



Aquatic Invasive Species News

August 15, 2024

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RECOMMENDED READING

[Chevron doctrine reversal threatens US ballast water regulations](#)

30 Jul 2024

The potential rollback of the Chevron doctrine could limit the EPA's authority, complicating ballast water regulation and increasing environmental risks from invasive species. The Chevron doctrine, a foundational principle in US administrative law, has long guided courts in deferring to federal agencies' interpretations of ambiguous statutes they administer.

This deference acknowledges the expertise of agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in managing complex regulatory frameworks.

However, recent judicial trends indicate a potential reversal or limitation of the Chevron doctrine, particularly through the growing application of the major questions doctrine. This shift could have profound implications for environmental regulations, including those governing ballast water management.

The current regulatory framework in the United States involves both federal and state regulations, guided primarily by the Clean Water Act and international agreements such as International Maritime Organization's Ballast Water Management Convention.

The EPA and the US Coast Guard play crucial roles in enforcing these standards, ensuring compliance with both national and international requirements.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Outreach Subcommittee, with the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Sea Grant, is administering an aquatic invasive species (AIS) outreach needs assessment in advance of a national workshop on AIS outreach hosted at the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Conference later in the year. The goal of the workshop is to address aspects of the National AIS Outreach Assessment completed by the ANSTF Outreach Subcommittee. This workshop is supported by the Department of the Interior, using funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to help meet the President's conservation goals set through the America the Beautiful Initiative. The responses from this survey will also be used to inform future work strategic planning efforts by the ANSTF, regional panels, and others working with AIS outreach.

If you do any sort of aquatic invasive species outreach for your job we would welcome your input in this survey, which should take about 15 minutes to complete. Feel free to send it along to anyone that you think might be interested in completing it. **We will be collecting responses through the middle of August.** Results will be made available through presentations and a final report.

Survey link - https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5cZlYuidhGAgE90

Contact Tim Campbell (tim.campbell@wisc.edu), the ANSTF Outreach Subcommittee chair, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this survey.

[Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Regional Data-Sharing for Trailered Boats](#)

Printed version: PDF | Publication Date: 07/18/2024 | Agency: Department of the Interior | Dates: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 19, 2024. | **Comments Close: 08/19/2024**

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:

[Kansas] [Dreissena polymorpha \(zebra mussel\)](#) was found in Great Bend Stone Lake [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Byllesby in Goodhue and Dakota counties \(8/8/24\)](#) In August 2023, DNR staff working with native mussels found one adult zebra mussel. Follow-up surveys and water samples at that time did not indicate more zebra mussels or reproduction. Water

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samples this summer included four zebra mussel larvae, called veligers, indicating zebra mussel reproduction in the lake.

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Buffalo Lake in Becker County \(8/8/24\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Buffalo Lake near Richwood in Becker County.

Other:

[Texas] [Aulonocara \(hybrid peacock cichlid\)](#) was found in South Fork of the San Gabriel River
[USGS NAS]

WATCH LIST

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

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[Invasive mussels' larvae in Colorado could eventually cause problems in Nevada \(7/29/24\)](#)

Evidence of invasive, destructive zebra mussels in the Colorado River could mean trouble for wildlife, boaters and water companies alike, but it's not yet clear if the thumbnail-sized mollusk will appear in Southern Nevada as a result.

[Monitoring helps keep potentially disastrous mussels out \(7/31/24\)](#) Watercraft-inspection stations are critical to the provincial government's Invasive Mussel Defence Program that is working to protect BC waterways from zebra and quagga mussels. Ceci Weibert first saw zebra mussels on a third-grade field trip, clinging to a rock in their persistent and environmentally menacing way. Now, she's knee-deep in them, or sometimes even fully submerged, in trying to

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control them. It's a slow process; one estimate puts their population in the Great Lakes alone at 750 trillion.

[Parks Canada installs almost 2-km curtain to contain zebra mussels in Clear Lake \(7/31/24\)](#)

Tourist vessel the Martese grounded as part of an attempt to prevent the spread of invasive species

Related:

[Aerial view shows curtain intended to halt spread of zebra mussels in Clear Lake \(video\)](#)

[Weather dislodges Clear Lake containment curtain \(8/13/24\)](#)

[Invasive zebra mussels identified in two new Oklahoma lakes this summer \(8/1/24\)](#) Over the past month, the ODWC has identified zebra mussels at Fort Supply Lake in Northwest Oklahoma and in Dave Boyer Lake in the southwestern part of the state. They've already been found in more than 25 other Oklahoma bodies of water.

