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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Fostered collaboration and commitment among partner entities (regional, state, federal, tribal, and local) which resulting in amplified awareness, skills, and implementation of early detection surveillance, and timely response activities for aquatic invasive species.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Northern pike prevention, suppression, and control projects continue to be a priority for AK Dept. of Fish and Game. A new project in partnership with Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to prevent pike that transit through Cook Inlet from entering a water body from which they were previously eradicated; use video weir to monitoring pike movement; and eradicate source populations of invasive pike to reduce risk of spread.

2. Expansion of European green crab in Southeast, Alaska prompted a rapid assessment of Bostwick Inlet to understand distribution and abundance of the population. Successful implementation of the 2023 – 2028 Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) in Alaska.

3. Cohosted "All Hands on Deck for Early Detection, Collaborative Training in Alaska" with Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and University of Alaska. Southcentral, Alaska partners participated in field sampling and lab analysis protocols for early detection of dreissenid mussels.

4. New community-based monitors were supplied with equipment, tools and resources for early detection of European green crab.

5. In partnership with University of Alaska, increase water quality dataset to refine an ESRI-based geo-spatial water body vulnerability mapping tool for AIS.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Provide additional field sampling trainings for Alaska partners, particularly in communities proximal to the Alcan border.

2. Increase planning, outreach, monitoring, and response to new detections of invasive green crab.

3. Assist with compiling rapid response kits for green crab in regional hub communities.

4. Engage with stakeholders associated with new and known AIS pathways to raise awareness about laws and permit requirements, threats, and best practices for prevention and detection.

5. Continue to promote and facilitate collaboration statewide through the Alaska Invasive Species Partnership.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Alberta remains invasive mussel free. New detections in Manitoba and Idaho have spurred an increase in budget allowing increased AIS program effort in 2024 with more expansion planned in 2025.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Alberta's fines have increased to:

-\$4,200 for bypassing an open watercraft inspection station, 20 fines have been issued this season.

-\$600 for failing to remove drain plug during transport of a watercraft along Alberta highways.

We established an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to promote potential improvements between partner organizations and provincial programs on aquatic invasive species.

We invested \$2.5 million this year to improve expand the inspection and detection of capacity for aquatic invasive species.

-We expanded the number of roadside watercraft inspection stations across the province from 5 to 7 and increased the number of dedicated watercraft inspectors.

-We also reinstated a roving inspection crew to follow-up on notices from the Canadian Border Service Agency and increase inspections at high traffic locations and events within Alberta.

-We expanded the hours and days of operation for Alberta watercraft inspection stations.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Policy & Legislation – no planned changes, status quo.
- Education & Outreach – Continue to promote “Clean, Drain & Dry” and “Don’t Let It Loose”
- Monitoring – Investing in eDNA monitoring to prioritize more conventional monitoring effort.
- Watercraft Inspections and Decontamination – Prioritize Alberta’s east and south borders for watercraft inspections defense.
- Response – Alberta remains committed to response of our 52 prohibited species as well as some additional species that threaten our aquatic environments.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) AIS Program continued expanding its monitoring program statewide in Spring/Summer 2024. Stocked waters in Arizona were prioritized for 2024, while efforts were expanded to adjacent and downstream locations of potential detections. AIS monitoring of AZGFD hatcheries has been expanded in order to address potential new infestations more quickly.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. AZGFD has continued staffing launch ramps at Lake Powell (AZ) with contractor provided inspectors. This partnership allows more efficient utilization of resources by partners at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and allows for year-round ramp coverage to ensure containment of quagga mussels despite changing lake conditions.
2. Expanded AIS monitoring program statewide in Spring 2024.
3. New Zealand mudsnail detections in 2024 have only occurred in known locations and downstream of known infestations.
4. AZGFD and partners have performed over 2800 inspections and 250 decontaminations since October 2023.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. AZGFD will continue to operate current watercraft inspections and decontamination locations.
2. Expand prevention capacity at non-AIS listed waters.
3. Provide outreach and ensuring AIS compliance.
4. Expand monitoring program as resources allow.
5. Update AIS Program Vision Plan

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

California's Invasive Species Rapid Response Funding made its first commitment of funding.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Nutria eradication efforts continue. Nutria have dispersed downstream into the Suisun Bay and Grizzly Bay. Eradication efforts have expanded to target these areas, while concurrent efforts continue within the San Joaquin Valley.
- Caulerpa was found in San Diego bay and eradication efforts were immediately launched. Caulerpa eradication/monitoring continues on the first discovery in Newport Bay.
- Nerodia watersnake eradication/removal continues at two Central Valley sites. No Nerodia have been captured at the Roseville site since 2019, increasing confidence that this population has been eradicated.

CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW): Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program

- The Mussel Fee Sticker funds the QZ Grant Program, and sales are down since 2021, when the US Coast Guard compelled decoupling the sale of the mussel sticker from vessel registrations. DBW embarked on an outreach campaign to educate boaters that the mussel sticker was still required. Since implementing the campaign, mussel sticker sales are only slightly up.
- DBW awarded approximately \$2 million dollars for the 2024 QZ Grant cycle, to 10 applications. The two-year grants began in September 2024.
- Since the first grant cycle in 2014/15 through the current, approximately \$26.5 million has been awarded to water managers statewide for the prevention of quagga and zebra mussel infestation at uninfested publicly accessible reservoirs.

DBW: Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program (AIPCP)

- DBW's AIPCP collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies to manage aquatic invasive plants in areas such as Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and Fish Restoration Program Tidal Wetland Sites.
- Sentinel Satellites is utilized for remote sensing.

- Integrated Pest Management takes place with physical control tools and drone application methods.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Install newly created marina posters, for outreach, to increase Mussel Fee Sticker sales.
- Explore techniques to minimize the potential for hatchery fish stocking to spread New Zealand mudsnail.
- Continue investing in ongoing eradication efforts including nutria, Caulerpa, and Nerodia.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

We provided several in-person multi-day training sessions on behalf of the International Maritime Organization across Central and South America.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Publish and maintain interactive public data dashboards showing ship traffic and ballast water management patterns in California (<https://misp-cslc.hub.arcgis.com/>) and across the U.S. Pacific states (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0dba794263d443a98dc420e42385a951>).
- Published a peer-reviewed paper: Technical considerations for sampling ballast water to determine compliance with discharge performance standards (<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2024.1323989/full>)
- Providing International Maritime Organization training in Central and South America

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Review new EPA Vessel Incidental Discharge Act regulations and determine next steps for California's MISP.
- Present the 2025 Biennial Report on California's Marine Invasive Species Program to our Commissioners for approval and submission to the California Legislature.
- Update MISP enforcement regulations to include transparent penalties for violations of biofouling and ballast water regulations.
- Publish a peer-reviewed paper commemorating the 25th anniversary of California's Marine Invasive Species Program.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

