



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

3/21/14

DREISSENID MUSSELS

[Idaho: First Quagga Mussel Infested Boat of the Season Intercepted \(3/12/14\)](#)

The boat intercepted at the Cotterell inspection station recently spent time in Lake Powell in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Lake Powell, operated by the National Park Service, recently was identified as infested with quagga and zebra mussels.

Related article [here](#)

[Zebra, quagga mussels found on U.S. boat coming into Canada \(3/19/14\)](#)

The Okanagan Basin Water Board says Canadian customs officers in Osoyoos recently discovered what they think were zebra or quagga mussels on a boat being transported into Canada. According to the OBWB, on the evening of March 12, Canada Customs notified the B.C. Conservation Officer service that one of its officers found what looked like zebra and/or quagga mussels on a large pleasure-craft boat being transported from the U.S., across the border into Canada.....

[Wyoming: Time to Register Boats \(3/10/14\)](#)

CHEYENNE - Even though some Wyoming waters are still ice covered, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department advises boaters that now is a good time to register boats for the upcoming year.....

[Montana: New boat validation decals required \(3/7/14\)](#)

Owners of motorboats, sailboats or personal watercraft need to get new, free 2014-2017 validation decals for their watercraft soon. The current orange decals expired Feb. 28.

[Oregon: Paddlers, Remember to Carry Your Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit \(3/20/14\)](#)

“So far so good, but we’ve got a long way to go,” state officials say about the on-going efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and keeping new ones from entering the state. Even key legislators such as Representative Caddy McKeown see the progress being made and see that more needs to be done to protect our waterways.....

[Utah: Sand Hollow Reservoir reclassified as “non-contaminated” \(3/14/14\)](#)

As of Monday, a bill was passed that allowed the classification of Sand Hollow Reservoir to be termed non-contaminated with quagga mussels. This came after a three-year-track of scrupulous monitoring and testing for any signs of mussels.

[New Utah inspections bill allows wildlife officials to create inspection stations \(3/11/14\)](#)

The Utah House gave final approval Tuesday to a declaration of war against the quagga mussel, an invasive species that has been found at Lake Powell. It voted 65-5 to approve SB212, and sent it to Gov. Gary Herbert for his signature.....

[Water district says quagga mussels don’t jeopardize Lake Powell Pipeline \(3/1/14\)](#)

ST. GEORGE – In a statement prepared by the Washington County Water Conservancy District last week addressing the identification of quagga mussels in Lake Powell, the district took the position that the mussels do not jeopardize the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline and indicated that the project is on track for construction to begin around 2020.....

[Invasive mussels knocking on Idaho’s door, official says \(3/5/14\)](#)

Having the invasive quagga mussels booming in Utah's Lake Powell is like having a deadly contagious disease at a major national airport with folks coming and going in all directions — including Idaho, a federal biologist says.

[Nevada to get tough over boat sticker program for invasive species \(3/1/14\)](#)

Nevada boating officers are getting tough when it comes to a program designed to prevent invading animals and plants from becoming established in the state’s streams, lakes and reservoirs.....

[Opinion: Help fend off mussel invasion in Okanagan \(2/27/14\)](#)

Invasive species are sadly not new to Okanagan-Coquihalla. Cattle ranchers have battled with the loss of valuable grazing lands on account of invasive weeds as much as fruit

growers and farmers know the frustration of crop loss as a result of the European starling....

[Property values rise on zebra-mussel infested lakes, study shows \(3/15/14\)](#)

Nobody wants to see lakes infested with [zebra mussels](#). The little clam-like creatures have a reputation for prolific growth and upending the waters they invade. But from a strictly economic perspective, could their presence and their ability to improve water clarity actually boost the value of shoreline property?.....

Lake Whatcom, WA: Report Highlights 2013 Boat Inspection Program Results

The Lake Whatcom Management Program, a partnership between the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, has just released its annual report highlighting 2013 boat inspection program results for Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. In 2013, aquatic invasive species inspectors conducted a total of 3,192 watercraft inspections and 4 decontaminations at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. While most of the boats surveyed had originated in Whatcom County, boats had visited 128 different waterbodies in 11 different states/provinces prior to launching in Lake Whatcom or Lake Samish.

The majority of boats that were stopped at the Aquatic Invasive Species Check Station in 2013 were clean; however, inspectors did find some boats with vegetation or standing water on board that required some additional attention. Our inspectors used these situations as an opportunity to educate boaters about the importance of cleaning, draining, and drying their boats between every use. No watercraft with invasive mussels were intercepted at the Aquatic Invasive Species Check Stations in 2013. However, there were three boats intercepted that were last used in lakes with established zebra or quagga mussel populations.