[Wildlife experts still hunting for source of invasive mussels in Colorado River \(8/5/24\)](#) Ongoing testing is aimed at finding the source of the young zebra mussel larvae and stopping them before they become fully established.

[Invasive zebra mussels detected on aquarium Marimo moss balls \(8/8/24\)](#) On Monday, Aug. 5, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received notification from a local wholesale aquarium company in Renton of possible invasive freshwater mussels on a shipment of Marimo moss balls

Related: [New warnings in BC issued for zebra mussels after discovery in Washington State](#)

[Use water in your house? Denver Water says zebra mussels are a threat we're all facing \(8/7/24\)](#)

While the conversation around zebra mussels so far in Colorado has been about where they are and how to stop them, Denver Water is making sure everyone has a clear understanding of what is at stake should the invasive species get their little fibers on the rest of Colorado's waterways, be it rivers, reservoirs, or more.

[Mussels discoveries don't affect Highline boating closure \(8/11/24\)](#) Discovery of invasive zebra mussels in the waters feeding Highline Lake won't mean any change in this year's summer-long closure of the lake to motorized boating, though Colorado Parks and Wildlife is reconsidering its plans to completely drain Highline this winter.

[Little mussels, 'big deal': Presence of invasive species deemed serious threat \(8/12/24\)](#) It would take a microscope to even see some young creatures that have caused an outsized stir among area water and wildlife officials with their discovery last month in the Colorado River and Government Highline Canal.

[Don't Call it a Comeback! Zebra Mussels aren't "Missing" Around \(8/12/24\)](#) On August 5, 2024, zebra mussel-infested Marimo moss balls were detected at an aquarium wholesaler in Washington state. This incident serves as an important reminder to remain vigilant and take action to ensure your aquariums and waterways stay zebra mussel free!

[So far, Idaho officials have not discovered more invasive quagga mussels \(8/13/24\)](#)
To fight the invasive species, state ramps up water sampling and boat decontamination

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[Alberta launches invasive mussels awareness campaign as fines spike \(8/2/24\)](#) The province of Alberta is cracking down on the threat of invasive zebra and quagga mussels with a multi-phase awareness campaign.

[West Kootenay watercraft inspection stations aim to stop spread of invasive mussels \(8/5/24\)](#)
B.C. is vulnerable to the growing problem of invasive zebra and quagga mussels

[A call to all Boaters: Help Nevada Irrigation District protect local reservoirs from invasive aquatic mussels \(8/8/24\)](#) With boating season in high gear, efforts continue to protect local reservoirs from aquatic invasive species. Nevada Irrigation District (NID) continues to monitor local reservoirs for invasive aquatic mussels with monthly sampling and public outreach.

[Giving thanks to Montana's first line of defense against invasive species \(8/8/24\)](#) Watershed stewards are working to keep aquatic invasive species from coming into Montana.

[Canine team sniffs out invasive mussels to protect Washington state's waters \(8/10/24\)](#) At a watercraft inspection station along the highway a few miles from the Idaho border, one very good boy is doing a very good job.

[video] [Portable aquatic invasive species cleaning stations tutorial](#)

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

Hansen, F.T., Pastor, A., Christensen, A. et al. Using biophysical modelling and marine connectivity to assess the risk of natural dispersal of non-indigenous species to comply with the Ballast Water Management Convention. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2539–2560 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03327-0>

MARINE

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GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Invasive green crabs linked to decline of shrimp, clam populations \(7/30/24\)](#) In the serene waters of Willapa Bay, a silent invader is causing a stir among scientists and local communities. The European green crab has been linked to the decline of shrimp, clam and crab populations, posing a threat to biodiversity and local economies.

AQUACULTURE

[First Nations take feds, companies to court over B.C. fish farms \(7/30/24\)](#) 'Namgis and Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis say 5-year licence extension infringes on their Aboriginal rights

[Water fight looming in US Senate \(7/31/24\)](#) There is a storm brewing across the USA. But don't board up your windows, stock up on canned foods or check your home insurance. The storm concerns the arguments over how America can close the gap between the seafood it consumes and what it produces – and the advocates and critics of aquaculture are at odds over the issue. So, is support for aquaculture a bipartisan issue or will it be another politically contested question? Related: [Alaska lawmaker introduces bill to prohibit funding, permitting for offshore aquaculture \(7/31/24\)](#)

FRESHWATER

[Tahoe Regional Planning Agency looking to combat aquatic invasive species in multiple ways \(7/29/24\)](#) "We are repeating [the NZMS] monitoring effort this year to see what may have changed so we don't know yet about any changes, but we will know by the end of the season," Zabaglo said.