PSU's Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (CLR) surveyed for zebra/quagga mussels and other freshwater ANS. In 2024 CLR sampled 73 lakes and reservoirs in Oregon. We sampled high risk reservoirs at least 3 times each, sometimes much more (especially sites on the Snake), and sampled most low risk ones just once. Altogether we visited 506 sites, including repeats, this year, a much higher effort than in prior years. We sampled for an average of 3 hours per site and we collected veliger samples at each site. We didn't find any zebra or quagga mussel adults. No samples analyzed to date detected any Dreissenid veligers or eDNA (we are still waiting for analysis of our more recent samples). We did find other ANS including the invertebrates: New Zealand mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), big-ear radix (*Radix auricularia*), rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*), Cipangopaludina sp. (Mystery snails), Asian Clam (*Corbicula*), Parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), knotweed (polygonaceae), curly-leafed pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. We have a new, updated Oregon ANS State Management Plan!
2. We surveyed for and removed green crabs, *Carcinus maenas*, in 4 Oregon Bays, Netarts Bay (many there), Nehalem Bay (few), Salmon River Estuary (few), and Siletz Bay (few), and mentored students in research on *C. maenas*.
3. We conducted a survey of over 600 participants on perceptions about common names for aquatic invasive species that currently have place-based common names. (Huge thanks to WRP members who participated)
4. ANS Management Plans: We led the effort for and worked on Oregon's upcoming 'Oregon *Carcinus maenas* management plan,' and participated in Washington DWF's green crab working group meetings and activities.
5. We worked with students to develop outreach materials on aquatic invasive species, including: A) Pamphlets we later distributed to the public, 'Protecting Oregon's Waterways Against Aquatic Invasive Species,' 'Creeping Invaders' (*Nymphaea peltata* and *Nymphaea odorata*), 'Don't Move a Mussel,' and 'New Zealand Mudsnail'; B) A storymap, a poster delivered at State of the Coast, and an annotated bibliography for the WRP Coastal Committee on offshore wind & Bioinvasions; C) Fact sheet for ODFW on northern crayfish; D) introduction about invasive species impacts on coastal Indigenous first foods and profiles on *Spartina alterniflora*, *S. densiflora*, *S. patens*, water primrose *Ludwigia hexapetala* and *L. peploides*, Japanese shore crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus*, mute swans *Cygnus olor* for the Oregon

Invasive Species Council Information Hub; E) and profiles for Horizon scan species Common salvinia, Indian swampweed, Wingleaf primrose willow, crested and fairy moss mosquito fern for USFWS.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Continue early detection surveys for zebra and quagga mussels and other ANS, including with eDNA and a citizen science program;
2. Continue surveys for green crabs and finish Oregon's management plan for them.
3. Finish Oregon's management plan for non-native marine and estuarine macroalgae.
4. With Sam Chan and other Seagrant leads and students, analyze our survey on perceptions about common names for aquatic invasive species that currently have place-based common names.
5. Create an Oregon Rapid Response Plan for northern pike and conduct risk assessments

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

CPW detected zebra mussel veligers in the Colorado River in July of 2024. CPW has partnered with federal, state, and local entities in an effort to identify the source but have not found any additional evidence since July. CPW has implemented a containment effort on this stretch of the river including stationing technicians at the busiest boat launches on the Colorado River since this detection.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

CPW detected zebra mussel veligers in the Colorado River and Highline Government Canal in July of 2024. Since that initial detection CPW has partnered with USFWS, BOR, USGS, and other state and local entities to do extensive surveying on the Colorado River. No additional veligers have been found since the initial detections in mid-July. Following the detection of veligers in the Colorado, CPW launched an multi-faceted education effort targeting non-motorized users on the Colorado River. Technicians have been stationed on the busiest boat launches on the Colorado River in the Grand Junction area and have made more than 4,000 face to face educational contacts, CPW staff has contacted every water based outfitter in the state, and a targeted Expect to Inspect campaign was launched in partnership with Wildlife Forever which at the time of this report has made more than 2,000,000 impressions.

CPW launched a new outreach campaign targeting non-motorized users. This outreach campaign consisted of Clean, Drain, Dry instructional videos targeting different non-motorized user groups, supplemental rack cards, CD3 units, and technicians who spent their summer participating in outreach events and surveying non-motorized boaters about their use patterns and knowledge of invasive species. The information gained from these surveys will serve as a baseline to better understand non-motorized use within Colorado.

CPW, in partnership with Colorado State Patrol, Port of Entry and Colorado Department of Transportation, implemented a near full time WID program at the Loma and Trinidad Ports of Entry. CPW hired a new full time employee to oversee these programs which have been very successful and as of the time of this report have intercepted 38 mussel fouled watercraft.

Additional adult zebra mussels were identified in Highline Lake in the fall of 2023 despite a previous eradication attempt. CPW performed a second molluscicide application in November of 2023, prohibited motorized watercraft from utilizing the lake in 2024, and will continue to take all reasonable efforts to effectively manage this population moving forward.

CPW Leadership approved a new full time Invasive Species Specialist position that will be focused on Early Detection & Rapid Response. This individual will be starting with CPW in late 2024.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

CPW will continue surveying the Colorado River and surrounding waterbodies for evidence of zebra mussels in an effort to identify the source population of the veligers identified in the Colorado River in July of 2024.

CPW will look towards a more long term containment strategy on the Colorado River in the Grand Junction area.

Motorized water based recreation is expected to return to Highline Lake in 2025. CPW intends to implement a robust containment WID program at Highline Lake.

CPW, in partnership with Colorado State Patrol Port of Entry and Colorado Department of Transportation, intends to establish more permanent inspection facilities at the Loma and Trinidad Ports of Entry in 2025. CPW also anticipates establishing more stations at Ports of Entry utilizing data that is ascertained by the Army Corps of Engineers boater movement study.

CPW will continue extending our outreach to non-motorized watercraft users and anglers. Additional videos and rack cards are planned to be produced in the winter of 2024/2025 and additional technicians will be hired in 2025 to provide on the ground education to this important user group. Technicians will also continue surveying non-motorized users in an effort to gauge the effectiveness of these outreach efforts.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Gathering sufficient resources to create an on the ground monitoring program for EDD and RR of northern pike in the Columbia River downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- 1) Completion of first monitoring season ((2023/2024) for NP in selected reaches of the Columbia River.
- 2) Presentation of 2023 results at ICAIS meeting in Halifax NS.
- 3) Tribal organization taking the lead for invasive species monitoring that is a potential invader.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- 1) Expand eDNA collections and gillnet surveys from 2024.
- 2) Increase participation by tribal staff and tribal members in sampling efforts and via outreach and education opportunities.
- 3) Seek additional sources of financial support, particularly for FTE positions with member tribes.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Kansas continues to seek opportunities and solutions to logistical constraints to expand WID within the state.

Invasive carp removal efforts in the Kansas River are showing promising results.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Conducted WID at BOR waters in NW Kansas – Funding through the Bureau of Reclamation provided KDWP the ability to conduct WID related activities at 6 BOR waters in Northwest Kansas:

- Norton Reservoir – not known to contain zebra mussels
- Lovewell Reservoir – not known to contain zebra mussels
- Webster Reservoir - not known to contain zebra mussels
- Kirwin Reservoir - not known to contain zebra mussels
- Cedar Bluff Reservoir – zebra mussel infested
- Glen Elder Reservoir – zebra mussel infested

KDWP plans to expand WID efforts to other parts of the state in future years as funding and staffing allows.

