



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
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Informational Memo

Subject: Invasive News in a Nutshell #17:  
Covering May-July, 2007

From: Joan Cabreza  
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To: R10 ETPA Management Team  
ecc: Internal EPA mail group & interested outside parties

*These memos originated in 2003 to update EPA regional management on the EPA invasive species program activity, but readership has expanded so greatly that I have expanded the content to provide more universal interest, although there is still a strong US Pacific Northwest and special EPA focus. Credit for any errors is entirely mine. For comments or contributions, or to subscribe or unsubscribe, email me at <cabreza.joan@epa.gov>.*

### **This Quarter's Off-The-Wall Factoid**

A Python invasion has grave implications for the Everglades' wetlands system. Very rough estimates put Florida's python population above 5,000. More than 350 snakes have been found in the Everglades National Park since 2002, with others appearing mangroves along Florida's west coast and farther north, and it is estimated that there are perhaps 10 more snakes for every one that is seen. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service says "Since 2000, slightly more than 1 million pythons have been imported by the United States for commercial sale" (nearly half to Maimi). This year Florida established a new list of six "reptiles of concern", including the python. The state will soon require \$100-a-year owners' permits and the insertion of identifying microchips under the skin of the purchased pets. [ed. Note: These "pets" reach 26 feet and over 200 pounds, and are able to swallow an adult. What are we thinking, even allowing them in??] *Thanks to Richard Robohm, Ecology)*



(Source: NY times, 7/24/07)

### **EPA Activities**

EPA Ballast Water Lawsuit (update). Oral arguments in the EPA appeal will be heard in the 9th Circuit on August 14. Meanwhile, while awaiting results of the judicial appeal,

EPA is also looking at the permit options. On June 21, EPA issued a Federal Register Notice of Intent, with requesting comments and information. "This notice provides ... early notification that EPA is in the process of developing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits under the Clean Water Act for the discharge of pollutants incidental to the normal operation of vessels .... The Court issued a final order in September 2006 that will vacate (revoke) the regulatory exclusion for discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels." The exemption from NPDES permitting requirements was been in place for more than 30 years. "Effective September 30, 2008, those discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels previously excluded from NPDES permitting by the regulation will become prohibited unless the discharge is covered under an NPDES permit. The decision potentially implicates all vessels, both commercial and recreational, that have discharges incidental to their normal operation (e.g., deck runoff, graywater, etc). Although the Government is appealing this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, we believe it is prudent to initiate responsive action now rather than await the outcome of that appeal. Comments must be received on or before August 6, 2007." (*From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov][DOCID:fr21jn07-35.*

Approximately 143,000 commercial vessels and potentially more than 13 million state-registered recreational boats and more than 25 different types of vessel discharges could be affected by the decision. Documents related to the rulemaking petition and the ruling are also available at: [[http://www.epa.gov/owow/invasive\\_species/ballast\\_water.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/invasive_species/ballast_water.html)]

STAR Grants. The RFP for research grants on *Climate Change, Land Use Change and Invasive Species* closed June 26. We received an amazing response of 109 applications to the joint EPA STAR Program /USDA NRI Competitive Grants Program solicitation. EPA is interested in proposals addressing aquatic ecosystems, and USDA is focused on proposals addressing managed terrestrial systems. Due to the large number, applications will be reviewed in two panels, one terrestrial and one aquatic. Programmatic and external peer reviews will be done in October, but the actual award dates are still uncertain. (*Thanks to Anne Sergeant, EPA*)

EPA-ELI Study Integrating Aquatic Invasives and the Clean Water Act (CWA). EPA HQ has developed a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) to conduct research on integrating ongoing state activities under the CWA with aquatic invasive species. It is exploring things such as possible integration with water quality assessments, water quality standards, stream listings, and Total Maximum Daily Loads. (For more information on this project see Nutshell issue #16). The report release is now scheduled for this fall. *For more information: Adam Schlempp <[schempp@eli.org](mailto:schempp@eli.org)>.*

Estuary Partnership Eradications. EPA, ODF, BLM, ODA and NFWF are funding a Tillamook Estuary Partnership effort to eradicate knotweed from the Tillamook Bay watershed. EPA has also helped to fund the TEP "Backyard Planting Program" focused on removing blackberry and planting native tree species. This program has treated over 17 streamside miles and planted over 18,000 native trees and shrubs. EPA also provided a Targeted Watershed Grant to the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership to treat

over 200 acres of Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass at Mirror Lake along the Columbia River. (*Contact Teresa Kubo for more info, at <Kubo.teresa@epa.gov>*)