Nerozzi, I., Soto, I., Vimercati, G. et al. Potential distribution, observed impacts, and invasion risk of two non-native snapping turtles, *Chelydra serpentina* and *Macrochelys temminckii*. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2883–2900 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03356-9> [\$]

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Weir, J.L., Daniel, W., Hyder, K. et al. Artificial intelligence applied to big data reveals that lake invasions are predicted by human traffic and co-occurring invasions. *Biol Invasions* 26, 3163–3178 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03367-6> [\$]

FISH

[Michigan State University leads project hailed as ‘Holy Grail’ of invasive species control \(7/30/24\)](#) MSU researchers are tackling a problem no one has ever solved: How do you stop an invasive fish from entering a river without entirely blocking all fish? A behavioral ecologist and two engineers are on a team commissioned by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, or GLFC. Their objective? Over the next decade, they’re charged with creating a groundbreaking selective fish barrier in Traverse City that’s hailed as the “Holy Grail” of invasive species control.

[Invasive carp are surging in the Mississippi River. Will people and pets eat them? \(7/31/24\)](#) Midwestern states are spending millions every year to prevent a giant, goggle-eyed fish from invading rivers and lakes. But the Asian carp has firmly established a home in the Mississippi River basin, and experts say they are here to stay. Now, researchers are hoping that creating new markets for the invasive fish could be part of the solution.

[Aggressive exotic fish likely dumped into Texas river, per officials \(8/13/24\)](#) Don't dump your tank, y'all.

[Hawai‘i Invasive Species Roundup: Island fishers can win \\$5K in prizes doing what they love \(7/30/24\)](#) Fishermen, women and keiki throughout the Hawaiian Islands can compete to win prizes totaling \$5,000 throughout the next six weeks – by joining the statewide Hawai‘i Invasive Species Roundup.

Tillotson, N.A., Weber, M.J. & Pierce, C.L. Effects of invasive bigheaded carp and environmental factors on larval fish growth. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2627–2643 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03335-0> [\$]

AQUATIC PLANTS

[Invasive plants and increased trash threaten Bear Lake. Here's how to save it \(8/12/24\)](#) “It doesn’t matter if we kill all the invasive plants on the Utah side,” said Jessie Danning, a program manager with the state’s Division of Fire, Forestry, and State Lands. “If Idaho isn’t doing anything to treat their plants, our work will not be for much. We definitely need to coordinate with Idaho.”

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Lakane, C.P., Adams, J.B. & Lemley, D.A. Drivers of seasonal water hyacinth dynamics in permanently eutrophic estuarine waters. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2831–2849 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03347-w>

Gallego-Tévar, B., Grewell, B.J., Gaskin, J.F. et al. Genetic and phenotypic differentiation in functional traits of *Iris pseudacorus* L. in native and introduced Mediterranean climate ranges. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2869–2882 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03350-1>

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[Oregon Invasive Species Cook-Off invites you to ‘eat the invaders,’ from ground possum to stuffed nutria \(8/13/24\)](#) Ever eaten a bullfrog for the greater good?

OTHER

[Live blue crab found snapping at snacks inside Iowa vending machine \(8/4/24\)](#)

Maze, D., Bond, J. & Mattsson, M. Modelling impacts to water quality in salmonid-bearing waterways following the introduction of emerald ash borer in the Pacific Northwest, USA. *Biol Invasions* 26, 2691–2705 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03340-3>

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.*

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- *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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is filling a new term position that will serve as an Injurious Wildlife Listing Biologist. If you know of any potential candidates that would be interested in and have experience evaluating species in trade as invasive, please send this announcement along. The duty station location is negotiable upon selection, including an option for remote work.

The vacancy link is provided below to share with prospective applicants. Applicants can view the announcement on USAJobs (using the link below*) but applications will not be accepted until midnight (EST) 08/05/24.

Announcement link: [R9-24-12490831-LP-SDHA \(Direct Hire Authority\): <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/801855400>](#)

The application window is **August 5-19, 2024**. This announcement will close when we have received 150 applications which may be sooner than the closing date.