2. Initiated bighead carp telemetry project on Neosho River - Grand Lake system to inform removal

In collaboration with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Missouri State University, invasive carp are being targeted for capture throughout the Neosho River Grand Lake system. All invasive carp captured are implanted with ultrasonic transmitters (Vemco V16-5H; 69kHz). Once fishes are fitted with transmitters, movement and passage will be documented throughout the life of the transmitters (up to 5 years). We are utilizing a monitoring array that is a combination of stationary receivers and manual tracking. The stationary receiver array will extend throughout Grand Lake, Neosho River, and Spring River. Manual tracking is also being conducted at regular intervals and concentrated during seasons with high movement (e.g., spawning movement) throughout the study to garner more fine scale habitat information (e.g., spawning locations) and “hot spots” (e.g., areas of high Asian carp concentration). The receivers will provide enough spatial coverage to detect longitudinal movement throughout the system. Receivers placed above and below low head dams will inform passage across these structures.

3. Continued removal of invasive carps from the Kansas River below the Bowersock dam. In 2023, approximately 30,000 pounds of invasive carps were removed from the Kansas River below the

Bowersock Dam to prevent upstream range expansion and to benefit native species and river users below this barrier. KDWP AIS staff conducted removal efforts using traditional boat electrofishing and gill nets. Comparisons of demographic data between the area being targeted for removal and two unfished locations (KS River below WaterOne Weir and the MO River at Atchison, KS) revealed that there are significant differences between the removal location population and the unfished populations. Fifty (50%) of sampled carp in the population being fished were >718 mm in length compared to 654mm (Kansas River below WaterOne Weir) and 624 mm (Missouri River). Size structure of the population being fished is shifted toward larger fish than the two control populations. The population being fished is also exhibiting faster growth than the two unfished populations.

4. Revised and improved AIS education and outreach materials and increased in-person AIS education and outreach events. Worked with contracted marketing firm to overhaul all Kansas AIS education and outreach materials. New visuals and verbiage were developed using findings from recent AIS research to increase appeal and impact of AIS materials. New AIS brochures and swag were designed, purchased, and distributed. Increased the number of in-person AIS education and outreach events. A new AIS micro-website is also in the process of being designed.

5. Conducted bait shop inspections across the state.

Inspections were conducted at bait shops statewide; no invasive species were found in commercial bait tanks during the inspection process. Bait identification posters and AIS literature were distributed to the bait shops during inspections.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Expansion of WID activities in Kansas.

2. Continue and increase removal of invasive carp from the Kansas River and install a carp deterrent at Bowersock Dam.

3. Expand reach of AIS education and outreach, including new microsite.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

This season no evidence of dreissenid mussels has been detected in Montana waters utilizing microscopy, eDNA and physical survey methods.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

*Installed on-demand decontamination units at most watercraft inspection stations (funded by BOR and USFWS)

*Expanded partnerships in 2024 to contract with the Little Shell of the Chippewa Tribe, the Flathead Conservation District and the Flathead Biological station in watercraft inspection and early detection sampling.

*Continued to work closely with partners to expand AIS prevention, early detection and outreach state-wide.

*Expanded public AIS surveillance and reporting.

*Inspected more than 100,000 watercraft and intercepted 42 mussel fouled vessels.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

* Complete a new State AIS Plan in 2025.

*Work closely with regional partners to expand dreissenid mussel containment at mussel source waters.

*Continue to address and improve quality assurance / quality control at watercraft inspection stations.

*Identify new strategies to ensure boaters entering the state seek out and receive the required inspection.

* Expand efforts to educate and encourage public reporting of suspected AIS.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

The NPS spent a total of \$6.5 million on AIS prevention, containment and early detection monitoring with an emphasis on watercraft inspection and decontamination for Dreissenid mussels. Funds now support work at 14 national park service units across four regions. Funds also support Watercraft Inspection Decontamination Training and the Watercraft Inspection Decontamination Database.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- 1) NPS AIS Workshop - March 2024
- 2) Established NPS AIS Community of Practice
- 3) Continued expansion of AIS program into new parks and additional regions
- 4) Selection / ranking of FY25 AIS QZM projects.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Finalize 2024 NPS AIS Strategic Plan
- 2) Hire and onboard servicewide NPS AIS specialist
- 3) Provide funding to FY25 projects and efforts
- 4) Rank FY27 AIS QZM Project Submissions
- 5) Support innovations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of AIS prevention

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

2024 was the first full year of having 3 ANS FTEs!

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Continue to recruit and strengthen partnerships to raise ANS awareness in North Dakota and beyond.
2. Continue to deploy a diverse ANS outreach/education program using a variety of media outlets. In 2024, we again partnered with Midco, a regional TV/internet provider, to develop and disseminate ANS commercials.
3. To date, we have inspected over ~10,000 watercraft
4. Maintain/support a fourteen ANS prevention devices, including CD3s, ILIDS, and wash stations. ILIDS are remote inspection cameras that encourage boaters to comply with AIS regulations.
5. Conducted annual early detection surveys on more than 200 waterbodies utilizing various techniques. In 2024, we collected well over 1,500 plankton tow samples for the early detection of Dreissenid mussels and Corbicula.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Find new tools for recruiting seasonals
2. Process water samples faster
- 3 Expand partnerships
4. Monitor ZM expansion up Lake Oahe

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

In July of this year, the NGPC AIS Program began 1 of 2 chemical treatments to eradicate hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil in Ironhorse Lake in North Platte, NE utilizing ProcellaCOR. The second treatment was applied 2 weeks later. A 30 day follow up survey demonstrated successful treatment, with only dead or dying milfoil stems detected.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Conducted 8,258 watercraft inspections statewide, setting a new state record.
2. Hired a permanent AIS biologist, doubling the number of permanent staff.
3. Surveyed 30 different waterbodies for aquatic vegetation.
4. Attended various outreach and education events, handing out an estimated 15,000 items promoting "Clean, Drain, Dry" and "Protect Our Waters" messaging.
5. Conducted annual state hatchery inspections, confirming all state hatcheries were free of AIS.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Continue to conduct watercraft inspections statewide.
2. Continue performing vegetation surveys and performing chemical applications when possible.
3. Develop a bait shop inspection system in which bait shops are routinely inspected by the program manager for AIS presence.
4. Further develop working relationships with pet stores to promote "Don't Let it Loose" messaging.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

At this point, we believe we have successfully eradicated Australian redclaw crayfish from a series of ponds at the Clark County Wetlands Park in southern Nevada. Redclaw crayfish were originally identified in 2022. Following dewatering treatments in the winter of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 redclaw crayfish have not been found since. Another treatment is slated for the upcoming winter and treatment evaluation will continue for the foreseeable future.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

In conjunction with the Fisheries Division, NDOW's AIS program hosted the inaugural "Pike Out" event at Comins Lake in Eastern Nevada. The event was a public fishing tournament in which the public was incentivized to remove pike from the lake to augment ongoing control efforts. The prizes were all donated by local businesses and the tournament was very well attended and received.

HACCP plans for the three operating hatcheries in Nevada were revised and all hatchery staff were trained on the plans.

In cooperation with the Nevada Division of State Parks the previous Elko Roadside WID station was moved to Wildhorse Reservoir and an AIS Technician was allowed to live onsite. This solved many staffing problems that previously plagued the station allowing it to operate continuously throughout the 2024 season.

