a scientist who's lived in Laramie since 2004. She's snorkeled just about every body of water within 200 miles. This summer, when she was snorkeling in Alsop Lake, she saw something new on the plants.

Cranberg, C.S., Keller, R.P. Historical trends of aquatic invasive species introduction and establishment in Illinois, USA. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3361–3368 (2023).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03130-3>

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## FISH

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[Scientists turn invasive carp into traitors to slow their Great Lakes push \(11/20/23\)](#) Agency workers turn carp into double agents by capturing them, implanting transmitters and tossing them back. Floating receivers send real-time notifications when a tagged carp swims past. Carp often clump in schools in the spring and fall. Armed with the traitor carp's location, agency workers and commercial anglers can head to that spot, drop their nets and remove multiple fish from the ecosystem.

[Sixth grader hooks mammoth koi fish from a Houston-area pond \(11/10/23\)](#) After three months of attempts at catching a koi fish from his neighborhood pond, a Houston-area middle schooler hooked the catch of a lifetime. Valentino Pickett, a sixth grade student from Polly Ryon Middle School, recently reeled in a 15-pound golden koi fish.

[Invasive carp continue to be an ongoing threat to South Dakota's waters \(11/14/23\)](#) Invasive carp (formerly known as Asian carp) pose a significant threat to South Dakota's lakes and rivers, natural resources that are treasured by thousands of anglers, boaters and water sports enthusiasts each year. That's why researchers from South Dakota State University are working in conjunction with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks officials to ensure these natural resources remain largely free from one of "America's most unwanted fish."

[Nebraska plan to divert water could put destructive carp in Kansas lakes \(11/14/23\)](#) ... When dealing with invasive species, it does not matter if water is “overflow” or not. Any water diverted from the Platte is susceptible to transferring the voracious and destructive carp into Kansas waterways.

[Eat 'America's Most Unwanted Fish' to Save Native Species, Scientists Say \(11/16/23\)](#) Scientists working to protect the waters of South Dakota from invasive species are calling for people to help out by catching and eating invasive carp—“America's most unwanted fish.”

[Northern pike eradicated on peninsula, according to scientists \(11/16/23\)](#) Northern pike, an invasive species of fish, have been eradicated on the Kenai Peninsula, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The species, which are native to interior and western Alaska, were illegally introduced to the Kenai Peninsula by fishermen in the 1970s.

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## AQUATIC PLANTS

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Tippery, N.P., Harms, N.E., Purcell, M.F. et al. Assessing the genetic diversity of *Nymphoides peltata* in the native and adventive range using microsatellite markers. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3949–3963 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03151-y> [\$]

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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[Extreme weather may help nonnative animals replace native ones \(11/7/23\)](#) Extreme weather linked to climate change may displace native species and benefit nonnative or invasive ones, according to research published Monday in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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[5 Delightful Species Secretly Ruining Everything \(11/5/23\)](#) You know the usual story behind invasive species. Someone brings a pair of vampire frogs to a country that strictly bans them, and next thing you know, every citizen is walking around with two punctures on their throats. But these animal interlopers aren’t always the obvious culprits. Sometimes, they’re the very creatures you would have sworn we should be fighting to protect.

[Why can't I own a pet zebra in Saskatchewan? And other answers about captive wildlife rules \(11/5/23\)](#) Ministry of Environment zoologist explains this and other things about Saskatchewan's captive wildlife regulations.

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[Student designs wanted for invasive species art contest \(11/14/23\)](#) The Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) invite school-age students to participate in an art contest to help spread the word about not spreading invasive species.

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## OTHER

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[Scientific minds from across Louisiana to study invasive species at new LSU research center \(11/3/23\)](#) The LSU AgCenter has created the virtual Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species. “The creation of this research center will enhance the ability of LSU AgCenter scientists to collaborate with research scientists at other universities to find solutions to reduce the adverse impacts on the wide range of invasive species on the environment as well as on native species, not just in Louisiana, but across the southern region and the U.S. as a whole.”

[Could microbes hold the key to battling invasive species? \(11/10/23\)](#) Biological invasions are among the biggest threats to ecosystems worldwide. Because of that, biologists have long sought to understand what makes a species a good invader and to predict which ones will take over if given the chance. But scientists may have overlooked a big player in invasion success: the microbes these invaders carry.

[Invasive, Destructive Hogs are Now Knocking on Two Montana Borders \(11/10/23\)](#) Usually, when you hear Montana politicians blabbing about our border, it has to do with illegal immigration and the Mexico border. It's certainly an issue. There's another pressing border issue in Montana, however: wild boars are now knocking on our door.

[New study reveals huge potential for future waves of invasive species \(11/16/23\)](#) Human trade and transport have led to the intentional and accidental introductions of non-native species outside of their natural range globally. These biological invasions can cause extinctions, cost trillions, and spread diseases. A study has investigated how many of these non-native species already exist worldwide and which species groups are particularly prone to become non-native.

