



# Aquatic Invasive Species News

April 22, 2025

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## RECOMMENDED READING

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### [Washington Sea Grant begins genome sequencing invasive European green crab \(4/18/25\)](#)

The Washington Sea Grant (WSG), in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), received \$185,000 in state appropriations to sequence the European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) genome.

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Ultimately, the genome is intended to help researchers understand why the European green crab is an effective invader and to lead to more targeted management strategies. In particular, researchers are searching for a genetic explanation for the species' impressive thermal tolerance, which is the ability to thrive in a range of water temperatures.

In terrestrial species, researchers have utilized genetic information to understand whether invasive species are susceptible to certain chemicals or diseases. This strategy could potentially be replicated with European green crabs. Researchers could also manipulate genetic information to create an imbalance between the sexes, interfering with reproduction.

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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## NEW SPECIES & SIGHTINGS

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Want to get more new species alerts?  
USGS NAS: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.aspx>

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Mussels:

Other:

[Arizona] [\*Corbicula fluminea\* \(basket clam\)](#) was found in Clear Creek [[USGS NAS](#)]

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## WATCH LIST

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Green Crab:

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

Walleye

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

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## DREISSENID MUSSELS

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

[Idaho State Department of Agriculture continues work on the Snake River \(4/11/25\)](#) They have already started sampling, which will increase after the spring runoff. “Those efforts will go on throughout the season and hopefully we don’t have any results that cause us some concern,” said Lloyd Knight, Deputy Director at the ISDA. “But we’re also making plans contingent upon the possibility of finding any additional organisms over the course of the summer.

[Idaho Fish and Game Commission rescinds Snake River hunting, fishing, and trapping closure due to quagga mussels \(4/15/25\)](#) At their April 15, 2025 meeting, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission rescinded their Snake River closure to hunting, fishing and trapping below the high-water mark near Twin Falls that had been in place since September 29, 2023.

[Highline Lake was drained because of invasive mussels. Water — and vigilance — returns this summer \(4/3/25\)](#) Right now, water is flowing into Highline Lake for the first time in four months. Colorado Parks and Wildlife drained the lake, a sprawling centerpiece in the state park of the same name in western Colorado, last fall as part of the plan to eradicate an invasive mussel.

[Bothersome zebra mussel discovered at 38th Texas lake \(4/6/25\)](#) "Unfortunately, the zebra mussel infestation of Lake Nasworthy is part of a trend in recent years of spread of this highly invasive species to lakes in the western part of the state," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species.

[Making waves studying quagga mussels \(4/25\)](#) Theissen, a senior in the College of Science who arrived from Missouri on a National Merit Scholarship, spent the last two years on a research project that tracks how quagga and zebra mussels – an invasive freshwater shellfish also known as dreissenid mussels – are transported across the U.S. to Idaho waterways.

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## GOLDEN MUSSELS

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[Unlikely heroes emerge to protect local lake from dangerous menace: 'In their mind, they're playing a huge game of hide and seek' \(4/21/25\)](#) Two dogs, Splash and Minnow, are helping protect Rancho Seco Lake in California against invasive golden mussels.

[CDFW: California takes action to halt golden mussel invasion \(4/17/25\)](#) In response to the recent detection of golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the state of California has developed a comprehensive [Golden Mussel Response Framework](#) to address this urgent invasive species threat. The discovery in October 2024 marked the first known occurrence of golden mussel in North America. To combat this threat, the framework provides coordinated strategies by multiple California departments to prevent further introduction and spread of golden mussels, as well as to contain and suppress infestations to minimize their impact on the environment, water conveyance, recreation and agriculture.

[\[California\] EBMUD closes public access to boat launches at its reservoirs to prevent mussel invasion \(4/12/25\)](#) The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which provides drinking water for 1.4 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, announced Wednesday that it will keep boat launches closed to private vessels for the 2025 season due to the spread of the golden mussel.