A new population of Australian redclaw crayfish was found in central Nevada at Rhodes Saltmarsh near Mina, Nevada. The marsh is created by an artesian well that's spilling warm water onto a dry lakebed. AIS staff are working with NDOW's engineers and the private landowner to repair the wellhead which will allow us to shut the water off during the winter. Winters in the location are considerably colder than southern Nevada with temperatures below freezing common, which will allow us to cool the water below the lethal limits of the crayfish. We were made aware of this population when a concerned citizen alerted us about an Instagram post.

WID stations at LMNRA continue to operate at full capacity and are staffed by three full time NDOW employees and upwards of 12 contract staff during the busiest season.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Operate all WID stations at full capacity for the entirety of the boating season.

Eradicate Australian redclaw crayfish from the Rhodes Saltmarsh and continue post treatment evaluation at the Clark County Wetlands Park.

Hire a statewide AIS fisheries biologist that will coordinate management activities directly with NDOW's Sportfish and T&E fisheries biologist.

Utilizing the AIS biologist to increase the volume of quagga/zebra and other AIS monitoring statewide.

Continue hosting the "Pike Out" tournament at Comins Lake.

Name: James Dominguez

Organization: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Title:

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

New Mexico continues to be one of a handful of states in the west without a population of ZQM. We feel our training/shadowing program and inspector retention has been the key to keeping NM free of ZQM. Each year a handful of mussel boats do arrive at our ramps, but inspectors have intercepted the conveyances prior to launch.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Partnerships in the State of New Mexico allow the NM AIS program to function. NM Game and Fish NM State Parks Bureau of Reclamation City of Farmington US Army Corps of Engineers Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife 2024 is shaping up to be our busiest season since we started conducting routine inspections and decontaminations Six inspectors acquired a mussel tattoo before a long time inspector departed for a new career path.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Find new partnerships Find a new outreach message/handout to keep the public engaged with AIS prevention efforts Continue will educating the public regarding the pet industry and the potential problems with online sales.

Name: Elaine Gainer

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

We have evolved from one singular person in our statewide ANS program (ANS Coordinator) to now having 3 people (ANS Coordinator, ANS Technician, and Carp Technician), and are gearing up to add a fourth (Carp Biologist) before the end of 2024!!

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Sampled 51 historically "clean" lakes for Dreissenid Mussels- only 2 new positives for Zebra Mussels (Fort Supply & Dave Boyer)
2. New hydrilla positive reservoir- Robert S. Kerr. We roughly mapped out extent (unfortunately extensive) and are communicating with the USACE on potential steps moving forward.
3. Just wrapped up a 6-month All User Group Survey on Grand Lake O' the Cherokees to gauge awareness of ANS and how to better our outreach/education efforts- results pending
4. Have concluded two eDNA sampling events on the Arkansas River for invasive carp- no positive hits thus far. Planning to continue sampling and possibly increase number of samples.
5. Collaborating with Missouri State University and Kansas Dept of Parks & Wildlife on Grand Lake bighead carp populations- telemetry, microchemistry, population demographics and genetics underway.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Bighead carp genetics
2. Advancing our program with the addition of a Carp Biologist
3. Improve invasive aquatic vegetation ID for all fisheries division staff
4. Improve white perch monitoring across invaded systems with the help of fisheries managers.

Name: Keith DeHart

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

New roving team functioned as planned during the summer of 2024. This team spent the summer performing boat launch inspections at high-risk waterbodies around the state. They also attended many educational festivals doing outreach activities. Their work has spurred many good conversations and helped to develop a network of concerned entities in eastern Oregon where our outreach has historically been limited.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Five stations nearly fully staffed. We only had one unfilled position compared to up to 5 in recent seasons.

- New roving crew: In 2023 this crew backfilled low staffing rates. In 2024 they functioned as planned, doing outreach and education activities around the state.

- Leadership transition: Rick Boatner officially retired in May 2024. Keith DeHart has been hired in his place.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Increase staffing, especially in eastern Oregon. Intend to hire another crew lead position and up to 5 additional roving inspection crew members.

- Development of Bistate agreement with Washington to outline needs and responsibilities in the event of dreissenid detection in the shared waters of the Columbia River.

Name: GORDON KING

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

We have a training module that is available to all crews and is highlighted annually in our Safety / ECOP meeting. This training covers how to identify EGC and the correct procedures for reporting and disposing. It also goes through the proper permit documentation that crews should be carrying should they want to participate in EGC mitigative efforts.

Additionally, just recently Taylor was happy to combine efforts with WDFW in their Early GC Detection efforts for South Puget Sound. WDFW GC team placed traps at two Taylor farms which were chosen as early detection sites. This was Chapman's Cove and Bayshore. Jason Ragan was able to help them navigate the areas to find the best placement for traps, considering habitat and available structure preferred by GC.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Continued development of disease resistant oyster broodstock to protect them from mass mortality caused by OshV-1 which has decimated Crassostrea gigas in several parts of the world.

Development of a nano technology antifoulant with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories for prevention of mussel settlement including Dreissenid mussels.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Continued assessment and control of Green Crab

Continued development of OshV-1 resistant oyster broodstock

Continued control of the spread of oyster drills.

More broadly, continued implementation of High Health Program and Biosecurity Program.

Name: stephen phillips

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Successful transition of WID Training from Quagga D to Elizabeth brown

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

see PPT slide

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Continue program activities from past year (see ppt slide)

Change APC-WID Cost share to 75/25

Seek establishment of NOAA Office of Invasive Species

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

SFEP co-staffs the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) which brings in \$25 million/year for 20 years (from a \$12 parcel tax) to fund habitat restoration along the shoreline. One of the funded projects is the Invasive Spartina Project (ISP) which manages over 70,000 acres and has reduced invasive spartina 97% since its peak in 2005. Certain areas were restricted by treatment due to issues with sensitive species. After a 10-year biological opinion, those sites are now being opened back up to treatment and will allow the ISP (which is managed by the California Invasive Plant Council) to further reduce invasive Spartina in the San Francisco Estuary.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

SFEP continues to work on the following committees to work on invasive species policies: 1) the ANS Task Force Prevention Committee, 2) the ANS Task Force Control Committee, 3) the new ANS Task Force VIDA workgroup, 4) the WRP Coastal Committee including offshore wind and marine mobile infrastructure, and 5) the California State Lands Commissions' Marine Invasive Species Program Technical Advisory Committees.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

In SFEP's Estuary Blueprint, Action 15 outlines priority tasks for Invasive Species. Task 15-1: Maintain, expand, and improve invasive species prevention programs (including for ballast water, marine biofouling, trailer boats, and organisms in trade). Actions may include developing new or expanding existing policies and programs, conducting outreach (e.g., to the boating community, Weed Management Area partnerships, etc.) and working with existing entities to identify priority activities. Task 15-2: Increase early detection, monitoring, and rapid response programs by identifying additional funding sources and creating a Rapid Response Fund. Monitoring includes: 1) assessing and mapping Estuary-wide distribution of key invasive species; and 2) increasing citizen scientist monitoring through Calflora, iNaturalist, and other similar websites. Task 15-3: Develop Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Frameworks at the local or national scale by setting up a framework to detect and respond to invasive species and a series of sustained and coordinated actions with associated responsible agencies and partners. Task 15-4: Develop new early detection tools using eDNA (i.e., eDNA meta barcoding) for specific environments and suites of species (i.e., marine species). Task 15-5: Implement eradication and control programs with priority given to species that can be eradicated and/or species that have extensive impacts on habitats important to the health of the estuarine ecosystem. Research and test pilot control measures for key invasive species. Task 15-6: Ensure regulatory agencies and project proponents include requirements to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, including using native-only plant lists, using sources with a clean supply of native plant species that are free of pathogens, and confirming that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are shared for invasive species where they exist (for example: Invasive Spartina Project BMPs 2016, California State Lands Commission's

BMPs for marina leases). Task 15-7: Finalize Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species through biofouling of mobile marine infrastructure (MMI) in collaboration with regulatory agencies for incorporation into permits.