### **Other Federal/National Activity**

MI Ballast Water Lawsuit. The 183 non-native species in the Great Lakes now cost over \$150million/yr. Because the federal bureaucracy was not moving fast enough for Michigan, this year it passed legislation requiring freighters to sterilize their ballast water before discharging it into state waters. A shipping coalition is now suing in federal court, saying the law makes unreasonable demands and violates the Constitution by restraining interstate commerce. Several environmental groups are asking to join the suit on Michigan's side, and bills similar to Michigan's are pending in the MN and WI legislatures. Since eight states and two Canadian provinces claim jurisdiction over portions of the lakes, it will be important for all parties to coordinate in order to be effective. (*Paraphrased from the May 15 Whitehorse Star; Thanks to Bruce Hanna of Canada*)

USFWS Lacey Act Fact Sheet on Injurious Wildlife Listings. A new USFWS fact sheet on the provisions of the Lacey Act is now available. Put together by their law enforcement and invasive species programs, it is an excellent summary and provides a number of useful links for further information. Find it at:  
[[http://anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Injurious\\_Wildlife\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2007.pdf](http://anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Injurious_Wildlife_Fact_Sheet_2007.pdf)]

Expert Directory. ANSTF website now contains an Expert Directory that will be a significant tool in providing access to experts on taxonomic identification as well as other aspects of ANS prevention and control. At the moment it identifies only the main state contacts, but these folks should be able to provide information on specific experts as needed. *Access it at [www.anstaskforce.gov](http://www.anstaskforce.gov).*

Nutria Management Plan. Because nutria are incredibly damaging to wetland habitats, a workgroup is being established to develop a National Nutria Management Plan. While the USDA and USFWS will coordinate plan development, many organizations will conduct actual plan implementation. The first workgroup meeting will be held on August 9, in Fort Collins, CO.

Nationwide, many nutria projects are underway. MD and LA have experienced some of the most dramatic marsh losses, and both states have implemented significant control efforts. LA has implemented an incentive program designed to decrease marsh damage by increasing harvest rates by private trappers in heavily impacted marsh areas. In MD, an experimental eradication program to systematically remove nutria from infested wetlands is underway on Chesapeake Bay. Smaller scale programs are underway in other states as well. In OR, USDA annually removes up to 300 nutria from Portland urban areas. In WA, Skagit County is aggressively working to contain a nutria outbreak detected in 2005. MS has implemented removal on several Gulf Coast barrier islands,

and USDA and USGS are conducting research on nutria impacts, attractants, population dynamics and detection in LA and MD. (*Thanks to Steve Kendrote, APHIS*)

New Zealand Mudsail (NZMS) Management Plan. The national ANS Taskforce approved the National Management and Control Plan for the New Zealand Mud Snail at its May meeting. Download this product of the NZMS Workgroup at: [[http://anstaskforce.gov/Documents/NZMS\\_MgmtControl\\_Final.pdf](http://anstaskforce.gov/Documents/NZMS_MgmtControl_Final.pdf)]

Carp Added To Injurious Wildlife Rule. USFWS has issued a final rule adding silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and largescale silver carp (*H. harmandi*) to the Lacey Act listing of injurious fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. The listing includes all forms of live carp, gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids. The rule becomes effective August 9, 2007.

### **Activity In Pacific Northwest States**

Nutria Listserve. Papers and presentations from the recent regional nutria workshop can now be found on the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (CLR) Portland State University website: [<http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/ans/nutria.php>]. All nutria correspondence through CLR will now be conducted via a list serv. Registration for the list serv can be completed online: [<https://www.lists.pdx.edu/lists/listinfo/nutria>] (*Thanks to Trevor Sheffels, PSU.*)

Watercraft Inspection Training. More zebra mussel inspection training sessions were held this quarter in Lake Tahoe, NV; Colorado, and CA. The watercraft inspection and decontamination training video produced last year by EPA, USFWS and PSMFC entitled "*It Only Takes One*" was developed for boating law enforcement officers to augment live trainings given in several western states over the last year. Since the discovery of quagga mussels in the lower Colorado River Basin, the demand for watercraft inspection and decontamination training has sky-rocketed throughout the West. Production of a new inspection and decontamination training video is being planned that targets general audiences including resource agency staff, marina operators, power producers, irrigators, water managers, commercial boat haulers, fishing and boating groups, law and policy makers, the news media, and students. They will make a number of significant up-grades and up-dates and change the emphasis of the video and accompanying instruction manual. They are also hoping to film a number of on-location interviews with prominent industry leaders, discussing the types of impacts zebra/quagga mussels can have on power production, domestic water supply, irrigated agriculture, recreational boating, sport and commercial fishing, natural ecosystems and native species. *Contact Bill Zook for more information on the video or upcoming trainings, at <bjzook@msn.com>.*