**Note:** For a list of waterbody restrictions in California see [Watercraft Inspections in California and Vessel Restrictions](#)

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## BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

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[Flathead Lakers Target Out-of-State Boaters to Prevent Invasive Species \(4/12/25\)](#) The nonprofit, armed with a DNRC grant, is launching a project that uses state data to contact boaters visiting from states with infested waters

**Note:** For a list of waterbody restrictions in California see [Watercraft Inspections in California and Vessel Restrictions](#)

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## BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

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[Antifouling moves reflect wider ecological governance shift \(4/5/25\)](#) Recent innovations in antifouling by Alfa Laval and PPG coincide with calls to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee in April 2025 (MEPC 83) to adopt a more integrated view of marine pollution, biodiversity and climate risks – an approach that could see future antifouling strategies assessed not only for efficacy, but also for ecosystem impact and cross-sectoral alignment.

[Ships struggle with ballast water compliance framework \(4/7/25\)](#) MEPC 83 will debate ballast water regulation as shipowners report difficulties meeting D-2 compliance despite using approved systems

[DELTA ISB: Golden mussels and beyond: How ballast water fuels invasions \(4/9/25\)](#) The San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary is often regarded as one of the most heavily invaded estuaries in the world. The Delta has been colonized by at least 185 foreign species, from Asian clams and water hyacinth to nutria and others, with more new species always arriving. According to one estimate, non-native species account for 95% or more of the Delta's total biomass.

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## MARINE

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[Engineering Students Target Invasive Lionfish with Underwater Robotic Harvester \(4/14/25\)](#) Their senior design project, the Lionfish Interception and Ocean Navigation Submersible for Harvesting and Aquatic Recovery Kit (LIONSHARK), is an underwater attachment designed to harpoon and capture up to 20 adult lionfish from a safe distance. Mounted on a remote operated vehicle, the system is capable of diving deeper than traditional scuba divers and eliminates the risk of contact with the venomous fish.

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[As New England waters warm, invasive sea squirts move in \(4/22/25\)](#) Sea squirts spend most of their lives stuck to hard surfaces like docks, the ocean floor, fishing gear or even other animals. This can be a problem for commercial fishing since the creatures can clog up equipment and may push out native species.

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## GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

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## AQUACULTURE

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[Aquaculture: Land-based Salmon Farms Don't Make Dollars or Sense say Experts \(4/7/25\)](#) Growing salmon in land-based tanks, often touted by activists as an alternative to ocean-based aquaculture, is a fantasy that doesn't make dollars or sense in today's economic climate, warns Johan Andreassen, co-founder of Atlantic Sapphire.

[Emphasizing animal welfare boosts aquaculture profits, Aquatic Life Institute research finds \(4/9/25\)](#) Rye, New York, U.S.A.-based nonprofit Aquatic Life Institute (ALI) has published research finding that aquaculture producers who prioritize both the biological health and the overall welfare of their aquatic animals run more profitable and, therefore, sustainable operations.

[Why Canada's Blue Economy Needs a Thriving Aquaculture Sector \(4/7/25\)](#) Canada, a nation with the longest coastline in the world and a staggering wealth of marine resources, is frittering away a massive economic lifeline by throttling aquaculture-related industries that could power a sustainable future.

[UMich study shows strategic planning can reduce marine aquaculture's impact on biodiversity \(4/10/25\)](#) A recent University of Michigan study found that as demand for seafood continues to increase due to human population growth, strategically planning where future marine aquaculture farms exist can decrease the harmful impact these farms can have on biodiversity.

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## FRESHWATER

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['There's no quick fix': Goldfish invade manmade Henderson pond \(4/4/25\)](#) Arter, enjoying a walk with his wife, Kay, and golden retriever, Sunset, is one of hundreds who have swarmed to the Henderson master-planned community known as Cadence to see the massive amounts of goldfish. At the neighborhood Central Park, a few abandoned goldfish have colonized the

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manmade pond, establishing a population of hundreds that have grown, in some cases, to the size of a smartphone.