Name: Tanner Davis

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Phone:

Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

South Dakota (SD) has had record high inspections with roughly 22,000 inspections performed thus far, compared to the 18,642 conducted in 2023.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

South Dakota (SD) has had record high inspections with roughly 22,000 inspections performed thus far, compared to the 18,642 conducted in 2023. An additional access based WID station was implemented at Angostura Reservoir and a roving crew out of our Chamberlain office. Now totaling 14 stations statewide (access based/roving).

Invasive carp continues to be a focus in South Dakota understanding their movement, natal origins, and areas of risk for range expansion.

Outreach and Education is one of the most important tools SD uses to reach users. Last year, an AIS Middle School Curriculum, and Activity Guide was developed and is actively being implemented in 2024.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Watercraft Inspections

Invasive Carp Research

AIS Monitoring

Outreach and Education - expanding outreach

Partnerships (Lake Associations, state & federal partners, tribes, active prevention groups)

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reorganized and optimized statewide aquatic invasive species staff with increased overall staffing to ensure success in addressing a Governor's emergency on European green crab and is taking significant actions to increase prevention and readiness of quagga and zebra mussels.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention and Readiness

+ \$3.61 million (M) for increased prevention and readiness in State Fiscal Year 2025. 50% federal cost-share.

Agency legislative request seeking ongoing annual funding, \$3.61 M annually. 50% federal cost-share.

Improved interagency response plan; upcoming mitigation system scoping analysis, and site-specific response plan for Snake River. State summit planning for 2025 with Pacific NorthWest Economic Region. Washington and Oregon near-term action working group.

European Green Crab Emergency

Removal of > 1 million European green crabs since 2021 Governor's emergency order. \$6.082 M annually.

Long-term [6-year] management plan with state and federal recommendations.

+ \$1.5 M from NOAA in process to support co-managers, tribes, and partners. + 1.5 M in senate proposed budget.

Ballast Water and Biofouling

Reactivating State Ballast Water Working Group, preparing for Vessel Incidental Discharge Act 2027-2029 state legislation.

Scoping Ballast Water Management System sampling pilot project.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Response

Improved Fish Transport Permit; improving marine dredging permit, and other permit processes.

Completion of State Interagency Northern Pike Response Plan. San Juan Island eradication scoping.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

European Green Crab Emergency

Implementation of 6-year management plan, transitioning to long-term local led management with WDFW oversight.

Execution of NOAA agreement for \$1.5 Million to address European green crab. Successful advocacy for additional funding from Congress.

Zebra and Quagga Mussel Readiness

Securing ongoing funding and federal cost-share to annual increase prevention and readiness.

Development of a site-specific Snake River response plan, as template for additional site-specific plans as appendices to interagency state response plan.

Ballast Water and Biofouling

Reactivating State Ballast Water Working Group, preparing for Vessel Incidental Discharge Act 2027-2029 state legislation.

Execution of Ballast Water Management System sampling pilot project.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Developing plans for two permanent watercraft inspection stations.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Addition of roving inspectors to educate non-motorized users about the importance of Clean, drain, dry. 2. Use of eDNA to delineate NZMS populations (all non-detect in tributaries). 3. Nearing completion of the largest EWM eradication project at the Taylor and Tallac Creeks watershed. 4. Completion of the 3 year test of control methods in the Tahoe Keys, the largest infestation of invasive aquatic weeds in the Region.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Developing long-term control plans for the Tahoe Keys infestation of invasive aquatic weeds that is the largest in the basin. 2. Breaking ground on one of the permanent watercraft inspection stations. 3. Revising the Lake Tahoe AIS Management Plan.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Aquatic invasive vegetation was effectively managed on approximately 65 lakes, and no water bodies are currently impeded for recreational access.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

No new zebra mussel detections in the past year

Nearly 50 water bodies monitored for zebra/quagga mussel early detection

Approximately 65 water bodies managed for aquatic invasive vegetation, with no water bodies currently impeded for recreational access

The first invasive carp population assessment for the Red River basin was completed in cooperation with Oklahoma, Arkansas, USFWS, and partner universities

Three aquatic invasive species research projects were supported to enhance knowledge and management of AIS in Texas

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Continue effective management of aquatic invasive vegetation in Texas waters

Continue zebra/quagga mussel early detection

Continue support for AIS research

Promulgate regulations to allow commercial harvest of additional invasive fish species

Name: Cesar Blanco

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

The program continues to work with and support stakeholder efforts to keep Zebra/Quagga mussels from invading Lake Tahoe.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Large-scale Loach Loach in San Joaquin R. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02705060.2024.2378841>)

Invasives in Muddy R., Moapa Dace Recovery

Red-Legged Frog Recovery in Las Virgenes Creek, Red-Swamp Crayfish detection/eradication.

NZMS detection/survey in Lake Tahoe and upper tributaries.

EDRR of AIS in Klamath R. using eDNA

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Invasives in Muddy R., Moapa Dace Recovery

Red-Legged Frog Recovery in Las Virgenes Creek, Red-Swamp Crayfish detection/eradication.

NZMS detection/survey in Lake Tahoe and upper tributaries.

EDRR of AIS in Klamath R. using eDNA

EDRR of new AIS

Name: Theresa Thom

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

In FY24, certified trainers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service from multiple regions provided Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning certification courses to partner agencies and staff across the country. Trainings were offered in-person. HACCP-related training opportunities to prevent and mitigate the risk of unintentionally spreading invasive species will be offered in FY25 including a HACCP Train-the-Trainer course. In FY24, FWS staff attended the USDA WILDLIFE Emergency Response Preparedness Training and helped tribes in the PNW develop emergency response plans. Disease and invasive species were topics, but not the whole focus. Additionally, using FWS Wild Fish Survey procedures, 64 sites were surveyed for whirling disease with the Kootenai, Kalispel and Spokane Tribes. As part of this work, whirling disease was detected in 2 new sites, one in WA and one in ID that were previously not "positive" and one in a new species (Kokanee) in Idaho.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1) The Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (CRFWCO) is implementing an ongoing project to stock male brook trout with two Y chromosomes to eradicate a population of nonnative brook trout in Tye Springs above Carson National Fish Hatchery in Washington. Project activities in 2024 included removing approximately 1,100 resident brook trout from Tye Springs, collecting 600 tissue samples for genetic assignment tests and stocking 2,000 PIT tagged YY male brook trout on August 13th, 2024. Unfortunately, we observed unexpectedly high levels of post-stocking mortality of YY males in 2024 ($\approx 75\%$), due to a combination of transport stress, stocking location and predation/harassment by otters. Despite this high level of mortality, we are seeing signs that YY male brook trout are surviving and spawning successfully with resident females in Tye Springs. Annual survival of YY males has improved each year of the project based on the number of fish recaptured during fish removal efforts (e.g., 79 YY males stocked in summer 2023 were recaptured in summer 2024). The proportion of YY male brook trout progeny detected in tissue samples collected from 1,139 young-of-year brook trout was 0.28% in 2021, 21.28% in 2022 and 9.98% in 2023. Finally, sex ratios of brook trout captured during fish removal efforts are shifting to male. In 2023, we determined the sex of 581 randomly selected brook trout ranging in size from 90-150mm. Of the total, 36% were female and 64% were male. The presence of YY male progeny among young-of-year brook trout and male-favored sex ratios, confirm the spawning success of YY male brook trout and provide positive feedback that the YY male technique is progressing successfully in Tye Springs.

