



Aquatic Invasive Species News

March 13, 2025

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RECOMMENDED READING

[First dog in BC trained to detect invasive mussels retires after 8 years](#)

The first search and detection dog trained to detect invasive mussels has retired after eight years of service.

Kilo, who worked for the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has played a pivotal role in helping keep BC waterways free of the invasive species



[Police dog comes out of retirement to fight dangerous menace: 'Alarming reminder of the imminent threat we face' \(2/26/25\)](#)

Puddles was a police dog before retiring and has come out of retirement to help with the local mussel problem. Puddles is working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to detect and remove mussels tagging along on watercraft.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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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>

Mussels:

[Iowa] [*Dreissena polymorpha* \(zebra mussel\)](#) was found in Red Rock reservoir at Elk Rock State Park boat dock [[USGS NAS](#)]

Other:

[California] [*Pectinatella magnifica* \(magnificent bryozoan\)](#) was found in Lake Kaweah [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Washington] [*Cipangopaludina* sp. \(mysterysnail\)](#) was found in Pend Oreille River near Riverbend Loop Road [[USGS NAS](#)]

WATCH LIST

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
- 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, or call (208) 750-4228.

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DREISSENID MUSSELS

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

[Idaho starts the second phase of quagga mussel treatment in Snake River \(2/24/25\)](#) The potassium chloride treatment targets potential quagga mussels in isolated rocky areas and deep pools.

[More funding to defend Alberta from mussel invasion \(3/12/25\)](#) The provincial government will invest about \$18 million over five years in defence against aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. The funds would be about \$18.1 million for operating over three years and \$2.1 million for capital funding over five years.

[Zebra Mussels invade Midland's water system, contributing to pressure issues \(3/5/25\)](#) An unexpected invader is contributing to Midland's low water pressure: zebra mussels. The invasive species, known for wreaking havoc on lakes and rivers across North America, has now made its way into the Permian Basin—causing disruptions at the Midland Water Treatment Plant.

Reymondet, E., Grimond, J., Beisel, JN. et al. Photogrammetric assessment of quagga mussel growth shows no winter cessation in Lake Geneva. Sci Rep 15, 8309 (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-93064-8>

[Fish, mussel introductions top agenda for Lake Chelan \(3/10/25\)](#) Keeping invasive species out of Lake Chelan and other Chelan County waterways is behind an effort by the county and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Chelan County Natural Resources Director Mike Kaputa raised the concern over Zebra, Quagga and Golden mussels being introduced into the Columbia basin.

[‘We take this seriously’: ISDA director on out-of-state boat traffic, Idaho quagga mussels \(2/21/25\)](#) Idaho needs to have a “critical conversation” about what out-of-state boat traffic looks like, Chanel Tewalt, Idaho State Department of Agriculture director, told Idaho legislators on Tuesday.

[Invasive mussels pose costly threat to Nevada waters \(2/27/25\)](#) The Nevada Department of Wildlife has raised concerns about the potential impact of these species on local ecosystems, particularly if zebra or quagga mussels were to invade Lake Tahoe. The estimated financial impact of such an invasion could exceed \$20 million annually.

[Quadrillions of invasive mussels are damaging the Great Lakes, documentary shows \(2/28/25\)](#) Filmmakers use underwater drones to see how the mussels have re-engineered the lakes on a scale not seen since the Ice Age

GOLDEN MUSSELS

[WDFW Golden Mussel Risk Screening Summary \(12/2024\)](#)

[How to Stop the Spread of Golden Mussels \(2/27/25\)](#) Always remember to clean, drain, and dry their boats before entering and leaving lakes, rivers, and other waterways.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[CDFA's Border Protection Stations - Program Operational Reduction](#) - The State of California is currently facing a significant and ongoing budget deficit, and programs across CDFA are being required to implement budget reductions. In accordance with the budget reductions, the Border Protection Stations (BPS) Program will be reducing scheduled staffing levels to the minimum necessary to maintain safe operations for all working shifts, and will be reducing the hours of operation at multiple stations.

[Some Montana watercraft inspection stations to open this weekend \(3/7/25\)](#) A handful of watercraft inspection stations begin operation on March 8 to check snowbird boat traffic returning from mussel-positive areas such as the lower Colorado River, including lakes Mead, Havasu, Pleasant, Powell and Mohave. Boat owners coming to Montana must have their vessel inspected for aquatic invasive species (AIS) at a Montana watercraft inspection station prior to launch.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Use of Unauthorized Chemicals for Ballast Water Management Systems \(2/20/25\)](#) The Coast Guard has been made aware of instances of the use of unauthorized chemical products in Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS).