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## FISH

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[Dropping the Bass: USGS science helps partners stop spread of invasive smallmouth bass in the Colorado River \(3/21/25\)](#) To slow the spread, Epehimer and USGS research statistician Charles Yackulic worked with academic, state and federal cooperators to develop models predicting when and where the fish might invade, based on projected temperatures and Lake Powell water levels. These models help the National Park Service prioritize locations for smallmouth bass monitoring and eradication.

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## AQUATIC PLANTS

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## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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## OTHER

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[This Hawaiian island's 'freakosystems' are a warning from the future \(4/4/25\)](#) O'ahu's lowland forests are now almost entirely devoid of the plants and animals that grew here for millions of years before the arrival of humans. Settlers brought extinctions by cutting down trees to make farms and introducing voracious predators and disease-carrying animals. Today, these tropical forests are a tapestry of non-native species introduced from every corner of the planet: Brazilian peppertree, Indonesian cinnamon and roseleaf bramble from the Himalayas and Australia. Most of the animals, including all the birds that Tarwater mentioned earlier, are also alien.

[Gene-edited 'Peter Pan' cane toad that never grows up created to eat its siblings, control invasive species \(4/8/25\)](#) Researchers think they've found a bioengineering solution that gets the pest to limit its own numbers. By removing a single gene in a toad egg, the researchers have created a

hatchling that never progresses past its tadpole stage... The gene-edited tadpoles take this cannibalism to a new level.

[Native fish species are facing 'double trouble' \(4/2/25\)](#) Rising temperatures, altered water flows, and shifting ecosystems already disrupt many habitats. At the same time, biological invasions involving non-native species that move into new areas introduce added stress. Until now, these two threats have mostly been studied in isolation. However, [recent work](#) by researchers at Oregon State University suggests that combining these forces reveals deeper risks.

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## JOBS/GRANTS

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### *Resources:*

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

## Jobs

### [Volunteer Recruitment Open for Makah Tribe’s 2025 Green Crab Trapping Season \(3/27/25\)](#)

The Makah Tribe is excited to announce that volunteer recruitment is now open for the 2025 green crab trapping season. This is a unique opportunity for individuals interested in hands-on conservation work to help protect the reservation’s coastal ecosystems.

### [Utah DNR: Aquatic Biologist \(Wildlife Biologist II\) - Southeastern Regional Office \(SERO\)](#)

This biologist is responsible for ensuring that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) of various types (mollusks, noxious weeds, illegally moved fish, etc.) do not negatively impact our fisheries management and conservation efforts. Responsibilities include conducting AIS inspections of hatcheries, fish trap/spawning sites, and wild fish transfer sources within the assigned region to prevent AIS spread through fish stocking activities. The role will also lead fish population monitoring, invasive vegetation removal, and management strategies for illegal fish introductions at specific regional waters. Additionally, this position will develop and implement regional AIS outreach and survey strategies in collaboration with Salt Lake Office (SLO) and regional aquatics sections. **Closes: 4/16/2025 11:59 PM Mountain**

## Grants

[Golden Mussel Response Framework and Boating Access: Invasive Mussel Response Grant Opportunity](#) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is offering \$1 million in grant funding to boating facility operators to enhance efforts against invasive mussels, particularly the threat of golden mussels. This funding supports projects that help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive mussels in lakes, reservoirs and waterways, ensuring the long-term health of state waters. [The grant solicitation and application link can be found here.](#) The complete application and all supporting documentation must be submitted via CDFW's WebGrants System **by May 23, 2025 4:00 PM (PT)**

### [California Sea Grant 2026 State Fellowship Applications Now Open!](#)

#### **Deadline: Jun 13, 2025**

California Sea Grant is now soliciting applications for the 2026 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.

### [Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Fund](#)

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), in cooperation with and funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will be issuing approximately \$510,000 in grants to fund efforts to plan a rapid response or deploy rapid 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.

