



Aquatic Invasive Species News

May 29, 2024

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RECOMMENDED READING:

[Considering the number of different species in ballast water regulations \(5/9/24\)](#)

The University of Windsor, Canada's Professor Hugh MacIsaac has presented research showing the new regulations for ballast water did not consider species diversity

In a recent online presentation, Prof explained how the current ballast water management standards, primarily focusing on 'community propagule pressure' – essentially the number of organisms released into non-native waters – have served as a cornerstone of International Maritime Organization's (IMO) strategy against the introduction of invasive species.

However, recent scientific insights, including those presented by Prof MacIsaac and colleagues, revealed a second key predictor of invasions – colonization pressure – the variety of species introduced into ecosystems was not considered.

...

Prof MacIsaac was speaking as part of the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research Great Lakes seminar series, [available here](#).

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Department of the Interior 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](#)

Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Department of the Interior, are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to **submit comments on or before June 3, 2024**

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ISAC Nomination Period: 30-Day Extension

NISC is currently accepting nominations for new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC).

The deadline for submissions for the Federal Register notice published February 27, 2024 at 89 FR 14519 has been **extended until June 7, 2024**.

For information on membership and how to submit nominations, please see the [Second Request for Nominations](#), published in the Federal Register on May 8, 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:

Other:

[Texas]

Egeria densa (Brazilian waterweed) was found in West Fork San Jacinto [[USGS NAS](#)]

Pistia stratiotes (water lettuce) was found in Lower Colorado-Cummins [[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

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- Washington: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and report suspect crabs here <http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab>
- Oregon: Retain green crab caught in your gear - it is illegal to return them to state waters. They are part of your “Other Shellfish” daily catch limit. Try them as food with the rest of your catch. Do not mutilate or kill any crab while you are crabbing.

[5 invasive pests to look out for in WA and how to report sightings](#)

[Destructive forest pest, the emerald ash borer, arrives in Oregon; public asked to report sightings](#)
[Cover your ash: Keep an eye out for the emerald ash borer in Washington](#)

[Invasive oak borer beetle worries Oregon forestry officials](#)

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[What's at stake as Idaho evaluates mussel eradication effort \(5/28/24\)](#)

Invasive quagga mussels were found in Idaho for the first time last fall. The state has been trying to get rid of them, but if it's not successful, the mussels could have widespread and expensive consequences. Michael Stephenson has spent years worrying about a tiny invasive creature smaller than a fingernail. Then, last fall, they arrived. The larval form of quagga mussels and one adult were found in the Snake River near Twin Falls.

[Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Prevention Program and Zebra Mussel Monitoring in Riding Mountain National Park, Canada \(5/24\)](#) Parks Canada staff at Riding Mountain National Park are working with AIS specialists from other Parks Canada administered sites, Members of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, the Province of Manitoba's AIS Unit, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

[Parks Canada bans watercraft from Manitoba's Clear Lake for 2024 over zebra mussel concerns \(5/9/24\)](#) Parks Canada says it is banning all watercraft on Manitoba's Clear Lake this summer in light of a 'likely invasion' of zebra mussels — a move that the province remains at odds with.

Related:

[CTV Winnipeg: 'Devastating': Clear Lake watercraft ban will have an impact, business owners say](#)

[Opinion: Swatting flies with a sledge hammer](#)

[New task force formed to keep mussels out of Alberta \(5/22/24\)](#) Because of the destruction these invasive species can cause, the provincial government has created the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to help curb the mussel's presence and the amount of damage they can cause.

McGarrity ME, McMahon RF (2024) A simplistic water body-specific risk assessment model for zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) establishment based on physicochemical characteristics. *Management of Biological Invasions* 15(1): 91–108, <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2024.15.1.06>

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[Anti-AIS strategy to protect South Dakota waters laid out for 2024 \(5/6/24\)](#) The state Wildlife Division will rely on a proven message to boat owners that they need to ‘clean, drain and dry’ their watercraft as the backbone to prevent zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species from spreading into more of South Dakota’s lakes and rivers this year.