CRITFC Watercraft Inspectors Training. The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is hosting a watercraft Inspection and Decontamination training for zebra / quagga mussels in Hood River, Oregon, on **August 15**. CRITFC has reserved 50 slots for additional people from Columbia River Basin agencies, Port and Irrigation Districts, Marinas, etc. (*Anyone interested in registering should contact Bill Zook at <bjzook@msn.com>.*)

Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator Position. OR is now accepting applications for an Invasive Species Coordinator to assist the Invasive Species Council. The position will close at 1:30 pm on **August 30, 2007**. (*Contact Jim Gores for more information at <james.k.gores@ state.or.us>.*)

WA Invasive Species Council (update). The new WA state Invasive Species Council held its third meeting on May 17. A questionnaire was sent to a variety of state and regional groups to begin to piece together a more complete picture of invasive species activity in WA, and work was started on a state strategic plan. The next Council meeting will be held August 20. *Meeting minutes, Council members, and other information are available on the new website at: [http://www.iac.wa.gov/invasive\_species/default.htm].*

WA ANS Committee (update): The state committee held its semi-annual full membership meeting in April, and the Executive Committee continues to meet monthly. Recent topics of concern have included the Puget Sound tunicates (see below), bamboo worm (See Nutshell #16), the Washington Watch List of unwanted species, and revision of the 2001 ANS state plan. The next full committee meeting will be in October. (*For more information on the ANS committee, contact me at: <cabreza.joan@epa.gov>.*)

WA Knotweed (update). \$250,000 of the general fund appropriation for fiscal year 2008 and for FY2009 have been provided solely for distribution to counties with weed boards to control invasive weeds. Of this amount, \$150,000 are provided each year solely to control Japanese knotweed. This spring, the WA Department of Agriculture (WSDA) funded a variety of proposals for projects for knotweed control work in WA, for the July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008 period. (*Thanks to Mary Toohey, USDA*). (For information about the WSDA knotweed control program contact Marshall Udo at <MUdo@agr.wa.gov> or [http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Weeds/Knotweed/Knotweed.htm].)

New Course in Aquatic Invasion Biology. The University of WA is offering a new fisheries course (Fish 497A) for **fall 2007**. It will explore the drivers, pathways and consequences of invasions in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems. Topics will include introduction pathways, economic and environmental impacts, control and prevention strategies, management strategies and emerging issues. You must be registered as a student to attend. (*For more information, contact Dr. Julian Olden <olden@u.washington.edu>*)

OR Weed Awareness. The OR Governor declared May 20-27 as Weed Awareness Week.

ID Noxious Weed List. Idaho now has a more strategic approach to noxious weeds, classifying them by level of invasion: a rapid response list of new invaders (the highest priority for eradication), a control list (for more established weeds), and a containment list (well-established weeds that can't be controlled state-wide but should be contained). Property owners will now also be subject to fines if they ignore the requirement to control listed noxious weeds on their property. (*From Capital Press, thanks to Sasha Shaw*)

ID ANS Plan. The ID Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan was released for public comment with the official comment period ending July 27, however they will consider anything received during the rewrite period until mid August. They intend to have it completed and approved by the Idaho Invasive Species Council and Governor by mid September so it can be provided to the National ANS Task Force by October 1. The draft plan is available at [[http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/fish/misc/nuisance\\_species.cfm](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/fish/misc/nuisance_species.cfm)]. (For more information, contact Fred Partridge at <[fpartridge@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:fpartridge@idfg.idaho.gov)>.)

Ship Hull Pathway. In late May, the M/V President Truman arrived in Seattle and requested in-water hull cleaning. The organisms on the ship's hull were tubeworms thought to be from the ship's last port (Singapore). Hull cleaning and paint representative divers provided several samples of tubeworms - all very small and dead. Because the amount of residual biomass did not seem problematic for water quality, and the machine used to clean the hull was specifically made for this paint, WDFW gave them permission to clean the hull, but the uncertainty that many agencies felt when faced with the issue of hull cleaning, points to a need to develop some specific hull cleaning protocols. The ANS Committee will be working on this.

