

## **Factoids: Economic Threats Posed by Aquatic Nuisance Species\***

Below are highlights of recent information compiled for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the threats posed by harmful invasive species:

- **The impacts of exotic species to the United States economy are equivalent to the annual economic output of Venezuela.** (World Bank)
- **State fish and wildlife agencies are some of the most impacted government agencies in regard to exotic species. Recognizing their limited budget, the negative impacts from these species can be overwhelming:**
  - **53 times greater than all state fish and wildlife agency budgets combined.** (The Wildlife Conservation Fund of America)
  - **35 times more than the revenues states have received from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program since its 1950 inception.**(American Sportfishing Association)
  - **Nearly four times more than is spent by anglers in the U.S. annually.** (USFWS, Division of Federal Aid)
  - **In Utah, at least \$410,730 was spent in 2001-02 to control whirling disease. Utah would need to sell over 22,000 more licenses to make up the budget losses caused by whirling disease.** (American Sportfishing Association; Utah DWR)
- **Nationally, about 42% (400 of 958) of species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act are considered to be at risk primarily because of predation by or competition with non-indigenous species.** (Univ. of Maine, 1996)
- **For every dollar spent on Endangered Species recovery, nearly two are spent to control the impacts of invasive species (\$63.3 million in 2002 for species recovery).** (USFWS)
- **Nuclear power plants average \$825,000 of additional costs per year for zebra mussel control in their cooling water intakes. This cost, equal to the utility bill for 634 consumers, must be passed on to the public.** (NatureServe.org; Pimentel et al., 1999).

More information regarding the status and impacts of aquatic nuisance species can be found at [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net), hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**\*(source: Southwick Associates, <http://www.southwickassociates.com/>)**