

Finfish transport permit protocol updates

And other aquatic conveyance issues

Rody Seballos, Decontamination Biologist
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit, Fish Program

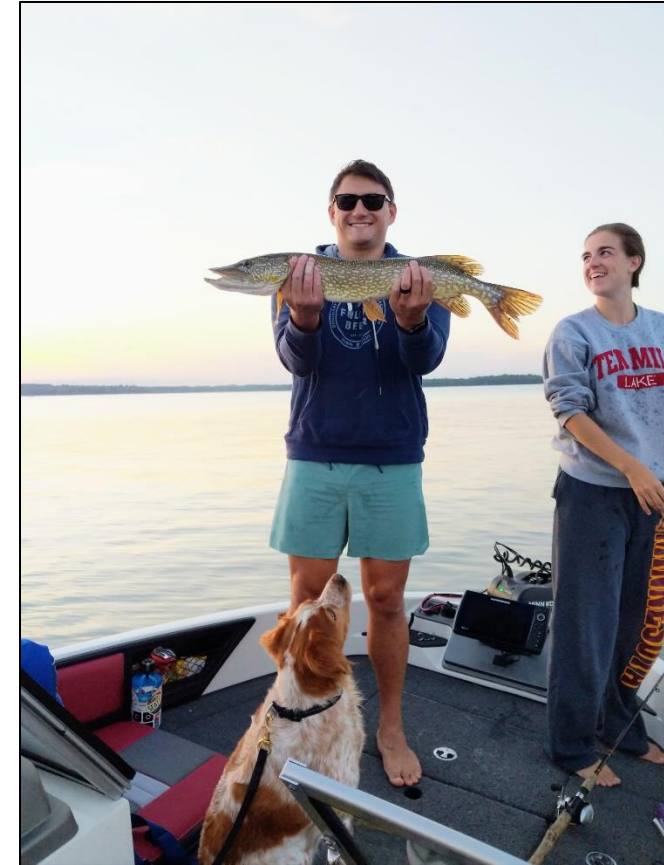
June 4, 2024 – Columbia River Basin AIS Team Meeting



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Rody Seballos – AIS Decontamination Biologist

- Hometown: Cleveland, OH
- B.S., Environmental & Field Biology
 - Ohio Northern University, 2016
 - Assessments of urban stream communities related to weir removal
- M.S., Biology
 - Ball State University, 2019
 - Nutrient availability and organic matter quality shape bacterial community structure in a lake biofilm - Seballos et al., 2020
 - Resource constraints highlight complex microbial interactions during lake biofilm development - Wyatt et al., 2019



Rody Seballos – AIS Decontamination Biologist

- 2019: Park Service Assistant
 - Three Rivers Park Department (Minneapolis, MN)
- 2019-2023: Environmental Data Management Technician
 - Barr Engineering (Minneapolis, MN)
- 2023: Stream Sampling Technician
 - Washington Department of Ecology, Watershed Health Monitoring Unit
- February 16, 2024: Started at WDFW



Stream sampling with Washington Department of Ecology

AIS Decontamination Biologist Projects

- AIS Prevention Section Inland Field Lead
 - Northern Pike responses and sampling efforts
- AIS Inspections at Hatcheries
- WDFW Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination Course
- WDFW Invasive Species Management Protocols (ISMP) Training
- Updating process for finfish transport permit into WA
- AIS risks with dredging projects
- AIS risks with boatyard travel lift testing



Northern Pike response in San Juan Islands, WA

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Northern Pike response in San Juan Islands, WA