Please help distribute the vacancy announcement. Questions can be directed to Kristen Sommers Kristen.Sommers@fws.gov or by phone 571-329-2214

Washington: [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Management Coordinator - WMS Band 3 - Permanent - *08431-24 Salary \\$102,948.00 - \\$117,132.00 Annually Location Thurston County – Olympia, WA Job Type Full Time – Permanent Remote Employment Flexible/Hybrid Job Number 2024-08431](#)
Department Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Opening Date 07/22/2024 **Closing Date 8/26/2024 11:59 PM Pacific**

[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: **open until filled**

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,

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testing of mosquitoes for presence of West Nile virus, distribution and monitoring of leafy spurge beetles, equipment maintenance and repair, public interaction and education, and more. Other duties include, but are not limited to, reports, grant applications, and data compilation. Duties will be highly variable depending on season and need. Most field activities occur during the summer and mid-winter, and office duties in the autumn and spring. Specific training in invasive species programs will be provided by SCWP.

P2IP Project Manager:

The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) are in the process of reintroducing salmon to areas located upstream of Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and 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. This plan is titled the Phase 2 Implementation Plan, or "P2IP." The UCUT organization and its member tribes have garnered policy support and secured funding for P2IP activities and are now seeking a project manager that can help keep P2IP implementation organized and focused.

The P2IP Project Manager will be responsible for administrative support to the UCUT organization. The position will report to the UCUT Policy Analyst and be expected to work closely with P2IP experts at three of the five UCUT tribes. This position will include six tasks: 1) project planning and initiation; 2) execution and coordination involving the UCUT organization, the member tribes, and regional partners; 3) risk management and issue resolution; 4) stakeholder coordination and communication; 5) project-specific budget tracking; and 6) project closure.

The position will remain open until filled. Applications will be reviewed in the order received starting July 12, 2024. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their applications promptly.

Washington – WDFW - Aquatic Invasive Species Technician - Scientific Technician 2 - Non-Perm - *04852-24 Fish Program – Fish Management Division Pasco, Washington – Franklin County Anticipated Appointment Length: 8 Months May 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 **Open until filled**

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 **July 15 – September 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of December 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 <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>

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974

[FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

Department of Commerce

DOC NOAA - ERA Production

Closing Date: Jan 31, 2025

This funding opportunity requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted to grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov for competitive review before a full proposal can be submitted. LOIs must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, **LOI due September 27, 2024**. If

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invited, full proposals must then be submitted in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) and validated by eRA on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, January 31, 2025.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) is a division of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration. Authorized in the Marine Debris Act, codified at 33 U.S.C. § 1951 et seq., the NOAA MDP supports the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1). The mission of the NOAA MDP is to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris.

Through this solicitation, NOAA seeks to support large marine debris removal projects with funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (PL 117-58). The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects that will improve the resilience of the coastal and marine environment. This competition considers impactful projects to be those that will have long-lasting, transformational benefits to marine and coastal NOAA Trust Resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies.

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

State/Provincial

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

[Senators seek pre-emptive octopus aquaculture ban \(7/26/24\)](#) A new federal bill to prevent the commercial farming of octopuses, as well as the importation and sale of commercially farmed octopuses, has been introduced to the US Senate. Introduced by US Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the bipartisan legislation follows the introduction of similar bills in various states, including [HB 1153](#) in Washington state, which was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee this March.

Updates on Bills with AIS provisions:

- 1. Explore Act ([H.R.6492](#)):** Top senators are trying to attach a sweeping outdoor recreation bill to the annual defense authorization package, a move that could push the stalled legislation across the finish line. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin (I-W.Va.) submitted a version of the "Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act" as an amendment to the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act ([Source E& E Daily 7/30/24](#))
- 2. Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([S.1149](#)):** The House remains quiet, but Sen. Heinrich and Tillis are still discussing a possible path forward in the Upper Chamber. Currently, conversations with their offices are contemplating a strategy that involves a Dear Colleague letter from the Cosponsors, and other Senators supportive of the bill, that could be addressed to Senate Leadership and the Leadership of the Senate Finance Committee urging their support and interest in finding a viable payfor for the legislation. If successful, the path would be clear to press forward with a floor vote (Source: *AFWA Invasive Species News August 2024*).
- 3. Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023 ([S.3348/H.R. 6235](#)):** S 3348 was passed out of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation On 7/31. H.R. 6235 was passed out of Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries on 3/12/24.
- 4. "Marine Debris Act Program Reauthorization ([S. 3277](#), [H.R.6781](#)):** S. 3277 was passed out of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation On 7/31. H.R.6781 – no action.
- 5. State Boating Act Update ([S 4113](#)):** Sen. Cruz's (R-TX) office, the Ranking Member of Sen. Commerce Committee continues to raise concerns over the legislation. Sens. Shaheen (D-NH), Crapo (R-ID) and Risch (R-ID) continue to try to move the Sen. to a neutral stance. In the last week, staff from the state of Washington have continued to advocate for support with Senate Commerce Chair Sen. Cantwell. Additionally, AFWA's Government Affairs team have reached out to Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) and others to help us make the case for the bill. This week is critical from a timing standpoint, as the Senate is eager to cue up and pass their appropriations bills. (Source: *AFWA Invasive Species News August 2024*).
- 6. Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024 ([H.R.8308](#)):** House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries held a hearing on 7/9/24.
- 7. Water Resources Development Act of ([H.R.8812](#), [S.4367](#)):** Both bills passed out of their respective chambers. Conference committee is next.
- 8. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative ([S.3738](#), [H.R.7257](#)):** S. 3738 passed out of the Committee on Environment and Public Works on 5/24). H.R. 7257 is in committee.

Federal: Appropriations

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Energy and Water, Defense, LHHS, and Financial Services Appropriations Bills (8/1/24)

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Senate Appropriations Committee met for a full committee markup and approved the fiscal year 2025 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies; Defense; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies; and Financial Services and General Government appropriations bills. “We have now passed eleven of our twelve bills—and have done so with the support of the overwhelming majority of our Committee,” said Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “These bills will send essential resources back to our communities, and they provide a clear roadmap to fund our government in the coming months as we work to negotiate and pass final bills with the House.”

Bill can be found @ [S. 4927](#)

Report Language can be @ [S. Rept. 118-205](#)

AIS-related items in the report:

INVASIVE CARP

Page 9: The Corps is undertaking multiple efforts to stop invasive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. The Committee notes that Congress authorized a comprehensive suite of measures to counter invasive carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, critical to keeping invasive carp out of the Chicago Area Waterways System, which is the only continuous connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. Further, Congress also authorized demonstration projects to prevent the spread of invasive carp into the Tennessee River and Cumberland River watersheds, and the Committee looks forward to continued progress on these demonstration projects.

As the Corps prioritizes projects, it shall consider critical projects to prevent the spread of invasive species. The Corps is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the progress and status of efforts to prevent the further spread of invasive carp, including the Brandon Road Recommended Plan and the second array at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; the location and density of carp populations; the use of emergency procedures previously authorized by the Congress; the development, consideration, and implementation of new technological and structural countermeasures; and progress on preconstruction, engineering, and design work.

The Corps shall continue to collaborate at levels commensurate with previous years with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Illinois, and members of the Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, including identifying navigation protocols that would be beneficial or effective in reducing the risk of vessels inadvertently carrying aquatic invasive species, including invasive carp, through the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois. Any findings of such an evaluation shall be included in the quarterly briefings to the Committees. The Corps is further directed to

implement navigation protocols shown to be effective at reducing the risk of entrainment without jeopardizing the safety of vessels and crews. The Corps and other Federal and State agencies are conducting ongoing research on additional potential invasive carp solutions. The Corps is directed to provide to the Committee not later than 30 days after enactment of this act a briefing on such navigation protocols and potential solutions.

Page 23: Aquatic Plant Control Program. —Of the funding recommended for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$10,300,000 shall be for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants, within which the Corps is encouraged to support cost-shared aquatic plant management programs. Additionally, the Committee understands the Corps has sufficient funding for fiscal year 2025 activities for watercraft inspection stations and rapid response as authorized in section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958, subsections (d)(1)(A)(i), (d)(1)(A)(ii), (d)(1)(A)(iii), (d)(1)(A)(iv), and (d)(1)(A)(v); and related monitoring. Further, \$7,500,000 shall be to address infestations of hydrilla in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River, Lake Erie, and Ohio River Basins. The Corps is encouraged to prioritize Mosquito Creek Lake and to consider the benefits of establishing a rapid response task force to cover the Connecticut River watershed.