[Feds urged to step up as B.C. fights invasive mussel threat \(5/7/24\)](#) “The federal government has been basically absent from invasive mussel protection. “There are funds, but most go to the Great Lakes. A little goes to marine environments in B.C. but almost nothing for stopping these mussels from coming into Saskatchewan, Alberta or B.C.”

[CPW Continues Fight Against Aquatic Nuisance Species \(5/15/24\)](#) “As the challenge of protecting the state’s waters and infrastructure from aquatic nuisance species continues to grow, CPW continues to lead the charge against these destructive species,” said Robert Walters, CPW’s ANS program manager. “And as boating season approaches we ask for help from the boating community to combat invasive species in the state.”

[B.C. boaters must now pull their drain plug before transporting between water bodies \(5/16/24\)](#) B.C.'s chief veterinarian Theresa Burns has issued the [new order](#), which takes effect on Friday, that will make it illegal to transport all watercraft in the province with the drain plug still in place. "This order is part of our ongoing actions to contain and prevent further spread of whirling disease and keep invasive mussels out of B.C. waterways," said Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

[Olympic National Park, Washington: Free Boat Cleaning Stations at Lake Crescent and Lake Ozette Will Help Combat Aquatic Invasive Species \(5/20/24\)](#) Olympic National Park is launching a new aquatic invasive species program to protect Lake Crescent and Lake Ozette. The program will leverage free boat cleaning stations, public outreach, partnerships, and environmental DNA sampling to reduce the spread of existing invasive species and prevent the introduction of new invasive species. Two aquatic invasive species were detected in Lake Crescent in 2019 and 2022: New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) and Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*). Asian clams were identified in Lake Ozette in 2018.

[Montana AIS Inspection Staff Continues to Detect Mussel-Fouled Boats \(5/22/24\)](#) Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection stations have been busy this spring. So far, more than 10,000 watercraft have been inspected, with 16 of those found to have invasive mussels attached.

[Snake River water access limited due to quagga mussel discovery near Twin Falls \(5/24/24\)](#)

Water access from Pillar Falls to Twin Falls Dam remains closed until further notice. An adult mussel was discovered before last fall's treatment near Shoshone Falls pool. ISDA says it will get post-treatment sample results from this section of the river before opening it up to public access.

[Utah DWR discovers more efficient way to decontaminate boats from quagga mussels \[video\]](#)

[Watercraft Inspections and New Invasive Species in Lake Tahoe \(5/8/24\) \[Video\]](#)

Moore, A., Ford, D., Golebie, E. et al. Social and ecological drivers of behavior that prevents aquatic invasive species transport. *Biol Invasions* 26, 1845–1859 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03287-5> [\$]

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[US Coast Guard reports drop in ballast water deficiencies \(5/6/24\)](#) The US Coast Guard's latest annual report unveils a notable decrease in ballast water deficiencies among vessels trading in United States waters

[In hot water: Bawat CEO on why current ballast water approach is falling short \(5/13/24\)](#)

Marcus Hummer, CEO of Bawat, discusses the state of the ballast water treatment system market and why the maritime industry might be in for an awakening in September.

[US to investigate if Canadian ballast water rules violate local law \(5/22/24\)](#) The US regulator has been exploring the idea of an investigation since 2020 and said it has seen sufficient facts to begin.

[Invasive species an ongoing risk tied to Great Lakes maritime transport \(5/26/24\)](#) Great Lakes maritime transport brings in thousands of tons of crucial materials for infrastructure projects, but massive freighters also carry a threat to the health of the waterway.

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* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03327-0>

MARINE

[Diving teams win thousands after removing record-breaking number of highly invasive lionfish: 'We are very thankful' \(5/8/24\)](#) The nonprofit REEF has hosted lionfish derbies in the Keys and Bahamas since 2009, removing 33,188 lionfish near where the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean converge.