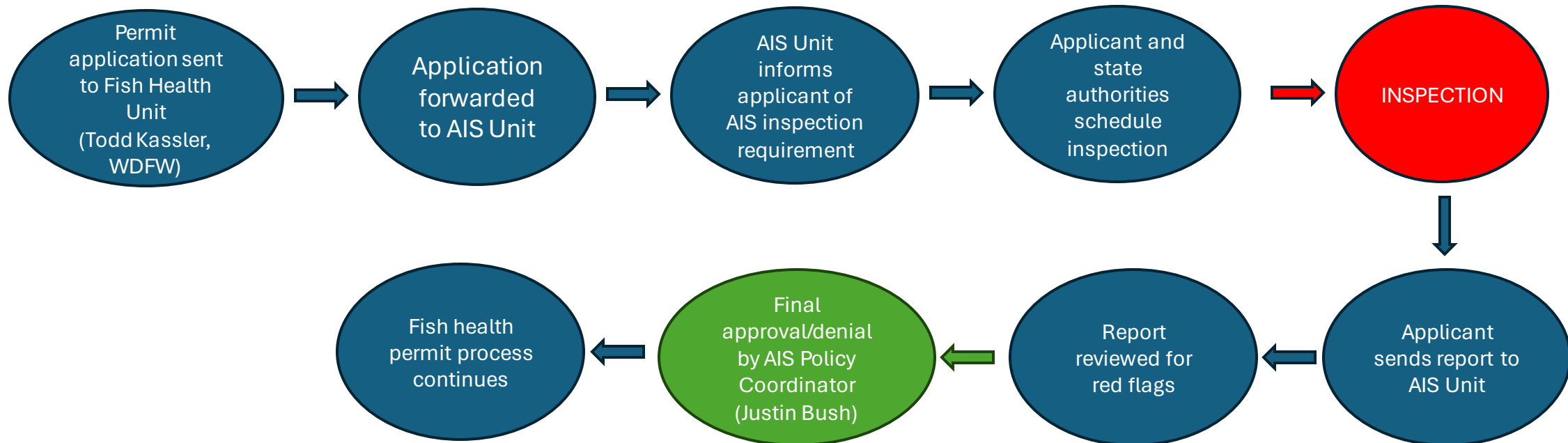
Finfish transport permit (FTP) - Overview

- Fish transports into Washington state pose a risk for introduction/spread of AIS
 - Idaho quagga mussels – fish farms and hatcheries on the Snake River
- **Goal:** Overhaul permitting process for finfish transport into Washington state to account for AIS risks
- **Requirement:** AIS inspection of hatcheries/fish farms for approval of finfish transport permit
 - Entities that bring finfish and/or hatchery water into Washington state




Finfish transport permit – Current process

- Required: AIS inspection of hatcheries/fish farms for approval of finfish transport permit
- Dealing with permits as they come in



Finfish transport permit – Current status

- Dealing with permits as they come in
- Identifying AIS requirements
- Working with other states on inspections
- Developing streamlined process
- Determining legal authority to couple AIS and fish health reports
 - AIS inspection tied to fish health report for FTP
- Plan to work with stakeholders
 - Webinar for updates and feedback



Idaho State Department of Agriculture

AQUACULTURE FACILITY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTION REPORT

A complete inspection for the following aquatic invasive species (AIS) has been performed at the facility named below: New Zealand mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*), Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*), and other invertebrates (identify species).

COLLECTION DATE: [REDACTED] LOCATION: [REDACTED] INSPECTOR: [REDACTED]

FACILITY AREAS INSPECTED (Check all areas inspected or indicate N/A)	INSPECTION METHOD (Circle method used)		RESULTS
Water Source/Inflow	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
Water Source (Holding)	<input type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	N/A
Water Source (Transport)	<input type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	N/A
Collection lines/boxes	<input type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	N/A
Hatchery	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative [REDACTED]
Circular Tanks	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
Raceways	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
Rearing ponds	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
Drum Filters	<input type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	N/A
Settling Pond	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
Effluent discharge	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Visual	Grab	Negative
ZQM Veliger sample collected?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
if yes, volume filtered: _____ ml	Analysis ID: _____		
Other: [REDACTED]	Visual		Negative

Identification of any suspect species: No AIS identified [REDACTED]
 Identified by: [REDACTED] Signed: [REDACTED]

Finfish transport permit – Challenges

- AIS and fish health inspections currently coupled
 - Simplified process for WDFW and applicants
- Legal authority to couple AIS and fish health?
 - WDFW has legal authority to deny FTP if transport poses unacceptable risk of disease transmission (RCWs 77.115, 77.12.455; WACs 220-370, 220-353-130)
 - WDFW can require testing for specific pathogens and for inspecting commercial fish farms
 - “The director may impose conditions as necessary to ensure the protection of food fish populations from infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases and pests.” (WAC 220-353-130)
- If no legal authority – will need to de-couple processes and develop separate AIS permit process

Finfish transport permit – Challenges

- Time & assisting other teams
 - Covering for Zebra & Quagga Mussel (ZQM) team
 - Currently hiring for ZQM Lead
 - Warehouse move
 - Decontaminations with European green crab (EGC) team and other units
- AIS Prevention Inland Field Lead
 - Northern Pike responses – San Juan Islands, WA