2) The CRFWCO is conducting annual AIS monitoring at six lower Columbia National Fish hatcheries using eDNA and visual surveys. Although the primary focus of visual surveys is New Zealand mudsnail (NZMS), all eDNA samples are tested for NZMS, zebra mussels, quagga mussels, northern pike and American bullfrog. The purpose of this ongoing study is to evaluate the effectiveness of visual surveys and eDNA

sampling for early detection of AIS and provide information to help design monitoring programs for early detection of NZMS and other high priority AIS at National Fish Hatcheries. In 2024, staff also assessed four eDNA sample collection/filtration protocols (WDFW, WSU, USGS, USFS) to compare eDNA capture yield and detection of NZMS at three reference locations with varying snail densities.

3) FWS staff at the Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (WWFWCO) continued a research study with WDFW, King County, and the Muckleshoot Tribe to examine predation by non-native fishes (Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie, and Rock Bass) on ESA listed Chinook Salmon and sockeye salmon in the Lake Washington Basin. This year's sampling efforts focused on the south end of Lake Washington and in the Ship Canal where non-native fishes may congregate to prey on juvenile salmonids. Also of interest, WDFW caught two northern pike in Lake Washington which we also examined for stomach contents. In FY 2024, we submitted two manuscripts for publication from past years data: 1) movement patterns of yellow perch between Lake Washington the Ship Canal (accepted by Northwest Science), and 2) Diet and potential impacts of rock bass in the Lake Washington system (under review with Northwest Naturalist). (see photos).

4) In cooperation with Washington Department Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Sea Grant (WSG), University of Washington, and other volunteer partners, the Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (WWFWCO) assisted with the sentinel site monitoring of invasive European Green Crabs (EGC) for WSG's "Crab Team" at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. (see photo)

5) The Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO) continues to work with the State of Hawaii, the US Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and non-governmental partners to identify and strengthen biosecurity actions and communication frameworks to prevent the spread of invasive species within the State of Hawaii and across the Pacific Islands Region. In 2024, PIFWO hired a Biosecurity Coordinator to increase its focus and engagement on the ongoing risk of invasive introductions in the Pacific Islands. PIFWO staff continue to engage on early detection and rapid response planning for potential introductions of AIS into the Pacific region (ie. stony coral tissue loss disease and *Unomia*). In 2024 a FWS pilot rapid response fund for aquatic invasive species was established and \$250K was awarded to the Navy to increase efforts to address the only known occurrence of an invasive soft coral (*Unomia*) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

6) PIFWO staff coordinate multi-agency brown treesnake (BTS; *Boiga irregularis*) interdiction, control, and suppression efforts, regionally and nationally, through the legislatively mandated Brown Treesnake Technical Working Group. BTS is an invasive species that has resulted in severe environmental and significant economic impacts to the U.S. Territory of Guam including extirpation or extinction of nearly all native vertebrates. Numerous Federal and Territorial agencies work together to plan, fund, and implement BTS interdiction, control, suppression, and eradication efforts. PIFWO hired a new Brown Treesnake Program Coordinator in April 2024 and with other DOI partners (NPS, USGS) completed and submitted a Biological Assessment for formal Section 7 consultation to FWS for the NPS Asan Beach Park BTS Control for Native Species Restoration Citizen Science project. The project launch date is scheduled for 16 November 2024. PIFWO staff continue to coordinate with a diverse group of stake holders to plan eradication activities for the incipient population of BTS discovered on Islan Dãno' (Cocos Island) in 2020. Islan Dãno' is home to the endangered Ko'ko (Guam Rail), (*Hypotaenidia owstoni*), and Slevin's skinks (*Emoia slevini*), as well as other native skinks, seabirds, and Micronesian Starling (*Aplonis opaca*)

populations. PIFWO staff organize and facilitate the annual meetings of the Brown Treesnake Technical Working Group, which will take place from November 18-22, 2024 on the island of Guam.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Provide Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification courses to partner agencies and staff across the country. The certification course will be offered in-person and online. The goal: to prevent and mitigate the risk of unintentionally spreading invasive species.
2. Work with tribes, states, and other partners to implement a Nationally Coordinated Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework for aquatic invasive species and pathways.
3. Work with entities responsible for key pathways (and associated vectors) to proactively reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species.
4. Continue to assist with EGC monitoring and trapping efforts and further development of ANS outreach and education materials.
5. Support emergency response preparedness related to invasive species introductions.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Reclamation's primary focus for the past year has been the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Mussels Spend Plan. Throughout 2024 Reclamation provided approximately \$2.6 million to support various mussel management activities across the West including support for watercraft inspection and decontamination in New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, California, Nevada, and Washington.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Reclamation's Science and Technology Program is currently funding 17 invasive species research projects, 16 of which are projects focused on invasive mussels. Five research projects are concluding this year, and 6 invasive species research proposals were submitted for funding consideration in FY25. The titles of the five concluding projects are listed below.

-

- Ultrasonic Transducer Field Test for Quagga Mussel Settlement Control

- Development of an Engineered Disseminated Neoplasia to Control Invasive Mussels in Reservoirs

- Development of a Production and Transport Vector for a Chimeric Biopesticide in the Treatment of Zebra and Quagga Mussels

- Collection and Analysis of Invasive Mussel Samples to Prevent the Spread and Impacts at Reclamation Reservoirs and Facilities

- Invasive Crayfish Assessment

- The Reclamation Ecological Research Laboratory at the Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado, has received and analyzed 1,803 invasive mussel samples from 246 water bodies between October 2023 and September 2024.

- The CPN Regional Laboratory in Boise Idaho collected 238 samples, at 42 water bodies across the Columbia River Basin in accordance with the TSC sample protocol.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. The implementation of Reclamation's Fiscal Year 2025 Spend Plan to support various mussel management activities across the West

2. Continued implementation of previous years spend plan multi-year activities and projects.
3. Continued mussel monitoring
4. Continued research on control technologies and early detection methodologies for mussels
5. Identify and prioritize facility vulnerability assessments

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Title:

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Marimo Moss Ball Response: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Plant Protection and Quarantine program (PPQ) oversees Marimo moss ball importation into the United States. All shipments must be under a PPQ permit, have a phytosanitary certification, and are subject to inspection by PPQ. The USFWS does not prohibit or otherwise regulate the import of moss balls. However, zebra mussels are listed as injurious under Title 18 of the Lacey Act. As such, the USFWS is authorized to enforce the injurious provision of the Lacey Act; accordingly, PPQ refers any shipments suspected to be contaminated with viable zebra mussels to the USFWS where they are subject to enforcement actions including, but not limited to, seizure of the shipment.