[Port of San Diego declares emergency after more invasive seaweed found in bay \(5/16/24\)](#) The Port of San Diego has renewed an emergency declaration meant to help the city fight an invasive algae that has proliferated in its bay. The algae species, scientifically known as *Caulerpa prolifera*, was first spotted in the San Diego Bay in September, according to a news release from the port. The algae grows and reproduces rapidly, "choking out native seaweeds and seagrasses," according to the port, and causing a loss of habitat for marine life.

Reise K, Michaelis R, Rybalka N (2022) Invading grass-like alga transforms rippled sand bars into bumpy muddy flats: arrival of a game changer in the Wadden Sea? *Aquatic Invasions* 17(1): 1–20, <https://doi.org/10.3391/ai.2022.17.1.01>

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Invasive Species Action Month: Make sure you aren't spreading European green crab \(5/8/25\)](#) "Whether you're out on your paddleboard, doing some fishing, or zipping around on a motorboat, we urge you to practice Clean Drain Dry,"

[Citizen scientist training planned for European green crab \(5/8/24\)](#) Washington Sea Grant and Washington State University's Whatcom County Extension are returning their molt search program, where the public can learn to identify the invasive crabs and then conduct 20-minute surveys.

AQUACULTURE

[First Nations groups in B.C. issue duelling press releases on salmon farming \(5/6/24\)](#) First Nations in B.C. that are both supportive of and opposed to open net salmon farming in B.C. are turning up the heat on the Trudeau government, as a deadline looms for a federal decision on a salmon farming transition plan for B.C.

[Study says aquaculture likely driving wild salmon extinction in Newfoundland \(5/15/24\)](#) [The report](#) published last month in the journal *Reviews in Fisheries Science and Aquaculture* concludes that though climate change and predation also have negative impacts, the effects of

aquaculture operations near the Conne River are the most significant probable factor pushing the local wild salmon population toward extinction.

[First Nation in B.C. to reactivate judicial review of DFO's salmon farm virus policy \(5/16/24\)](#)

A First Nation in British Columbia says it has lost faith in federal plans to remove open net-pens from the province's ocean salmon farms and is reluctantly relaunching legal action it had on hold that challenges Fisheries Department aquaculture policy.

Related: [Aquaculture: activists push an imaginary problem with an imaginary disease \(5/27/24\)](#)

FRESHWATER

[Sun'aq Tribe staff get scuba certified to improve search efforts for invasive crayfish \(5/9/24\)](#)

Crayfish are an invasive species that have been threatening a Kodiak Island lake for over two decades. Eradication efforts have been underway for years. But now the Sun'aq Tribe staff recently got a scuba certification to search for the freshwater shellfish in deeper water than ever before.

[FWP Discovers Non-Native Aquarium Pets in Montana Waters \(5/22/24\)](#) The first detection was mystery snails at Finley Point in Flathead Lake. Mystery snails are an aquarium snail that are found in many waters in the West. But this is the first mystery snail population identified in Montana. FWP plans to attempt to remove the snail population later this season.

Near Bozeman, an angler reported catching a Dojo loach in a small pond. The Dojo loach is native to East Asia and is a popular aquarium pet in the United States.

[Researcher says not every exotic species needs to be controlled \(5/27/24\)](#) Certain invasive exotic species, such as the red swamp crayfish, are harmful to our environment because they nibble on aquatic plants, dig burrows in banks, and transmit crayfish plague to native species. "But there are also non-native fish and crayfish that are not harmful and do not need to be controlled," ecologist Pim Lemmers argues in his Ph.D. thesis.