ANS Guide to the Columbia Basin (Update). OR Sea Grant is developing a field booklet, *On the Lookout for Aquatic Invaders; an Identification Guide for the Pacific Northwest*. The purpose is to help community groups increase their understanding of ANS and to initiate monitoring efforts for species of most concern in their watersheds. This 60 page booklet describes 28 freshwater, riparian and marine plants and animals found in the Columbia Basin. Each species is described with great pictures, accompanied by a discussion of the background, distribution, spread mechanism, impacts, and habitat. It will be spiral bound, to facilitate field use. They are incorporating peer reviews comments now and exploring options for funding printing of the booklets and CDs. (For more information, contact Sam Chan <[samuel.chan@oregonstate.edu](mailto:samuel.chan@oregonstate.edu)>)

New Aquatic Invasive Species Permit. (Update). Ecology has begun developing a general permit to allow the chemical treatment of invasive species such as zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and marine tunicates. The permit will cover non-native invasive aquatic animal and marine algae control activities that result in the discharge of chemicals and other control products into WA freshwater, brackish, marine, and estuarine waters. This permit does not cover maintenance and operation activities at facilities potentially impacted by well-established invasive animal species. A draft permit is hoped to be available for public comment in December, 2007. The first advisory committee meeting was held on August 2. There is still room on the committee for anyone interested in serving on this committee. Contact Kathy Hamel <[kham461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kham461@ecy.wa.gov)> if you are interested in being on the committee or want to be on the mailing list.

WA Freshwater Algae Control Program (Update). The WA Department of Health is in the process of developing statewide cyanobacteria guidelines and a companion website that focuses on cyanobacteria toxins and the human health aspects of cyanobacteria blooms. The WA Department of Ecology has also signed a contract with King County Environmental Laboratories for algae identification and toxicity testing, and established a mail-in service to identify algae blooms and test for Cyanobacteria toxin. They are now

ready to accept algae/cyanobacterial bloom samples. Ecology will hold grant workshops in late September, and they have developed an algae website for this new program at: [<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/algae/monitoring/index.html>]. *Contact Tricia Shoblom <tsh4612@ecy.wa.gov> or Kathy Hamel <kham461@ecy.wa.gov> for further information on the algae program.*

USFWS Invasive Species Outreach Project (Update). An interagency group has been formed to develop two invasive species education modules to assist speakers with invasive species presentations. The first module is basic and discusses invasives in general, with a “why should I care” focus and a core message of biodiversity loss. The second module is a species-based module (featuring knotweed), that should be able to be used as a template for other species modules as well. The group held their first meeting on May 30; the goal is to have both modules developed by February. *For more information, contact <Douglas\_zimmer@fws.gov>.*

Quinault Tribal Activity. The Quinault Indian Nation has received several invasive species grants, including a 3 yr SRFB grant to control knotweed in the Prairie Creek drainage, a NRCS EQIP grant to control knotweed along road right of ways in Prairie Creek subwatershed, and a NRCS EQIP grant to write a Pest Management Plan for Prairie Creek. They have been controlling gorse and knotweed in various locations, but cannot afford to control Scots broom. They also certified 3 new pesticide applicators in June. The Tribe has a need for a full time noxious weed coordinator to inventory the lake and reservation for noxious weeds, and to write/administer grants. *(Thanks to Jim Plampin and Lisa Riener, Quinault Tribe)*

### **Recent PNW Invasions**

Whirling Disease in AK. The first evidence of the whirling disease parasite parasite *Myxobolus cerebralis* was recently confirmed in AK. Using a very sensitive test, the parasite’s DNA was detected in rainbow trout from Elmendorf State Fish Hatchery in Anchorage. The discovery occurred during a risk assessment, designed by researchers at Oregon State University, to determine the risk of the parasite’s introduction into the state. It is unknown how and when the parasite may have been introduced or how widespread its distribution may be within the state. The closest location to AK where the parasite is known to occur is the Snake River Basin, which is located in northeast OR, southeast WA, and ID. The parasite has also been found in fish from the Sakhalin Islands of Russia, across the Bering Sea. The introduction could have occurred via transfer of infected fish or fish parts, movement of infected water or sediment, movement of the parasite by wildlife, or other pathways. *(Whirling Disease Initiative Newsletter, May 2007)*