Photo Credit: Evan Hiatt

Finfish transport permit – Future items

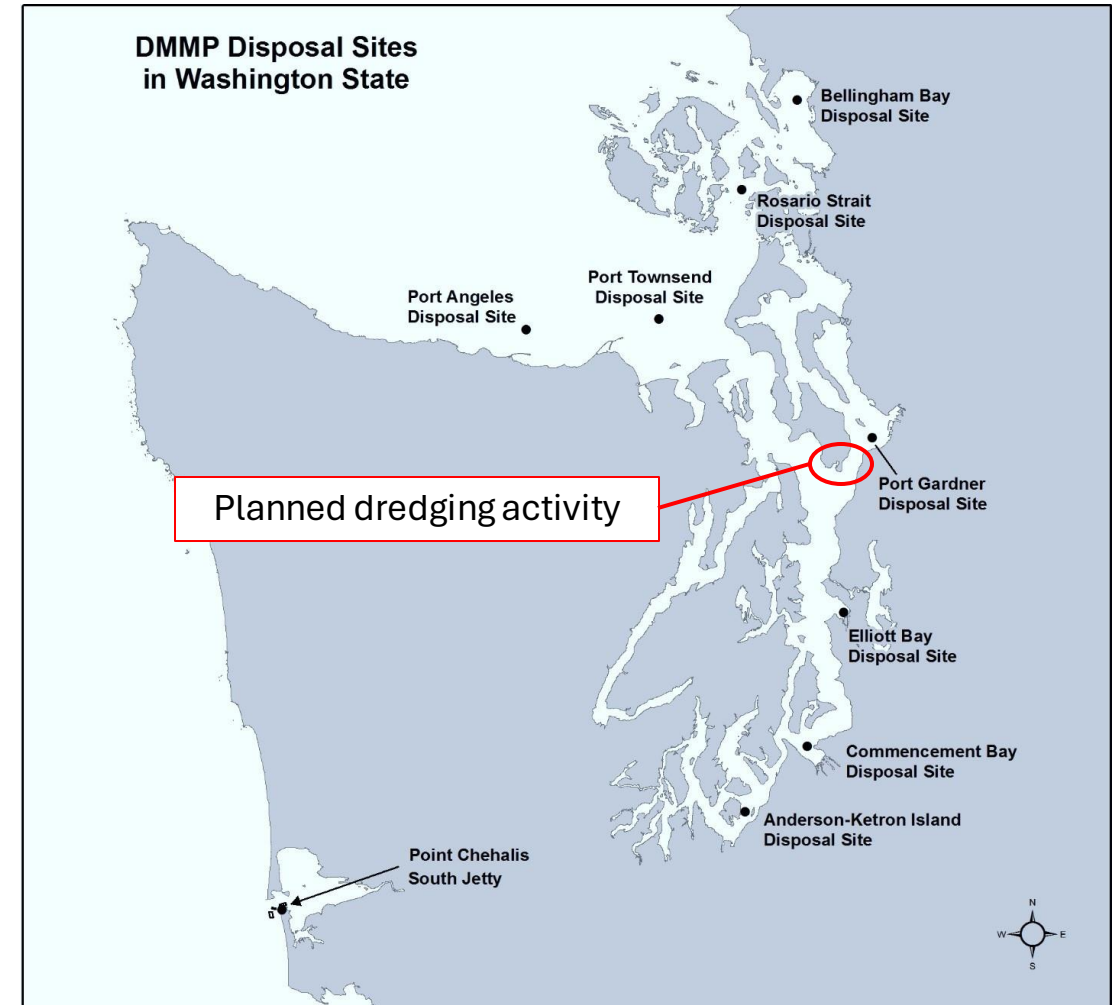
- Wholesale fish – not currently covered under FTP
- Aquarium trade
 - BIG task to tackle
- International transport into Washington state
 - Inspections at port of entry?
 - Determining processes of other entities (federal, state)