James J, Moore EM, Naden R, Aston B, Bradbeer SJ, Masud N, Cable J, Stebbing PD (2024) Using eDNA to detect freshwater invasive non-native species under controlled conditions. Management of Biological Invasions 15(1): 41–50, <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2024.15.1.03>

Jones DN, Clements KR, Sepulveda AJ (2024) A workshop to advance invasive species early detection capacity of The Rapid Environmental DNA Assessment and Deployment Initiative & Network (READI-Net). Management of Biological Invasions 15(1): 159–167, <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2024.15.1.10>

FISH

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[Colorado Parks & Wildlife removes invasive carp species from Arvada pond \(5/13/24\)](#) Colorado Parks and Wildlife removed 14 invasive bighead carp from the Jack B Tomlinson Park in Arvada Wednesday. Acting on a tip from the public, CPW aquatic biologists pulled the fish from the pond and checked a neighboring body of water connected by a culvert for the nuisance species. None were found at the second location.

[Illinois Tried to Bait Restaurants With Carp But Customers Won't Bite \(5/17/24\)](#) Copi are an existential threat to Lake Michigan fisheries, but despite Illinois's promotional campaign, it's a challenge to entice customers

Schoolmaster, D.R., Cupp, A.R., Coulter, A.A. et al. Multi-scale effects of behavioral movement deterrents on invasive carp metapopulations. *Biol Invasions* 26, 1957–1968 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03264-y>

Dean EM, Jordon A, Agnew AC, Hernandez ND, Morningstar CR, Neilson M, Piccolomini SE, Reichert B, Wray AK, Daniel WM (2024) America's Most Wanted Fishes: cataloging risk assessments to prioritize invasive species for management action. *Management of Biological Invasions* 15(1): 1–20, <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2024.15.1.01>

Lederman NJ, Collins SF, Hammen JJ, Parkos JJ (2024) Catching carp: a review of bigheaded carp capture strategies. *Management of Biological Invasions* 15(1): 21–40,
https://www.reabic.net/journals/mbi/2024/1/MBI_2024_Lederman_etal.pdf

AQUATIC PLANTS

[Aquatic weed among 'world's worst' expands in Northeastern US \(5/7/24\)](#) An [article](#) in the latest issue of *Invasive Plant Science and Management* provides new insights on a northern hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) subspecies (*lithuanica*) and its establishment outside the Connecticut River. Considered among the “world's worst” aquatic weeds, northern hydrilla hinders recreational activities by forming dense canopies. If unchecked, it has the potential to displace native species and host a bacterium that produces a neurotoxin implicated in bald eagle and waterfowl deaths.

CLIMATE CHANGE

[News spotlight: Nature's decline is driving a surge in diseases \(5/17/24\)](#) In a sweeping new analysis of disease data, scientists found that global trends like biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and the rise in invasive species are putting humans, plants and animals at higher risk of contracting infectious diseases, Emily Anthes reported for The New York Times.

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OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

OTHER

In Memoriam – Tim Counihan



With great sadness, we announce the loss of Timothy Donald Counihan (March 25th, 1959 - Sunday, April 28th, 2024). Tim was a respected scientist at the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center, Columbia River Field Station. He was a loving father and husband, an active member of the Hood River community, and an unmatched audiophile. Tim was a great friend and colleague to many, working on AIS issues for many years. He Co-chaired and was the driving force behind the CRB Team Monitoring Committee and was an author of the seminal publication *Prioritizing Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring in Columbia River Basin*, in addition to numerous other publications. One of Tim's wishes was that no one go hungry in our community; if inclined, consider a donation to [FISH Food Bank](#) to help make this wish come true. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tim's wife Jen, and son Sean. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. He was a wonderful guy. Here is a link to Tim's [obituary](#) and Celebration of Life (6/28/2024, Hood River).

[Invasive species surrounding us \(5/6/24\)](#) Like mold in a house, once you notice it, you can't ignore it. The feeling of seeing something which can cause problems—not only to the structure of your home, but also to the health of all the inhabitants—requires swift action to cull it, diminishing the possible harm.