More detailed results from the 2013 boating season and recommendations for the 2014 boating season can be found in the [Lake Whatcom Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2013 Annual Report](#).

[Tahoe's innovation inspires others \(3/19/14\)](#)

Lake Tahoe's reputation as an environmental leader took an exciting turn last month. At a summit in Colorado, the water sports industry unveiled a new aquatic invasive species boat filtration system developed in partnership with TRPA and other wildlife agencies. Spurred by the rise of watercraft inspection programs in the U.S., a private company created a biologic filtration system, an innovation that can be installed in ballast bladders on many wake-sport boats.....

[Invasive Zebra Mussels May Have Finally Met Their Match \(3/19/14\)](#)

At first glance, zebra mussels appear harmless, perhaps even cute. But the tiny creatures are anything but cute for Texas lakes.....

MARINE

[Marine invasive species get bioblitzed in Ketchikan \(3/15/14\)](#)

(SitNews) Ketchikan, Alaska - Non-native marine species are showing up along the Alaska coastline. While their numbers are small compared to California, where more than 200 marine invasive species are listed, there is reason for concern.....

[Maine Gov. LePage orders action against invasive green crabs \(2/28/14\)](#)

A task force will study the impact of the European species that has taken a bite out of Maine's bivalve fishery and develop controls.....

[Cal Maritime plays big role in testing ballast water, controlling invasive species \(3/5/14\)](#)

California Maritime Academy in South Vallejo is unique in several ways, not the least of which is being one of four facilities in the world to test ballast water in an effort to keep invasive species at bay. The *Golden Bear* training ship's testing facilities will soon take on greater significance as ships scramble to meet new global standards by 2018 to control destructive invasive species, according to a school announcement....

[Regulatory Rant – Vessel General Permit \(2/28/14\)](#)

The initial implementation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Vessel General Permit (VGP) is now theoretically astern of the marine industry, but unlike any other new regulatory effort, this one has numerous unintended consequences, many of which remain "submerged" and undetected by vessel owners, their customers, insurers, and indeed the EPA itself.....

[Fathom Spotlight: Owners vs. Ballast Water Treatment Suppliers \(3/19/14\)](#)

Ship-owners were given the opportunity to directly voice their questions and concerns regarding the various types of ballast water treatment systems available and there was no short supply of them, as delegates put forward a variety of questions to challenge the knowledge of the panel and the viability of their systems. Their questions were joined by others put forward from individuals across the web via social media, all of which made for a stimulating and engaging hotbed of discussion.....

[Canada: Green crab for eel swap proposed by DFO \(3/21/14\)](#)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wants to create a commercial green crab fishery on Prince Edward Island. Green crabs are an invasive species. They are more aggressive than native red crabs, and are pushing that species out in some areas.

[Fouling around: vessel sea-chests as a vector for the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species \(2/14\)](#)

Sea-chests, recesses built into the hull of a vessel, have been recently identified as hotspots for fouling organisms. In this study, we examined the types and abundances of taxa found in sea-chests of commercial vessels, and investigated whether vessel specifications and voyage histories influenced the nature and extent of sea-chest fouling.

WEEDS

[Kenai Peninsula leads fight against elodea \(3/16/14\)](#)

A bill to help control Alaska's elodea infestation was pulled out of the legislature on Monday after the Alaska Division of Agriculture quarantined the invasive aquatic plant from the state.

[AK: State Establishes Quarantine for Five Aquatic Invasive Plants](#)

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture has established a quarantine at the boundaries of Alaska to prevent the entry and spread of five specific aquatic invasive weeds. Management efforts are being implemented to address current Elodea infestations and establishing the quarantine stops further importation of the pests listed below which are popular for use in classrooms and in the aquarium trade. The Division of Agriculture is in the process of amending current Plant Health and Quarantine Regulations (11 AAC34) and will be adding the five aquatic plants below to the Noxious Weed listing. For additional information go to <http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm>.

[Let's just harvest invasive species. Problem solved? \(3/12/14\)](#)

According to a recent study at the University of Illinois, harvesting invasive plants for use as biofuels may sound like a great idea, but the reality poses numerous obstacles and is too expensive to consider, at least with the current ethanol pathways.

To see the study go [here](#) (pay to view entire article)

[Invasive weeds may look forward to climate change \(3/2/14\)](#)

Most climate models paint a bleak picture for the Great Plains a century from now: It will likely be warmer and the air will be richer with carbon dioxide. Though scientists don't yet know how exactly the climate will change, new studies show it could be a boon to some invasive plant species.