[Smithsonian researchers study ocean stowaways to assess their impacts \(2/20/25\)](#) The Marine Invasions Research Lab, based at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is the nation's largest program dedicated to monitoring the ocean and coastal regions for non-native species—and especially for the harmful non-natives that scientists call “invasive.”

[Advanced trials for second BIO-SEA ballast water treatment system with US Navy \(3/3/25\)](#)

French water treatment specialist BIO-UV Group has shipped a second BIO-SEA ballast water treatment unit to the United States for extensive trials to assess the technology's capability for use onboard US Navy vessels.

[First compliance monitoring device for ballast water validated to IMO protocol \(3/7/23\)](#)

MicroWISE's BallastWISE has achieved IMO-level validation for a ballast water compliance monitoring device (CMD), making it a key tool for ensuring D-2 discharge standard adherence

MARINE

[No change in key reef fish herbivores or reef fisher yields in Barbados a decade after the lionfish invasion \(2/20/25\)](#)

Overall, our results suggest that control of lionfish through sustained fishing effectively protects key fish herbivores and might indirectly benefit reefs through a release of fishing pressure on native fishes by spearfishers now targeting lionfish.

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[Jamestown Tribe seeks volunteers for green crab detection \(3/5/25\)](#)

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe seeks volunteers for the upcoming trapping season to detect, identify and capture European green crab from early April to late September or early October.

AQUACULTURE

[Lawsuit filed against Washington Department of Natural Resources for commercial net pen ban \(2/28/25\)](#)

The Northwest Aquaculture Alliance (NWAA) has filed a lawsuit against Washington state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) following its ban on the use of commercial net pens.

[Legislation may legalise closed system fish farming in Alaska \(2/24/25\)](#)

If passed, this new legislation would mark a significant milestone for the state, which currently prohibits all finfish farming except for non-profit salmon hatcheries.

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[Legislators push to prohibit net pen aquaculture in Oregon \(2/26/25\)](#) Rep. Mark Gamba, D-Milwaukie, is sponsoring House Bill 2965. He said the practice of net pens, which are large floating pens, or cages, can degrade aquatic ecosystems and harm native fish populations. Related: [Aquaculture industry opposes proposed Oregon fish farming restrictions](#)

[As Washington's DNR passes ban on net pen fish farming, other agencies push back \(2/22/25\)](#) A document released by DNR in 2023 shows the department's plan for re-evaluating net pens moving forward. The document explicitly states DNR's plan to "identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Agriculture, United States Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. DNR intends to hold separate inter-agency meetings.

[Think-tank report calls for Canadian U-turn over BC salmon farms ban \(2/21/25\)](#) The Canadian government's decision to ban open-net salmon farming in British Columbia by 2029 is a politically driven policy that will devastate rural communities, undermine Indigenous rights, and fail to restore wild salmon populations, according to a new report from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, a non-partisan, independent national public policy think tank.

[Government of Canada invests over \\$1.1 million to drive innovation in the blue economy \(2/20/25\)](#) PacifiCan funding will boost Vancouver Island's sustainable food economy, fuelling prosperity for coastal regions and Indigenous communities

FRESHWATER

[video] [Kodiak hosts derby to curb invasive crayfish population \(2/18/25\)](#)

[video] [Crews use new tool to help fight nutria in California's Delta \(3/10/25\)](#)

[The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wants You to Eat These Giant, Invasive Rodents \(2/27/25\)](#) As part of National Invasive Species Week, the agency is calling on Americans to "eat the invaders," including swamp-dwelling nutria

[The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries sends a warning about an invasive species of crab \(2/26/25\)](#) LDWF said sightings have been extremely rare, but in January 2025, two of the crabs were found near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish. They are believed to have originally arrived in the United States as hitchhikers on ships or through ballast water.

FISH

[Gov. Pritzker's carp project pause could be a risk for the Great Lakes \(2/25/25\)](#) Don Jodrey is the director of federal relations for the Alliance for the Great Lakes. He says Pritzker's reasoning doesn't align with the bipartisan support the project's seen in Washington... Jodrey also says any delay in finishing this project could increase the risk of carp entering the Great Lakes.

[Maryland programs aim to up harvest of invasive blue catfish \(2/12/25\)](#) Since getting into tributaries leading to the Chesapeake Bay, the blue catfish has spread through the rivers and into the bay itself. Two Maryland Department of Natural Resources pilot programs aim to depopulate the stock of invasive blue catfish in the bay and its tributaries.