#### **Deadline for written questions: 04.30.2025**

#### **Deadline for submission of proposals: 05.16.2025**

The RFP, including information on requirements and eligibility, is posted here:

<https://www.psmfc.org/aquatic-invasive-species-rapid-response-fund?pid=131>

## TRAINING:

### [Certified Tribal Technician Program](#)

NAFWS' vision for the Certified Tribal Technician Program is to offer professional certification training for tribal staff with the equivalency as a Fisheries Technician or an Invasive Species Technician to assist building tribal capacity for Tribes.

To achieve this, we will:

- Promote tribal programs and assist in the building of tribal capacity by offering professional training opportunities.
- Provide training skills that expand or enhance knowledge for professional fish and wildlife/natural resources staff.
- Focus on concepts related to Fishery and/or Invasive Species Management to build tribal capacities to implement in comprehensive Fish and Wildlife/Natural Resources Management Programs.



The goal of the training program is to increase awareness, knowledge, and implementation of best management practices related to fisheries and invasive species management, and monitoring by tribal professionals and field staff.

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## LEGISLATION

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### Advocacy

[Western Governors submit testimony on FY 2026 appropriations \(4/4/25\)](#) The Western Governors' Association submitted testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, as well as the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Read the [full testimony](#) for additional details.

“The spread of invasive mussels, crabs, and aquatic vegetation continues to be a major threat to western water resources. The containment of these invaders in infested waters in the West depends upon the collaboration and cooperation of federal, state, and local agencies. Many state-led containment programs benefit from federal cooperation and funding. Western Governors request that the Subcommittee provide BOR and the Corps with the necessary funding to collaborate with western states to contain the spread of aquatic invasive species.”

### State/Provincial

#### Federal: Executive

#### Federal: Congressional

#### Federal: Appropriations

##### [House GOP adopts Trump budget blueprint after last-minute scramble \(4/10/25\)](#)

The successful vote puts a bookend on the first phase of the budget reconciliation process, which Republicans are hoping to use to advance Trump's domestic policy priorities. The process allows the Senate to bypass Democratic buy-in by working around the 60-vote filibuster. The initial part of the procedure requires both chambers adopting a resolution, which acts as instructions for the rest of the process.

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## EVENTS

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### Archived Events:

### Ongoing Training Opportunities:

#### Watercraft Inspection Training:

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

- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

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

- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

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

- There are no Level 3 WID Trainer classes scheduled currently. Please [click here](#) to be notified when future classes are scheduled.

### [DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[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

**2025**

**April**

The **2025 Pacific Ballast Water and Biofouling Group Meeting** has been scheduled for April 29 & 30, 2025. It will be held at Hyatt Centric The Pike Long Beach in Long Beach, California.

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The room block is closed, however you can contact Amy Stark to check on remaining availability. **Register online [here](#)**. Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

### May

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

Registration Link: Register | [2025 Invasive Species Research Conference](#)

Register now! If you have any questions or still have a presentation proposal to submit, feel free to reach out to Diane at [dwatson@bcinvasives.ca](mailto:dwatson@bcinvasives.ca).

### June

Registration is now open for the next meeting of the **100th Meridian CRB AIS Team Meeting**; scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 3 & 4, 2025 at the Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown in Boise, ID. [Click Here to Register](#)

HOTEL: Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown \$191/night per diem rate.

AGENDA: A draft agenda will be on the registration website and on Westernais.org. Please contact Leah Elwell for agenda questions at: [leah@conservationcollaborations.com](mailto:leah@conservationcollaborations.com).

LOGISTICS: This will be a hybrid meeting. Meeting materials such as minutes and presentations will be made available post-meeting.

QUESTIONS: You may contact Amy Stark at ([astark@psmfc.org](mailto:astark@psmfc.org)) or call her at (503) 595-3112.

### July

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, July 17, Olympia](#)

### September

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, September 25, Olympia](#)

### October

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

### December

[Oregon Invasive Species Council Business Meeting, December 2, 2025 Salem](#)

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Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, December 9, Olympia

**2026**

**August**

The 24th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species will be hosted by Queen's University Belfast, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Aug. 23-27, 2026.

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