[There are many reasons to hate invasive weeds \(3/17/14\)](#)

Weeds waste water. Whether the normal, garden-variety dandelion or the noxious perennial pepperweed, weeds take our dwindling water resources away from our desirable native and ornamental plants. For example, the 2.6 million acres in the Central Valley of California of the noxious weed yellow starthistle “consume enough extra water each year to fill 25 percent of Lake Shasta” (California Invasive Plant Council).....

FISH

[Great Lakes senators urge Army Corps to “move aggressively” to protect lakes from Asian carp \(3/18/14\)](#)

WASHINGTON -- A bipartisan group of Great Lakes senators, led by Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), urged the Army Corps of Engineers to take aggressive action to stop Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes and also to devise a long-term solution to protect the lakes from aquatic nuisance species

[Tribes Publish EIS on Gill-Netting 30,000 Lake Trout In Flathead Lake To Increase Native Trout \(3/14/14\)](#)

The Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes are poised to move forward with a controversial lake trout suppression plan on Flathead Lake, with gill netting tentatively set to begin as early as April.....

Related: [Sport Fishing Interests Oppose Proposal To Gill-Net Flathead Lake Trout, Oppose State Involvement](#)

[FWP proposes cracking down on ‘bucket biologists \(2/25/14\)](#)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is holding eight public meetings across the state to discuss a proposed rule change that would direct the agency on how to respond to illegal fish introductions.....

[Asian carp eggs found in Mississippi River in Wisconsin, much farther north than before \(3/11/14\)](#)

MINNEAPOLIS — Scientists have found evidence that invasive Asian carp have spawned much farther north in the upper Mississippi River than previously recorded, the U.S. Geological Survey said Tuesday.....

[Asian carp invade eastern South Dakota rivers \(3/9/14\)](#)

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Asian carp are invading the rivers of eastern South Dakota. Massive floods in 2010 and 2011 gave the carp an opportunity to spawn more

successfully and move up the Missouri River and its three eastern South Dakota tributaries, creating one of the largest annual classes of two species of Asian carp, big head and silver carp, ever seen in the Missouri basin, the Argus Leader reported in a story published Sunday.....

[Treatment expected to help eradicate red shiner from Virgin River, Utah, Arizona \(3/16/14\)](#)

ST. GEORGE — Wildlife officials in Arizona and Utah are considering a plan to kill off an invasive fish species in the Virgin River as it moves through the Virgin River gorge to protect endangered native species.....

OTHER

[Invasive species top list of MI tourism threats \(3/17/14\)](#)

CADILLAC — The greatest threat to Michigan’s billion-dollar tourism industry may be in its lakes and streams. Michigan State University-Extension recently held a survey to identify ...

[Opinion: Let’s not lose our heads about AIS \(3/8/14\)](#)

When the word “crisis” is in the headline, prepare for the Minnesota Legislature to over-react and solve the crisis by passing laws with unintended consequences.....

[River Algae Known as Rock Snot Boosted by Climate Change? \(3/11/14\)](#)

Scientists call it *Didymosphenia geminata*. But it's more widely known as "rock snot"—mats of algae carpeting the bottoms of some rivers and lakes—and it's quickly spreading around the globe, possibly because of climate change, a new study says.....

GRANTS

[Fluid Imaging Technologies is pleased to announce the Aquatic Sciences 2014 Student Equipment & Travel Grant](#)

The grant is open to graduate students and senior undergraduates enrolled at a North American college or university who are studying marine or freshwater ecosystems, having a focus on microorganisms. Students whose research involves the study of marine or freshwater microbial systems are encouraged to apply for the use of a [FlowCAM®](#) to support their research. **Proposals are due March 31, 2014.**

JOBS

NEVADA: [Employment Opportunities for Aquatic Invasive Species Program](#)

NDOW, through a temporary employment service, is recruiting for seasonal aquatic invasive species (AIS) watercraft inspectors and decontamination specialists. In addition, the positions will require AIS public outreach and education. Various positions are available including AIS watercraft specialists at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and statewide traveling rovers in both Southern and Northern Nevada. The application closing date is **March 26, 2014** by 5:00 pm PDT.

LEGISLATION/FEDERAL ACTIONS/BUDGET

[Begich, Rubio team up to fight EPA ballast regulations \(3/6/14\)](#)

Cutting through red tape created by a confusing jumble of state and federal regulations, U.S. Senators Mark Begich (D-AK) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) today introduced a bipartisan bill ([S. 2094](#)) to set uniform standards for regulating ballast water and other incidental discharges from vessels, and clarify requirements for fishermen and other small boat users.....