Finally, the Committee recommends \$1,000,000 for the Corps to establish a pilot program to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions in the Lower Colorado River Basin, the Rio Grande River Basin, the Texas Gulf Coast Basin, and the Arkansas-White-Red Basin, per section 8305 of WRDA 2022.

Brandon Road. —The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress on the Brandon Road Project, a critically important initiative to maintain navigation of the Illinois River while protecting the Great Lakes from an invasive species that threatens our Nation's largest bodies of fresh water. Additionally, the Committee is concerned about the lack of timely communication with project sponsors, stakeholders, and Congressional offices. In order to ensure the project remains on schedule, the Corps is directed to provide a quarterly report to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of the project, including any significant changes in cost.

Now What: The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill (See [7/29/24 AIS News](#)) has \$10 million for watercraft inspection stations and \$3 million for monitoring. The Senate bill zeroes those programs out. We will very likely not see a FY 2025 federal budget passed by the September 30 deadline. According to ([E&E Daily 8/12/24](#)):

The House Freedom Caucus is ramping up pressure on GOP leaders to back a short-term funding bill into early 2025 — seeking to delay major spending decisions into a potential Trump administration. The ultra-conservative group's official position, which requires the support of 80 percent of its roughly three-dozen members, is a preview of the spending fight Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) faces in September. Congress must clear a funding bill by Oct. 1 to avoid a government shutdown. Lawmakers are expected to pass a stopgap that keeps spending levels steady, known as a continuing resolution, but it's unclear if they'll punt the fight to later this year or next. And there are conflicting strategies within the House GOP...

Government funding has been a perennial lightning rod between Republican leaders, including Johnson, and the right flank. Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) was ousted last year after passing a short-term spending bill with Democratic help. While Johnson doesn't face the same active threat over the September fight, his handling of it could be a significant factor in his ability to hold onto the House GOP's top spot next year. Over the summer, Republicans in the chamber only passed roughly half of the full-year funding bills, despite leadership's goal to pass all 12 by August. Instead, facing intraparty pushback on the remaining spending packages, leaders cut members loose from Washington a week early for the extended summer recess. While there's still quixotic chatter of reviving those bills in September, lawmakers widely acknowledge that they will need a short-term funding patch to keep the government running. The crux of the fight will be over how long that funding measure will be — with November and December also viewed as potential stop dates.

Johnson will have to negotiate with the White House and Senate Democrats, but the bigger political headache could be managing divisions within his own conference. The Freedom Caucus is hoping to avoid a November or December spending deadline, since it leaves the door open to a massive year-end spending deal with a Democratic White House and Senate.

Stay Tuned...

Related: [Johnson faces frustration from hard-liners on spending issues \(7/31/24\)](#)

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

Level 1&2

- [September 10-12](#)
- [October 8-10](#)
- [November 12-14](#)
- [December 10-12](#)

Level 3

- [September 17-19](#)
- [December 17-19](#)

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[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

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

Calendar of Events

2024

August

NASA: 3-part training overviewing opportunities to use NASA Earth Science data for invasive species monitoring. Info: <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/get-involved/training/english/arset-invasive-species-monitoring-remote-sensing>

When?

- Invasive Species Monitoring with Remote Sensing Part 1: An Intro to the Monitoring of Invasive Species with Remote Sensing Tools
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Aug 14, 2024 (UTC-04:00) Jeff Herring
- Invasive Species Monitoring with Remote Sensing Part 2: Monitoring of Aquatic Invasive Species with Remote Sensing
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Aug 21, 2024 (UTC-04:00) Jeff Herring
- Invasive Species Monitoring with Remote Sensing Part 3: Monitoring Invasive Grassland Species with Hyperspectral Remote Sensing
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Aug 28, 2024 (UTC-04:00) Jeff Herring

NAISMA: August 21, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Dutch Elm Disease and Resistance](#)

The [Invasive Species Advisory Committee](#) will convene by Zoom virtual platform on Thursday, August 22, 2024, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. ET.

September

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

NAISMA September 18, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease](#)

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

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October

NAISMA: October 16, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: White-Nose Syndrome and Bats](#)

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

November

[2024 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference!](#) Duluth, Minnesota
Tuesday, November 12th - Thursday, November 14th, 2024

December

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

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

December 10-11, 2024, 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team; Northern Quest Resort & Casino. Spokane, WA. Please contact Leah Elwell for agenda questions at: leah@conservationcollaborations.com. Contact Amy Stark for all other questions at aStark@psmfc.org

2025

February

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

[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](#)

October

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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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