AQUATIC PLANTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[5 Invasive Species You Can Hunt, Catch, and Cook \(2/20/25\)](#) National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb. 24-28, 2025) is here to remind us that some of the biggest ecological nightmares are critters that don't belong here. Invasive species outcompete native wildlife, destroy habitats, and mess up ecosystems. But rather than just complaining about them, let's put them on the menu.

[Invasive Species Awareness Week set to educate Washington on prevention from Feb. 24 to 28 \(2/19/24\)](#) "Spread the word, but not the invasive species," said Stephanie Helms, executive coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council.

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[Alaska Lawmakers receive Invasive Species presentation as state grapples with current invasions \(2/26/25\)](#) The presentation was led by the Regional Invasive Plant Coordinator with Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Dr. Emily Reed. She began the presentation by outlining why the legislature should be taking invasive species extremely seriously as they impact parts of our everyday lives.

OTHER

JOBS/GRANTS

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

[Invasive Species Strike Team Technician](#)

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

Arkville, New York, United States Full Time, 3-6 mo duration

We are seeking four motivated and reliable Invasive Species Strike Team Technicians to join us in controlling invasive species throughout the Catskills this season:

Two Aquatic Strike Team Technicians and two Terrestrial Strike Team Technicians.

[MTFWP, AIS Watercraft Inspector, Anaconda, Montana](#)

The AIS Watercraft Inspector position assists the AIS Area Supervisors, the AIS Prevention Specialist and the AIS Prevention Coordinator in carrying out specified inspector duties and tasks at watercraft inspection stations to prevent the movement of AIS and educate the public on AIS and best prevention practices.

MTFWP, AIS Watercraft Inspector - Roving Site Lead, Helena, Montana

The Fisheries Division develops programs and budgets to manage for aquatic resources. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Bureau is managed and coordinated by staff within the Department headquarters. Implementation of programs are accomplished by the respective AIS coordinators. The AIS Watercraft Inspector - Roving Site Lead position assists the AIS Area Supervisors, the AIS Prevention Specialist and the AIS Prevention Coordinator in carrying out specified lead inspector duties and tasks at watercraft inspection stations to prevent the movement of AIS and educate the public on AIS and best prevention practices.

Grants

Save-The-Date Grant Announcement

California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

QZ Grant Program:

The application period for the 2025 cycle will **open on March 10, 2025 and will close on April 18, 2025** at 5:00 p.m. Up to \$2M is expected to be awarded, pending available funding. If a reservoir is currently covered by a two-year 2024 QZ Grant, that reservoir will not be considered for a QZ Grant until the 2026 solicitation.

A presentation will be conducted via MS Teams on March 13, 2025; information will be posted on our webpage at QZGrant@parks.ca.gov. The 2025 QZ grants are expected to begin in August and span two years.

NOTE: Golden Mussel Work is not fundable for the QZ Grant Program - Applications which discuss the golden mussel may be disqualified during the interagency review process.

\$100M in NOAA funding available for transformational habitat restoration

NOAA announced the [availability of up to \\$100 million in funding](#) for transformational projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats and that strengthen community resilience. This is the third and final round of this funding opportunity under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Of the \$100 million available, up to 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements, through direct awards or subawards. The remaining funding will be available to all eligible applicants.

NOAA will accept proposals between \$750,000 and \$10 million for the entire award, with typical funding anticipated to range from \$4 million to \$6 million. The application deadline is **April 16, 2025**. More information, including details about webinars for potential applicants, can be found on the [Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#) page.

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.

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

State/Provincial

[Oregon] [Legislation would raise boat fees to ward off invasive mussels \(2/19/25\)](#) The effort to keep the invasive quagga mussel out of Oregon may get help from legislators in the current session.

Federal: Executive

[Invasive species could thrive in the Great Lakes due to cuts to federal funding, staff \(3/5/25\)](#) The Trump administration's efforts to cut spending could make it easier for invasive species to thrive in the Great Lakes. Advocates said that could devastate aquatic life in Lake Michigan and harm Indiana's sport fishing and tourism industries...The administration also fired seasonal workers who spray pesticides to keep blood-sucking, invasive sea lamprey from reproducing.

[Troubled waters: New U.S. policies put Canada's water security at risk, expert warns \(2/21/25\)](#) With the possibility of fewer environmental protections under U.S. President Donald Trump, experts are warning about the impact on Canada's water security and resources, and environmental, health, and economic risks.