[HI Lawmakers Consider Fines for Transport of Coqui, Other Pests \(2/28/14\)](#)

With Oahu battling outbreaks of coqui frogs and little fire ants popping up [there and on Maui](#), state lawmakers are considering new methods of controlling the spread of invasive species between islands.....

[UTAH: SB212 Invasive Species Amendments – Inspection Stations](#)

The bill would allow Utah wildlife officials to create inspection stations at state borders. People hauling boats could face a Class B misdemeanor for failing to stop at the checkpoints [see article above]

WA passes AIS Legislation

[ESSB 6040](#) passed the House (3/13, 97-1) and Senate (3./13, 48-0) and has been sent to the governor (he is expected to sign the bill). The bill's funded provisions were not included in the final version.

Lacey Act Hearing:

Go [here](#) to see the Archived 2/27/14 legislative hearing from the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs on [note: hearing starts @ 2:49:00 PM]

- [H.R. 3105](#) (Crawford), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to exempt from such Act animals accidentally included in shipments of aquatic species produced in commercial aquaculture, and for other purposes. "*Aquaculture Risk Reduction Act*"
- [H.R. 3280](#) (Fleming), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to limit the application of such Act to certain imported plants and finished plant products, and for other purposes. "*Lacey Act Clarifying Amendments Act*"
- [H.R. 3324](#) (Harris), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to reduce burdensome paperwork, and for other purposes. "*The Lacey Act Paperwork Reduction Act*"

[H.R. 4032](#) (Hall), To exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes. "*North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act*"
[UPDATE: On 3/13/14 The House Natural Resources Committee approved the bill, which would allow the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority to transfer water out of a lake on the Texas-Oklahoma border, even if it contains invasive species. A similar measure was passed by Congress and signed into law last session, but it only made such provisions for zebra mussels.]

Related article: [Admin raises concerns about 4 GOP bills to amend Lacey Act \(2/28/14\)](#)

Water Resources Development Act Update

Key differences between House [[H.R.3080](#)] and Senate [[S. 601](#)]* versions of the Water Resources Development Act have been resolved and a final agreement is expected to be announced after April 30, a lobbyist for the barge industry said 3/18/14. Among the contested issues: How should projects be authorized? Which projects should be included in WRDA? What should be the overall price tag for new authorizations? Should a new funding mechanism be tested out? And should projects be authorized if the administration hasn't signed off on them at the time of the bill's passage?

The final issue was a sticking point. House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) told lawmakers in his chamber that only projects with final approval from the chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, termed a "chief's report," would be eligible for authorization. He promised that the committee would return to the usual schedule of doing WRDA bills every two years, and any projects that didn't make the cut this go-around would get picked up in the next one [Reprinted from "E&E News PM"]

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*[NOTE on [S. 601](#): See SEC.5007 “Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management; Columbia River Basin]

[Commercial Vessel Discharge Reform Act gains support \(2/28/13\)](#)

Pending federal maritime legislation [[HR 3464](#)] to exempt commercial fishing vessels from certain requirements of the Clean Water Act, which could otherwise result in substantial fines, is gaining widespread support with commercial fisheries groups.....

MEETINGS

APRIL

1. **Watercraft Inspection Training – Idaho:** Due to a double booking at the City Hall in Post Falls, the WIT1 training has been moved up a day and now will be Wednesday **April 9th**. A second training is scheduled for Dover, ID on **May 21st**. Contact Tom Woolf, Aquatic Program Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, @ Thomas.Woolf@agri.idaho.gov), 208-608-3404.

2. **Greater Yellowstone Area Invasive Species Meeting:** April 17, in West Yellowstone. AIS work session will focus on establishing processes, relationships and communication between management agencies to best prepare for possible future AIS discoveries within the GYA. For more information contact Bob Wiltshire @ Bob@stopans.org

3. [2014 WAPMS Conference Information:](#) The 33rd Annual Western Aquatic Plant Management Society conference will be held at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, NV on March 31 – April 2, 2014. Visit the [Conference Info](#) page for more information on registering, submitting titles and abstracts, and hotel reservations.

4. [2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference: April 30 - May 2, 2014, Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, Washington](#)

MAY

1. The next meeting of Columbia River Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative will be held May 13-14 in Spokane, Washington [details will be sent out soon].

2. [ANSTF](#) – The next meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force is scheduled for May 7-8, 2014 in Arlington, VA

SEPTEMBER

1. [Meeting the Challenge: Preventing, Detecting, and Controlling Invasive Plants September 16-17, 2014, University](#) of Washington Botanic Gardens, Seattle, WA

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