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) A new, highly virulent and easily transmissible strain (IVb) of VHS, has recently been detected in wild fish populations in the Great Lakes Basin. This new strain of VHS poses a significant risk to cultured and wild fish throughout most of North America. The primary vector for transmitting the virus into the region is suspected to be the movement of live fish and fish products. Many states within the Western Regional Panel (WRP) area are evaluating fish transport and bait laws to

help reduce the risk from that vector, and have also increased public outreach activities to increase public awareness of the issue. As a fish pathogen, VHS is not readily viewed as an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) by all agencies or states, and many states with well developed fish health programs do not involve their ANS programs when evaluating the risks or control/prevention strategies for this pathogen. The WRP has requested that the national ANS Taskforce recognize this pathogen as an ANS and as a severe threat to the natural resources of North America. A VHS factsheet is available at [[http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/Programs/ncrais/vhs\\_factsheet.html](http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/Programs/ncrais/vhs_factsheet.html)]

In November, 2007, APHIS issued a Federal Order restricting the interstate movement and importation of live fish of VHS-susceptible species, aimed at preventing the spread of VHS into aquaculture facilities. The native range includes both the Atlantic coast of North America and the Pacific coast from CA to AK. It also reports the VHS is present in both marine and freshwater systems, but poses the biggest risk to freshwater fish species. See the federal order at [[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/pdf/vhs-fed-order\\_ogc-changes.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/pdf/vhs-fed-order_ogc-changes.pdf)]. (Thanks to Bettina proctor, USFWS)

WA Puget Sound Tunicate Activity (Update). This spring, WDFW cleaned all of the boats at Blaine, Semiahmoo, Pleasant Harbor and Home Port, surveyed docks and boats and cleaned boats at Des Moines and Elliott Bay Marinas. DesMoines had a LOT of *Ciona savignyi* and some *Didemnum*. They also found *Ciona* and *Didemnum* at Elliott Bay, and are waiting on confirmation on *Styela clava*.

This year WDFW is mostly surveying locations and researching potential eradication methods for *Styela clava* and/or *Ciona* where possible. They have purchased underwater cameras, will have two full time agency certified divers on staff, access to other agency certified divers, and partial ownership of an underwater remote operated vehicle, so they hope to get an accurate assessment of the tunicate situation in Puget Sound, including *Didemnum*, *Botrylloides violaceus*, *Botryllus schlosseri*, *Molgula manhattensis* and *Ciona intestinalis*, and be able to present some solid data to the Tunicate Advisory Committee. *Ciona savignyi* in Hood Canal generally died off and disappeared over the winter. They would like to be able to eradicate *Styela clava* in Pleasant Harbor, because dive surveys haven't found it yet in Hood Canal, but hand removal is a labor-intensive long-term operation that is not cost effective. WDFW is contacting other areas like New Zealand and Prince Edward Island, where they are combating the same species in much higher densities than we are dealing with to date. (Thanks to Pam Meacham, WDFW)

Amur Goby (Update). A single nonnative Amur goby, *Rhinogobius brunneus*, was found last month in Ramsey Wetland, which is connected to Columbia Slough and the Willamette River, in OR. The first population detected in North America last year still exists in the East Fork Lewis River in Washington. (Thanks to Paul Heimowitz, USFWS)

### **Other New Publications, Workshops, Conferences and Materials**

AU Feasibility of Eradication Study. The final report for the recent Australian study related to predicting eradication costs for marine pest incursions is now available. The

study was based on the results of a questionnaire completed by experts in marine pest management from around the world. The primary study goal was to identify a small number of characteristics for management focus on when considering the relative difficulty of eradicating incursions. The four characteristics found to be most significant predictors of cost were: (1) the area affected by the pest, (2) the rate of exchange of water in the area (3) the depth of habitat available to the pest and (4) the habit of the pest: whether it is a solitary, free-roaming organism or one which tends to form groups or colonies. A copy is available at [<http://www.affashop.gov.au/product.asp?prodid=13700>]. (For more information, contact <[Joe.Crombie@brs.gov.au](mailto:Joe.Crombie@brs.gov.au)>)

Cross Boundary Transport Study. A new report, *Assessment of Invasive Species Transport Across the Washington-British Columbia*, is available from Laura Sellens at <[laurasellens@gmail.com](mailto:laurasellens@gmail.com)>.