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## JOBS/GRANTS

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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

### California Sea Grant is seeking a Reporting and Evaluation Coordinator

Serving as part of the California Sea Grant Science Integration Team and reporting to the Science Integration Team Lead, the Reporting and Evaluation Coordinator will support overall program reporting as well as design and implement evaluation initiatives to best serve the organization. Responsibilities include assisting with the preparation of progress (quarterly, semi-annual) and annual reports submitted by funded researchers, fellows, and extension staff, as well as coordinating and assisting in evaluation planning, survey design, data acquisition, data entry, data processing, data archiving and literature reviews as needed. **Apply by 11/26/2023.**

**The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)** are in the process of reintroducing salmon to areas located upstream of Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and the Spokane River dams. The Coeur d’Alene Tribe (CDAT), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR), Spokane Tribe of Indians (STI), and their consortium UCUT, are the leaders in returning anadromous fish to historically occupied habitats above these barriers. Collectively, they and their partners are implementing a 21-year plan to design, install, and test fish passage facilities and salmon reintroduction strategies. The UCUT organization and its member tribes have been working together to garner policy support for the reintroduction effort, secure funding needed for salmon reintroduction activities, conduct research, and perform cultural and educational releases of salmon to the tribes’ waters.

The [Salmon Reintroduction Grant and Project Manager](#) will be responsible for administrative and accounting support to both the consortium and the member tribes. This will be accomplished through four main tasks: 1) administratively manage salmon reintroduction projects that involve the UCUT organization and the member tribes; 2) pursue funding opportunities; 3) manage salmon reintroduction budgets for the UCUT organization; and 4) coordinate salmon reintroduction communications amongst the UCUT organization, the member tribes, and regional partners.

The position will remain open until filled. Applications are encouraged to apply by **November 30, 2023**. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their applications promptly.

**The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) summer seasonal positions for Glen Canyon NRA** (aka Lake Powell), Grand Tetons NP, Glacier NP and Curecanti NRA are out on USAJOBS as of this morning! Each of these National Park Units has a handful of positions and locations being announced. These seasonal positions are at the GS-05 level and work centers around the inspection, decontamination, documentation and data collection of watercraft on the launch ramps in both prevention and containment programs (specific at each location). They will also have a heavy dose of outreach to the boating user groups as well as the general public and

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collaboration with our state partners at Glen Canyon NRA. Please feel free to share far and wide, as you feel appropriate and especially with any folks you know from the local areas. Here is a link to the job posting, [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#) **Open & closing dates 11/15/2023 to 12/06/2023**

[Senior Lead Wildlife Biologist - Travis AFB, CA.](#) A Senior Lead Wildlife Biologist position is available with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) at Travis Air Force Base (AFB), California. This position will serve as the team lead for CEMML's support activities at Travis AFB and work directly with the Installation, Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), and CEMML staff and subcontractors to complete required agreement tasks. The incumbent will interpret management policies of the Air Force as they pertain to the management of natural resources in general, and endangered species in particular. Incumbent will oversee CEMML staff at the installation, provide consultation and expert advice to management in the Environmental Office at Travis AFB, and work collaboratively with installation staff to recommend decisions and changes to operating practices that have a substantial impact on compliance with federal laws/regulations and which directly affect the installation's ability to utilize its land for the military mission. Primary duties will include the performance of work requiring advanced biological knowledge and requiring the consistent exercise of discretion and judgment. Proposed Annual Salary Rang - \$85,000 - \$120,000.  
**Application Deadline: 12/11/2023**

## Grants

### [The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program](#) – **Application Period Closes December 1, 2023**

The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program seeks to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and related disciplines.

The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program combines classroom study with paid work experience that leads to employment at USDA. Through this program, USDA seeks to boost the number of tribal college and university students studying and graduating in food, agriculture, natural resources, and other related fields of study, and help build the pipeline of future agricultural scientists and professionals. The program also strengthens USDA partnerships with 1994 land-grant institutions.

The program provides full tuition, employment, housing or a living stipend, employee benefits, fees, and books each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food science, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline beginning at one of 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities and continuing at other higher education institutions. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

### [Montana Invasive Species Council 2024 AIS Grant Cycle is Open](#)

The Montana Invasive Species Council is now accepting applications for 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants. The **application period is from October 30 to January 7.**

AIS grants are intended to increase local capacity and involvement to address AIS issues. Projects that focused on these AIS management components are eligible: prevention, early detection, education and outreach, research, and treatment.

This state funded program awards approximately \$250,000 each year. Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per project. Grant applicants can be local, state, tribal, or other government entities within the state; and Montana-based non-governmental entities.

**Applications are due Sunday, January 7, 2024, before midnight.**

AIS Grant Program Guidelines are here: [Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program | Montana Invasive Species \(mt.gov\)](#) The grant application form is here: [grants.dnrc.mt.gov](#). Scroll down to AIS 2024 Grant Application.