Live European green crabs confiscated from seafood market; December 2022

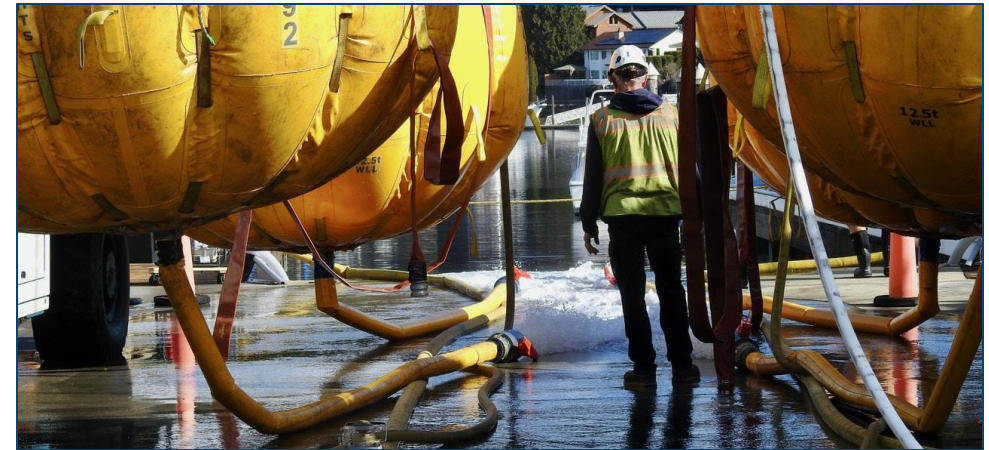
Dredging – AIS concerns

- Dredging project in Puget Sound
 - European green crab concerns at dredge site
 - Upland disposal not feasible
 - Disposal must be at in-water sites
 - Planned monitoring event at dredge site
 - Do not want to set precedent that WDFW will sample for every dredging event
- Recently presented AIS information at Sediment Management Annual Review Meeting (SMARM)
- Dredging on/near Columbia River and other waterbodies



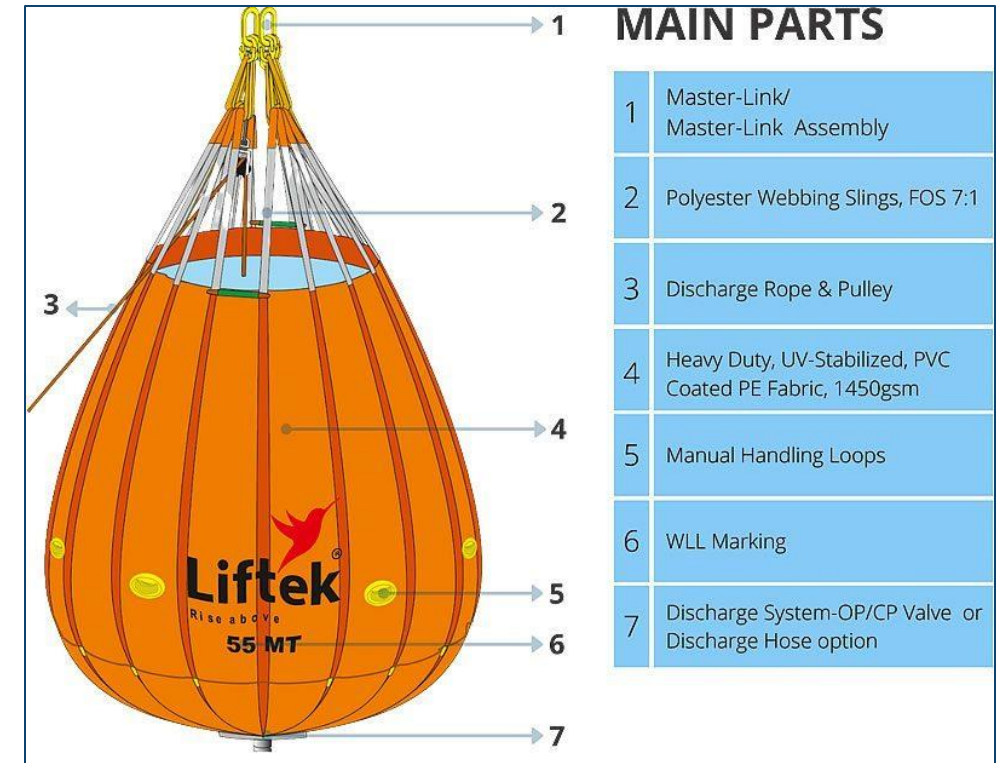
Boatyard Travel Lift Testing – AIS concerns

- Brought to our attention by Washington State Department of Ecology
- New Washington State Department of Labor and Industries rule requires testing of boatyard lifts every 4 years at 110% of weight capacity
- Water bags = preferred test method
 - Recent test = ~13,500 gallons
- Process:
 1. Bags brought to site
 2. Filled with seawater
 3. Lift test performed
 4. Seawater emptied back at source
 5. Bags taken to other sites



Boatyard Travel Lift Testing – AIS concerns

- Load test water bags:
 - Owned by boatyards
 - Boatyards rent to other boatyards
 - Rented from nation-wide and state-wide companies
- Aquatic conveyance per RCW 77.135.010
- No known tracking of bag locations
- No known decontamination of bags



Boatyard Travel Lift Testing – AIS concerns

- Contacting relevant parties:
 - Boatyards
 - Bag rental companies
 - Bag manufacturers
- Proper decontamination of bags:
 - What methods void warranty?
 - What methods are reasonable?
- Where are these bags coming from and going to?
- Anticipate requesting that Washington State Department of Labor and Industries link to Clean Drain Dry procedures in a directive to industry





Thanks! Questions?



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