In early August, USFWS and USDA were informed that a shipment of Marimo moss balls in Washington contained zebra mussel shells. This shipment was from a distributor in Florida that reported the shipment originated from Ukraine. This distributor has reported that they import shipments of Marimo moss balls into the country at least every month that are then sent to multiple wholesalers and retailers across the country. It has been determined that shipments of moss balls between this exporter overseas and the Florida distributor have bypassed the required evaluation at a plant inspection station in violation of permit requirements and regulations by going directly from the exporter to U.S. importer through International Post.

Within the last year, entities within at least 38 States have been identified as having secondary recipients of moss balls originally imported into Florida. At this time, no live zebra mussels have been detected, however zebra mussel shells have been found in pet stores in at least 4 states (Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Colorado). Additional trace forward investigations by USDA are ongoing. USDA-Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance will be coordinating with state and regional fish and wildlife and law enforcement contacts to address Marimo moss balls that were distributed that were not appropriately imported into the country and inspected. BAIS and Office of Law Enforcement staff continue to work with USDA to address this commodity that appears to be a carrier of the invasive zebra mussel.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Injurious wildlife: FACS is actively working to promulgate rules related to injurious wildlife that may represent significant risk to our Nation's resources and people. Four specific rule packages are currently in development. First, a rule package is in preparation and surname for salamanders that may carry a high carry *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), a fungus that is causing massive die-offs in European salamanders. This rule package, expected to publish in the Federal Register later this fall or early winter, includes a final rule and a second interim rule to list some genera of salamanders as injurious under 18 U.S.C. 42(a) known to carry this fungus. Additionally, a proposed rule is in preparation to list three taxa of invertebrates as injurious. This proposed rule is expected to be published in FY25. Five species of venomous reptiles are also being evaluated for potential future listing as injurious. Finally, as per the direction of Congress through the American Rescue Plan Act, risk analyses are being conducted to evaluate species in trade that may pose risk to human health. To support

related rule promulgation, FAC has funded the Smithsonian Institution to conduct a global horizon scan and risk analysis of wildlife species that carry zoonotic pathogens and parasites of consequence, and this scope of work is ongoing.

- Interjurisdictional Invasive Species Rapid Response Team (IInSRRT) is being co-administered by FAC and the Refuge Programs and is receiving \$3M under BIL for implementation. The purpose of IInSRRT is to support the pilot program to form a DOI Interjurisdictional Invasive Species Rapid Response Team. The team will support or lead, as requested, rapid response actions across jurisdictions in support of lead management authorities. The pilot program will be co-administered between the Refuge and FAC Programs. An IInSRRT Coordinator will be hired in the Fall of 2024.
- Pilot Rapid Response Fund: The Department invested \$1 million to establish this pilot fund, with an additional \$1 million envisioned each year 2024 through 2026 as part of advancing a National EDRR Framework. The rapid response funds are awarded quarterly through a competitive funding opportunity to allow timely response to new species threats while maintaining a fair, competitive, and transparent process. The Rapid response fund is administered within the existing authorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program and coordinated through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Funding recipients are listed on FAC's website as they are awarded and can be found here: [Rapid Response Funding to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#). The last funding opportunity closed on July 15, 2024. The new announcement for 2024 funding will be posted October 2024.
- Eradication Notice of Funding decisions announced on August 28, 2024: The Department of Interior is working with partners to identify, enhance and collaborate on invasive species eradication activities, build new tools and support coordinated processes to eradicate existing populations of invasive species that are harming our nation's land, waters, and wildlife. These eradication activities are being implemented with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds through the FAC Program and complements the National EDRR Framework. Six projects were selected from 76 applicants seeking more than \$34 million in funding. They demonstrate on-the-ground efforts that eradicate an invasive species and advance research that increases the effectiveness and near-term availability of eradication tools. The projects are:
 - o Alaska: Advancing island ecosystem restoration – Research on Norway rat eradication on Great Sitkin Island, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge - \$448,237.
 - o California: Argentine ant eradication to protect biodiversity and ecosystem function on Santa Cruz Island - \$813,155
 - o Hawaii: Eradication of two high-risk invasive plants from Hawaii Island - \$134,184
 - o U.S. Virgin Islands: Eradicating invasive black rats on an offshore island to benefit an endangered boa - \$423,920
 - o Washington: American bullfrog eradication for the recovery of the federally listed Oregon spotted frog at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Lake Refuge - \$600,504
 - o Nationwide: Rapid response, early intervention and eradication of invasive fish using YY male technology - \$540,000.

- State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Grant Program: FAC received \$4.084 Mil for the FY24 State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan grant program (SIANSMP). The grant program for FY24 has closed, and all 45 ANSTF-approved Plans successfully applied for funding, with most States receiving about \$91,100 for implementation of their plans. At the May 2024 ANSTF meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY, the New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan was approved, bringing the total number of plans to 46 (43 State and 3 Interstate). The FY25 SIANSMP grant program will be initiated as early as possible in FY25.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Build capacity and capability for Prevention and EDRR work at invasion hotspots (ports and other points of entry) where AIS are entering the United States (or could in the future). BAHSC / BHOAS
- Work with industry stakeholders on effective risk mitigation throughout their entire supply chains. BCP
- Continue to build capacity and capability for injurious wildlife rule promulgation.
- Better utilize the State and Interstate ANS Management Plans to create a unified network that supports the national AIS program by evaluating each plan to identify shared priorities, gaps or redundancies. Use this information to create synergies to share resources and expertise across jurisdictions. BCP / BIM
- Streamline administrative processes and required determinations for Rapid Response Fund

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Performed first field eRNA testing for the detection of mussels in lake Oahe.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- 1) Maintaining Cost-share programs-WID, Flowering Rush, etc.
- 2) Working on Northern Pike cost-share.
- 3) Maintaining ERDC Flowering Rush control Demonstrations (Lake Pend Oreille McNary)
- 4) Working on additional authorized WID basins and U.S./Canada border.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- 1) Maintain Cost-share programs- (WID, Flowering Rush)
- 2) Complete Northern Pike Cost-share.
- 3) Add additional authorized basins and projects from the US/Canada border.
- 4) Maintain and expand ERDC Flowering Rush control demonstrations (John Day pool and other locations)