Contact Liz Lodman at 406-444-0547 with any questions on the grant and application process.

Questions can be emailed to [dnraisgrants@mt.gov](mailto:dnraisgrants@mt.gov)

Grant Opportunity: NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2024-2008101

[Social, Cultural and Economic Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

Department of Commerce **Current Closing Date for Applications: Jan 17, 2024**

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 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>

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LEGISLATION

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## Advocacy

[Hawai‘i Needs Rules to Prevent Destructive, Invasive Pests From Spreading Across State, Letter Says \(11/17/23\)](#) Two dozen community organizations today urged Hawai‘i Gov. Josh Green to direct the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture to amend state rules and prevent the spread of destructive invasive species. These species include little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, hala scale and other pests that could wreak havoc on Hawai‘i’s food security, environment, cultural practices, economy and quality of life. The letter sent today is endorsed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement among other groups.

## State/Provincial

### Federal: Executive

### Federal: Congressional

### Federal: Appropriations

#### [Senate passes Johnson bill to fund government, averting shutdown threat \(11/15/23\)](#)

The Senate voted overwhelmingly Wednesday for legislation spearheaded by Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) to fund the government until early next year, wiping out the possibility that Congress will vote on another massive omnibus funding package before Christmas...Senate and House conservatives pledged they would do everything in their power to avoid having to consider another omnibus spending package right before Christmas and New Year’s, something that has become a Washington tradition. Johnson’s two-step continuing resolution, which he unveiled last weekend, would do that by funding two tranches of government programs until **Jan. 19 and Feb. 2**... A group of House conservatives defeated a procedural measure Wednesday [11/15] to govern floor consideration of the bill funding Commerce, Justice, Science and related agencies. The rebellion forced the chamber to adjourn for the rest of the week.

#### [House Approves H.R. 4821, The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act \(11/3/23\)](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, the House of Representatives met to consider H.R. 4821, The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The measure was approved by the House with a vote of 213 to 203.

**NOTE:** The House (\$50,643,000) and Senate (\$50,643,000) USFWS AIS program budget marks are similar (as the House appropriators spared this line in their cost-cutting efforts).

However, the House Interior budget does not appear to include funding for the National Park Service for quagga and zebra mussels, while the Senate NPS budget has \$6.5 million “to address quagga and zebra mussels.” AIS details in the Senate and House Interior budgets can be found on pages 15 and 16 [HERE](#).

**Related:** [The Hill: House GOP approves cutting EPA budget by nearly 40 percent \(11/3/23\)](#)

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## EVENTS

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### Archived Events:

The special issues in the journals of Aquatic Invasions <http://bit.ly/3PZ6GNS> and Management of Biological Invasions <http://bit.ly/3Qo5Go5> include papers presented at the 22nd International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species held in Oostende, Belgium April 18-22, 2022.

### Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training

For further information contact lead WI Trainer Elizabeth Brown @ [AIS.WID.Training@gmail.com](mailto:AIS.WID.Training@gmail.com)

Virtual (TBA): **\*\*\*\*Announcement of 2024 Schedule Coming Soon\*\*\*\***

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

[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

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## November

[2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium](#), November 30<sup>th</sup>, Sacramento, CA.

## December

### [Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training Course December 5-7, 2023](#)

This intensive training will include building relationships, partnerships and engaging stakeholders; branding and marketing programs; using innovative tools and technologies; and volunteer citizen-science coordination, recruitment, and retention to meet invasive species management goals and expand local community capacity for action. This gathering will have limited attendance through a merit selection process. Please apply at <https://invasivesfree.org>. Priority will be given to participants who can demonstrate their commitment to building invasive species management capacity within their community.

### [Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting 12/07/23](#)

#### [Zoom Webinar Registration](#)

Phone: 1-253-205-0468, Webinar ID: 872 1552 7263

Physical Location: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

The next meeting of the [100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin AIS Team](#) will be held December 12 & 13, 2023 at Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station in Portland, OR. This will be a hybrid meeting. [Click here to register](#) for virtual or in-person attendance. The meeting link will be posted at the registration site and emailed to registered virtual attendees prior to the meeting.

The agenda is in development. For agenda questions, contact Leah

Elwell: [leah@conservationcollaborations.com](mailto:leah@conservationcollaborations.com) and for meeting questions, contact Amy

Stark: [astark@psmfc.org](mailto:astark@psmfc.org)

Invasive Mussel Collaborative: [Webinar: Unique pathways of invasive mussel spread](#) December 13, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern (12:00-1:30 p.m. Central, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mountain, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Pacific)

## 2024

## January

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International Invasive Species and Climate Change Conference ([RISCC](#) and NAISMA) January 30-31 (virtual conference). Details coming soon.

## 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.



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