New Invasive Plant Books. “*Invasive Plants: A Guide to Identification, Impacts, and Control of Common North American Species*” by Sylvan and Wallace Kaufman, available through Stackpole Books. Most of the book functions as a field guide to the most common plant invaders across North America. Each entry has a short description of the plant, identifying characteristics, photos, habitat and range information, and a summary of impacts and management.

“*Weeds of California and Other Western States*” by Joe DiTomaso and Evelyn Healy, is a big 2 volume book set, with an accompanying CD of all of the photos. It includes photos of all plant life stages, detailed technical descriptions, tables, compares closely-related and often-confusing species, and is a very comprehensive work on western weeds. *Order it at* [<http://www.calweeds.com/shop/agora.cgi>] (Thanks to Mandy Tu, TNC)

IMO Video (At Last). There is -finally- a website where you can buy this video. The documentary film *Invaders from the Sea* won the gold award in the category of "Best United Nations Feature" at the third annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival, last April. It was produced by IMO, in co-operation with the BBC and the shipping industry. Using the North American comb jelly, golden mussel, and red tide organisms as examples, the film captures the dramatic impact of ballast water invaders on the lives of millions of people. *Check it out at:* [<http://www.gefweb.org/interior.aspx?id=17606>].

New Website. Canada is now online with Habitattitude and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) USA. This new website was funded by Environment Canada's Invasive Aquatic Species Partnership Program, and the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers' Aquatic Invasive Species Task Group. The purpose of the site is to educate and inform the pet and water garden community in Canada about the dangers of releasing exotic plant and animal species. It also has lots of good info and links. *Visit the site at* [[www.habitattitude.ca](http://www.habitattitude.ca)]

Interesting Article. Conservation Magazine (April-June 2007, Vol. 8, No. 2): *Do Biological Invasions Decrease Biodiversity?* is in the form of a round table with James H. Brown, Dov F. Sax, Daniel Simberloff, and Mark Sagoff discussing some commonly

held assumptions about invasive species. Check out the article at [<http://www.conbio.org/CIP/article82ali.cfm>] (*Thanks to Kevin Anderson, PSP*)

International Invasive Species Conference. The 15th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species will be held **September 23-27**, in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. (*For more info, contact <Elizabeth@theprofessionaledge.com>*)

International Symposium on Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species. USDA APHIS will host a symposium *Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species*, in Fort Collins, CO, on **August 7-9**. Topics include early detection and rapid response, pathways analysis, prevention, management or eradication, invasions and impacts, economics, resource recovery, public education, research needs, and global initiatives. A workgroup will meet in conjunction with the meeting to begin development of a national nutria management plan. (*For more info, contact <kathleen.a.fagerstone@aphis.usda.gov>*)

WRP Annual Meeting: The Western Regional Panel of the ANSTF will hold its 2007 annual meeting on **September 11-13**, in Honolulu, HA. (*For more information contact Tina Proctor at <bettina\_proctor@fws.gov>*).

Invasion Risk Assessment Training Workshop. The MS River Basin Panel is hosting a risk assessment training on aquatic nuisance species, **August 21-23** in Kansas City, MO. (*If you are interested in attending, contact Katherine Glassner-Shwayder at 734/971-9135 or <shwayder@glc.org>*)

An International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference will be held in Prince Edward Island October 1-4. Conference presentations will begin the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 2, and include a chartered boat tour of local shellfish aquaculture operations followed by an afternoon tunicate identification workshop. Days two and three will feature oral and poster presentations. Contact Mary Carman at <mcarman@whoi.edu> or visit the conference website at [[www.whoi.edu/institutes/oli/activities/seasquirt-2007.html](http://www.whoi.edu/institutes/oli/activities/seasquirt-2007.html)]. (*Thanks to Bruce Hanna, DFO, Canada*)

### New Grants

Grants. USFWS of Stockton, CA, has several opportunities posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). They solicit proposals for Mitten Crabs, Caulerpa, 100th Meridian, and New Zealand Mudsnail. (*Thanks to Jeff Herod, USFWS*)

Funding Opportunity. The USFWS Western WA Office has several different programs that fund restoration and recovery projects. They are now soliciting fiscal year 2008 funding opportunities for restoration and recovery projects, which could include invasive species control/eradication. Initial Project Information is due by **September 14, 2007**. *Notification of Funding Availability information is available on the internet at [<http://www.fws.gov/westwafwo/ear/NOFA.html>].*