Federal: Congressional

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[Lee, Curtis Take On Biden's Hydropower Restriction at Glen Canyon Dam \(3/7/25\)](#)

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Mike Lee (R-Utah), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and John Curtis (R-Utah), introduced the Basin Fund Preservation Act. Citing protection of an endangered species, a federal decision was made last year to restrict hydropower generation at the Glen Canyon Dam. This led to higher energy costs for millions of people across Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Nebraska. This bill ensures that these communities won't be unfairly impacted by rising energy costs by requiring federal agencies to sign an agreement that both sustains sufficient hydropower generation and supports conservation efforts under the Endangered Species Act.

For bill [S. 887] text, click [HERE](#) and for the one-pager, click [HERE](#).

Background: According to [E&E Daily \(3/11/25\)](#)

A Bureau of Reclamation decision adopted last year allows for increased flows — or pulses of cold water — from the Glen Canyon Dam to disrupt the life cycle of smallmouth bass. The invasive species, which have been found downstream of the dam as water levels drop and warm the reservoir, is a threat to the survival of the federally protected humpback chub. But Utah lawmakers — as well as Wyoming GOP Rep. Harriet Hageman, who is the sponsor of a similar House bill [[H.R. 1001](#)] — have raised concerns that those flows are resulting in lost hydropower generation and require the purchase of more expensive power to meet regional demands.

“People in Utah and across the West depend on the Glen Canyon Dam for stable, low-cost electricity,” Lee said in a [statement](#). “The Basin Fund Preservation Act creates a plan to reverse these high energy costs while also supporting local conservation efforts.” The legislation would direct the Interior and Energy departments, led by Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration, respectively, to enter a memorandum of understanding that maintains both hydropower production and “support for conservation efforts” under the Endangered Species Act.

The measure is backed by the Utah Municipal Power Agency, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, American Public Power Association and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

Eric Balken, executive director of the Glen Canyon Institute, said the legislation will likely make it more difficult, if not impossible, to utilize pulse flows to address the small mouth bass in the future. “Hydropower was once a driving force of Colorado River policy, as it was a significant portion of the power grid for a time,” Balken said. “But now, hydropower simply doesn't play as much of a role as it used to.” He pointed to low water levels in Lake Powell, as more than two decades of persistent drought has decimated flows in the Colorado River and its storage facilities, as well as the adoption of other power supplies in the West.

Now What: The Senate passed an earlier version of this bill [S. 887] by unanimous consent in December 2024 during the last Congress. S. 887 is in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. H.R. 1001 was passed out of House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent on February 12, 2025.

Federal: Appropriations

[Democrats look to save face in shutdown battle \(3/13/25\)](#)

Senate Democrats say privately that they will not allow the government to shut down Saturday, despite growing pressure from activists and liberal lawmakers who want them to kill a GOP-crafted six-month stopgap spending bill. Senate Democratic sources say Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) is giving plenty of room to centrists in his caucus to vote for the House-passed continuing resolution (CR) if doing so is the only way to avoid a government shutdown at week's end.

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training:

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

- [April 1-2, 2025](#)
- [April 29-30, 2025](#)

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

- [April 1-3, 2025](#)
- [April 29-May 1, 2025](#)

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

- [April 8-10, 2025](#) [date change!]

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[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

March

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting, March 20, Olympia](#)

[Invasive Mussel Collaborative Webinar 3/25/25 - Assessing the risks of zebra mussel establishment along the western United States invasion front \(1 PM Eastern\)](#)

WRP Mid-Year Webinar Announced! Join us on March 27th from 1-3 pm Mountain time for the WRP Mid-Year Webinar. Information will be shared on:

- The latest on committee progress and projects
- ANSTF and QZAP grant program updates
- New information the California Golden Mussel issue

All are welcome to attend. No registration required. To join the webinar, use the link here:

<https://meet.goto.com/891641413>

April

[2nd National Forum on Biological Control Conference, April 14-17, 2025, Annapolis, MD.](#) This event, led by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with NAISMA and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), is the premier gathering for biocontrol practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other professionals dedicated to addressing the challenges and exploring the opportunities in weed and arthropod biocontrol.

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. Guest rooms are \$191/night in the room block which closes March 30, 2025. **Reserve a room using this [link](#) and register online [here](#).** Contact [Amy Stark](#) if you have any questions.

May

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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.

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](#)

[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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