[USGS Scientist Discusses Using DNA to Assist with Aquatic Invasive Species Management \[podcast\]](#)

JOBS/GRANTS

New:

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

Jobs

[PhD Assistantship: YY Bullfrogs for Invasive Species Management, Utah State University:](#)

Project Description: We are recruiting a PhD Student to begin in Fall 2024. The prospective student will be assessing innovative methods for invasive population control of American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* through the development of YY individuals and modeling their ability to extirpate nuisance populations. Effective management methods to control invasive bullfrogs are lacking and previous examples of successful landscape-scale bullfrog eradication efforts have been incredibly costly in time and resources. The development and release of YY individuals (frogs that are homozygous for the male-coding chromosome) may provide managers an additional tool in the control of invasive bullfrog populations. Application Deadline:

06/03/2024.

[Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center \(NW CASC\) is hiring a full-time research scientist to coordinate the NW RISCC Network](#) and to lead the planning and implementation of its annual Actionable Science Deep Dives.

The NW CASC is seeking candidates with science synthesis experience and strong organization and communication skills. Candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in natural resource management, environmental sciences, natural sciences, or a related field and 4 years of relevant experience. A doctoral degree is preferred.

This position is based at the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group in Seattle, Washington. **Application review begins June 10, 2024.** [Learn more & apply!](#)

The State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking applicants for a new [Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination Section Lead \[Environmental Planner 5\]](#) (Full Time – Permanent, Salary: \$6,510.00 - \$8,758.00 Monthly) position based in Olympia or Spokane, Washington. **This recruitment is posted until June 20, 2024, with a first review of applications to take place on May 31, 2024.** Application review will be ongoing; therefore, we encourage you to submit your application materials as soon as possible.

[Clackamas SWCD Office WeedWise Technician \(Seasonal\)](#)

The WeedWise Technician is a full-time, seasonal (1040 hours), at-will position that will assist with surveying and managing invasive weeds. Successful candidates will assist with WeedWise Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. **Positions open until filled.**

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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, 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.

Wyoming Game & Fish Department Multiple openings:

- 3 [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Specialist-Statewide](#) These regional positions implement the AIS program to protect the state's aquatic resources and infrastructure from the introduction of AIS.

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.

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 **April 16 - July 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1. All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria.

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,

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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.

[California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2025](#)

Applications are now open! **Deadline: June 14, 2024.**

California Sea Grant is now soliciting applications for the 2025 California State Fellowship Program. The State Fellowship Program provides a unique educational opportunity for recent graduate students who are interested in marine, coastal, and/or watershed resources and in the decisions affecting those resources in California.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, on behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is soliciting proposals for interagency agreement funding to support response to the ongoing [European green crab emergency](#). Please visit <https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/> for more information about the available funding for public agencies. **(Rolling deadline until funds fully allocated)**

For more information on European green crab and the state response, please visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas> and <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters>

LEGISLATION

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[Hawaii] [Legislature passes bill to combat invasive species \(5/9/24\)](#) The Hawaii State Legislature voted unanimously to pass a bill that appropriates nearly \$20 million toward the battle against invasive species, sending it to the governor's desk for consideration. [House Bill 2619](#), relating to biosecurity, gives the Hawaii Department of Agriculture unprecedented support in its efforts to combat invasive species that threaten the state's fragile environment and local agricultural industries.

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

[Carper, Capito Applaud Senate Passage of Legislation to Bolster Wildlife Conservation \(5/8/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the EPW Committee, today applauded Senate passage of the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Reauthorization Act of 2024.

The ACE bill ([S. 3791](#)) includes :

- Sec.104. Protection of water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species
- Reauthorizes appropriations for \$2.5 million annually for each the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Interior to carry out activities for the protection of water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species through Fiscal Year 2030.

A fact sheet on the bill can be found [HERE](#).

[Romney, Manchin Introduce Bill to Get Federal Workers Back into the Office \(5/7/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) today introduced the [Back to Work Act of 2024](#), bipartisan legislation to require employees of federal agencies to return to in-person work. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), in 2023, 17 of 24 federal agency headquarters were [operating](#) at an average capacity of 25% less. This legislation would limit telework to no more than 40% of days within an employee's pay period and require agencies to report to Congress on the productivity of its telework activities.