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

The USFWS Alaska Region will receive \$1.6M Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding in November 2024 toward leveraging existing decision support tools and partnerships to increase invasive species early detection surveillance in the Southcentral Alaska Invasion Hotspot geography. This project is through the Department of the Interior's National EDRR Framework.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Cohosted, with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska and Bureau of Reclamation, a collaborative training for invasive species practitioners and partners on dreissenid field sampling and lab analysis, highlighted in "All Hands on Deck for Early Detection Collaborative Training in Alaska" (<https://www.fws.gov/story/all-hands-deck-early-detection>). Invested in other place based early detection initiatives such as, "The Big Deal About Big Lake: A collaborative conservation success" (<https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-02/big-deal-about-big-lake#:~:text=The%20Elodea%20Dilemma,ponds%2C%20and%20sloughs%20it%20infests>).
2. Published outreach video on YouTube from last year's European Green Crab Rapid Response Exercise in Homer, Alaska: "European Green Crab: Alaska Invasive Species Partnership" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ddpeY7IQDY>) and reviewed successes in, "Invasive Green Crab Rapid Response Plan Just What the Doctor Ordered" (<https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-03/invasive-green-crab-rapid-response-plan-just-what-doctor-ordered>).
3. Operated watercraft inspection station at the Alcan border for the fourth full season (May – August) with the greatest number of movement notices, annual inspections, and decontaminations to date, as well as data resolution improvements. Check out, "You [zebra and quagga mussels] shall not pass! Preventing dreissenid mussels from entering Alaska" (<https://www.fws.gov/story/preventing-dreissenid-mussels-entering-alaska#:~:text=Just%20as%20Gandalf%20famously%20declared,waterways%2C%20ecosystems%2C%20and%20infrastructure>).
4. Continued to work cross-programmatically and across agencies to elevate the invasive species prevention and early detection mindset throughout Alaska. For example, "Collaboration on the High Seas: And other lessons learned on marine debris clean-up" (<https://www.fws.gov/story/collaboration-high-seas>) and "US Fish and Wildlife Service takes action to combat the spread of invasive species in Bristol Bay" (<https://www.kdlg.org/2024-09-12/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-takes-action-to-combat-the-spread-of-invasive-species-in-bristol-bay>).
5. In September 2024, initiated an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the environmental impact of invasive rat eradication on four uninhabited islands in the Aleutians Islands to restore island

biodiversity. (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/09/23/2024-21714/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-rat-eradication-from-four>).

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Develop draft Environmental Impact Statement and gather public input for proposed actions to eradicate rats from four Aleutian Islands (<https://www.fws.gov/aleutianrateis>), including conducting field research with \$448K BIL funding on Great Sitkin Island where the first eradication is proposed.
2. Bring Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) content to rural communities in Alaska while honoring indigenous knowledge and sovereignty.
3. Continue growing watercraft inspection operations at the Alcan Land Port of Entry and expand watercraft inspection efforts in Alaska to FWS boat launches and to marine critical control points, such as Port of Alaska or source ports in Washington state.
4. Enhance invasive species prevention and early detection messaging in communities across Alaska through diverse applications, such as new exhibits at Alaska Public Lands Information Centers, statewide public service radio announcements, programming for Alaska Outdoor School, and supporting National Wildlife Refuges to pilot Wild Spotter™.
5. Improve statewide coordination (communication plans and rapid response plans) to new invasive species reports to reinforce biosecurity and safeguard trust resources.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Region 2 awarded approximately \$2.25M in grant awards to address QZAP 2.0 priorities in western waters. These projects have been selected by a team of AIS Specialist from multiple federal and state agencies. Additionally, Region 2 continued execution of an Interagency Agreement with BLM, BOR, NPS, and FWS to collectively support two Quagga/Zebra projects that benefit the greater western US including local governments, states, tribes and other federal agencies. These projects include watercraft inspection training, and watercraft inspection database.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Using innovative technologies Region 2 Implemented Early Detection Surveillance for AIS at National Fish Hatcheries. This work has led to the implementation of a Rapid Response Plan to eradicate New Zealand Mudsnail at one facility.

2. Published a book chapter titled "Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species while Sampling" in the Revised "Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes".

3. Abundance and Distribution of Early Life Stages of Asian Carp in the Red River Basin: Region OKFWCO's commitment to assessing spawning and recruitment of invasive carp in FY2023 continued to include conducting ichthyoplankton tows and light trapping for larval fish in the Red River mainstem and tributaries, such as the Kiamichi River, Choctaw Creek, and Muddy Boggy Creek. Larval fish were sampled May–August, and larval fish are currently being sorted, identified, and genetically analyzed for species confirmation. The

OKFWCO has expanded its working relationships to aid in rapid detection and positive identification of larval fish. Recently the OKFWCO has collaborated with the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center, the Whitney Genetics Lab and the Missouri State University. These partnerships have agreed to aid the OKFWCO with genetic confirmation of eggs or larval fishes, ethanol screening to determine whether carp DNA is present in the sample and, additional hands to sort through samples to locate and identify eggs and larval fish.

4. Continued the stocking of YY-male Brook Trout in West Fork Black River and Thompson Creek in 2024 to eradicate brook trout.

5. Completed a successful sodium sulfite treatment on Bulkhead Cove in August to eradicate invasive Green Sunfish, Yellow Bullhead and Red Swamp Crayfish

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Early Detection of invasive carp with Acoustic Telemetry on Arkansas River

2. Renew the 5 year Interagency Agreement with BLM, BOR, and NPS to continue supporting Watercraft Inspection and Decon training and the WID database.
3. Continue to provide HACCP trainings across the country to assist internal and external partners with a prevention planning process.
4. Work with HQ FWS and Regional Biologist to complete Southwest Rivers Horizon Scan
5. Continue assisting with the implementation of the national EDRR framework.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

USGS leads multiple projects in support of the DOI EDRR Framework

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Supporting the Blackfeet Reservation's effort to conduct eDNA surveillance for Prussian Carp in the St. Mary and Milk River subbasins.
- Assisted & trained NPS personnel in the Upper Colorado River Basin and the Greater Yellowstone Area to deploy eDNA autosamplers and conduct manual eDNA sampling for QZ mussels, New Zealand mudsnails, and Rusty crayfish.
- Collaborated with NPS, USFS, and state partners to test eDNA point-of-use tools for QZM surveillance.
- Developing SIREN, an EDRR online information system for invasive species sharing and collaboration.
- Processed > 1500 eDNA samples for state and federal partners in the West to support aquatic invasive species surveillance efforts.
- Co-wrote National Aquatic eDNA Strategy and Implementation Plan

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Continue to support the DOI EDRR National Framework
- Build technical capacity / support tribal partners to do AIS surveillance; continue to support the Blackfeet Reservation's Prussian carp surveillance efforts
- Continue to develop protocols, best practices, and ultimately standards for eDNA field sampling and analysis.
- Support partner use of eDNA autosamplers and point-of-use tools for AIS surveillance.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

UDWR installed 3 new diptanks this season at the following locations:

-Willard Bay

-Lake Powell- Bullfrog

-Flaming Gorge- Lucerne

The diptanks have continued to prove their success and efficiency within our program.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Installing our final three diptanks within our necessary timeframe was a huge accomplishment. We continued to develop our camera/bow tracking system and the cameras themselves are growing more accurate. Implemented and gained traction with our AIS decal and education program.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Recruiting and retaining employees, both seasonal and full time.
2. Address legislative concerns within rule and code.
3. Successfully transition to new Division of Law Enforcement.
4. Become fully operational at our Kanab inspection station.
5. Continue to increase in our decontamination and inspection numbers.

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Title: President

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

We had the privilege to award 4 scholarships in the amount of \$2500 each to students at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

N/A

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

For our 2025 meeting, we're bringing the conference to Sacramento in order to allow more participation from government entities with restricted travel in the West. Our priority is to promote more government and irrigation attendance with this location.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

1

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

2

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

3

Name:

Organization:

Title:

Mailing Address:

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Name:

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP to know about.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.