[House Approves Coast Guard Authorization Act \(5/14/24\)](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives today approved bipartisan legislation to strengthen, support, and authorize funding for the United States Coast Guard, one of the Nation's six armed services. The *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024* ([H.R. 7659](#)) supports and strengthens the

Coast Guard in its critical missions to safeguard borders, ensure maritime safety, facilitate commerce, increase transparency, stop the flow of illegal drugs and migrants into the country, protect the maritime domain, and confront Chinese expansion in the Pacific.

Included in the bill is:

“SEC. 904. Information on type approval certificates.

“The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon request by any State, the District of Columbia, or any territory of the United States, provide all data possessed by the Coast Guard pertaining to challenge water quality characteristics, challenge water biological organism concentrations, post-treatment water quality characteristics, and post-treatment biological organism concentrations data for a ballast water management system with a type approval certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to subpart 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

NOTE: State ballast water management agencies have sought this data-sharing language for several years and it looks like it may pass this year. The bill was sent to the Senate and its Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on 5/15/24. Stay tuned for Senate action.

[EPW Committee Passes Bipartisan 2024 Water Resources Bill \(5/22/24\)](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee voted to pass the bipartisan Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 introduced by Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Chairman Tom Carper (D-Del.), Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), and Senator Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.). The bill advanced by a unanimous vote.

The Water Resources Development Act is biennial legislation that authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to continue implementation of key projects and studies that address water resources challenges in communities across the country, including several in West Virginia. WRDA 2024 authorizes 81 feasibility studies and 8 new or modified construction projects across the country.

Click [here](#) to view bill text.

Click [here](#) to view bill text.

AIS items of interest:

SEC. 225. Report On Efforts To Monitor, Control, And Eradicate Invasive Species.

(a) DEFINITION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.—In this section, the term “invasive species” has the meaning given the term in section 1 of Executive Order 13112 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to invasive species).

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(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct, and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of, **an assessment of the efforts by the Secretary to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species at water resources development projects across the United States.**

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under subsection

(b) shall include—

(1) a description of—

(A) the statutory authorities and programs used by the Secretary to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species; and

(B) a geographically diverse sample of successful projects and activities carried out by the Secretary to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species;

(2) a discussion of—

(A) the impact of invasive species on the ability of the Secretary to carry out the civil works program of the Corps of Engineers, with a particular emphasis on impact of invasive species to the primary missions of the Corps of Engineers;

(B) the research conducted and techniques and technologies used by the Secretary consistent with the applicable statutory authorities described in paragraph (1)(A) to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species; and

(C) the extent to which the Secretary has partnered with States and units of local government to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species within the boundaries of those States or units of local government;

(3) an update on the status of the plan developed by the Secretary pursuant to section 1108(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2263a(c)); and

(4) recommendations, including legislative recommendations, to further the efforts of the Secretary to monitor, control, and eradicate invasive species.

SEC. 348. Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program

Section 128(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 610 note; Public Law 116–260) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) Lake Elsinore, California; and

“(16) Willamette River, Oregon.

Sec. 322. Expenses For Control Of Aquatic Plant Growths And Invasive Species.

Section 104(d)(2)(A) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking **“50 percent”** and inserting **“35 percent”**

Now What: The bill has a chance to pass out of the Senate before the July 4th recess. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is eyeing a markup of its version of WRDA in June.

Related: [Merkley: Water Infrastructure Bill is Strong Investment in Oregon's Future \(5/22/24\)](#)

The Aquatic Invasive Species Cost-Share Program has a 50/50 federal/non-federal matching requirement. However, it can be difficult for state, tribal, and university partners to meet the needed 50% non-federal match. This has resulted in states not participating to their full capacity. WRDA 2024 modifies the cost-share requirement.

Federal: Appropriations

[GOP tempers expectations on appropriations bills \(5/28/24\)](#)

House Republicans are pressing forward with aggressive plans to mark up and pass their 12 annual funding bills for fiscal 2025 before the August recess, but some are dialing back expectations after intraparty divisions over spending plagued the process last year.

House Republicans took a key step this week in passing legislation out of committee to fund military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs for most of next year. The bill marked the first of the 12 partisan funding plans for fiscal 2025 that Republicans hope to move out of committee and across the floor by the end of July — when Congress gears up to take its monthlong August recess.

[House Appropriations Committee Approves FY25 Subcommittee Allocations, Prioritizing Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs \(5/23/24\)](#)

Washington, D.C. – Today, the House Appropriations Committee met to consider interim subcommittee allocations for Fiscal Year 2025, which were developed using the caps outlined in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. The measure was approved by the Committee with a vote of 30 to 22.

Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) said, “Today marks an important step forward in the appropriations process. These allocations uphold the funding level prescribed in law and demonstrate that we can both fund our nation’s needs and exercise fiscal discipline. Our FY25 approach is quite simple: it’s our duty to stay within the spending limits, work together to advance these bills, and serve the American people. Our FY25 process will reflect investments that make the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous—now and into the future.”

Key Takeaways

- Defense will receive an increase of nearly \$9 billion.
- Homeland Security will be funded above the FY24 enacted level and the President’s Budget Request.
- Veterans Affairs – including veterans’ medical care and benefits – will be fully funded.
- Non-defense programs will be cut effectively by 6%, and those cuts are not evenly distributed.

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- Some subcommittees, such as Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Financial Services-General Government, and State-Foreign Operations, will receive significant cuts of 10-11%.
- Other subcommittees will have smaller non-defense cuts, reflecting Republican priorities across the bills.

Interim 302(b)s*

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies: \$25,873,000,000
- Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: \$78,288,000,000
- Defense: \$833,053,000,000
- Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies: \$59,190,000,000
- Financial Services and General Government: \$23,608,000,000
- Homeland Security: \$64,805,000,000
- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies: \$37,739,000,000
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies: \$186,586,000,000
- Legislative Branch: \$7,125,000,000
- Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies: \$147,520,000,000
- State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs: \$51,713,000,000
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies: \$90,400,000,000
- **Total: \$1,605,900,000,000**

**Each subcommittee is allocated a certain amount of funding under the full Committee's 302(a) allocation. These allocations, which are referred to as 302(b) allocations, establish the cap on spending for each of the appropriations bills.*

EVENTS

[Archived Events:](#)

[Ongoing Training Opportunities:](#)

[Watercraft Inspection Training](#)

[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!

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Calendar of Events

2024

June

June 1 – June 8: PlayCleanGo Awareness Week

Registration is now open for the 100th Meridian CRB AIS Team; Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4 & 5, 2024 at the Residence Inn Missoula Downtown in Missoula, MT. Registration is now open! [Register Here](#). We anticipate starting at 10am on 06/04 and ending ~ 3pm on 06/05. Please contact Leah Elwell for agenda questions at: leah@conservationcollaborations.com.

On June 10-11, 2024 the [Flathead Lake Biological Station](#) and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks will conduct a 2 day aquatic invasive species training event including AIS identification and sampling methods, eDNA sample collection, and equipment decontamination. An integral portion of the training will be spent overviewing and using Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), a “point of use” technology capable of real-time presence/absence detection. Training time will also be spent in the field collecting specimens following MTFWP all taxa protocols. Upon completion, participants will be provided access to additional AIS training resources, equipment loans, and sampling events. Lunch for both days will be provided, and lodging at FLBS is available upon request. For more information, please send questions to phil.matson@flbs.umt.edu

[June 27, 2024 Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, Olympia OR](#)

July

NAISMA July 17, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Chondria tumulosa impacts to coral reefs in Hawaii](#)

August

Oregon Invasive Species Council – Insect Pest Summit and Business meeting. August 5 – 7th.
NAISMA: August 21, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CDT [Webinar: Dutch Elm Disease and Resistance](#)

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](#)

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

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.

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](#)

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