



WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Sustaining Successful Invasive Species Management

September 23-25, 2026 | Sacramento California

Holiday Inn Downtown | 300 J St. Sacramento, CA

Sierra Ballroom – 16th Floor

Wednesday, September 23

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION
8:30 AM	WELCOME Robert Walters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife & WRP Chair Madeline Drake, California Natural Resources Agency on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot
8:40 – 9:20 AM	KEYNOTE Sustaining Invasive Species Management with Successful Science & Policy Interface Jutta Burger, California Invasive Plant Council
SESSION: AIS ISSUES IN CALIFORNIA Moderator: Thomas Jensen, California Department of Fish and Wildlife	
9:20 – 10:45 AM	California's Marine Invasive Species Program: 25 Years of Effective Pathway Management – Chris Scianni, CA State Lands Commission Aquatic Plant Management in the San Joaquin Delta – Jeff Caudill, CA Division of Boating and Waterways New Insights on Nutria Management – Valerie Cook, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Overview of California Water Management System – Stephen Pang, Association of CA Water Agencies
10:45 – 11:00 AM	NETWORK BREAK
SESSION: AIS CHALLENGES IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS Moderator: Chris Scianni, California State Lands Commission	
11:00 – 12:00 PM	The Best Laid Plans: Emergency Ballast Water Treatment in Washington State – Amanda Newsom, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Monitoring program for Mitten Crabs (<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>) in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers – Arick Rouhe, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs Discussions on Green Crab (<i>Carcinus maenas</i>) Oyster Predation, Populations in Oregon Oyster Farms and Utilization – Sam Chan, Oregon State University
12:00 – 1:20 PM	LUNCH - Sponsored by Istonish Best in the West Award Ceremony
SESSION: GOLDEN MUSSEL MANAGEMENT Moderator: Tom Boos, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	
1:20 – 2:50 PM	Golden Mussels (<i>Limnoperna fortunei</i>) in California: Evaluating potential sources of introduction and scope for secondary spread by commercial ships – Lina Ceballos-Osuna, California State Lands Commission A Regional Three-Pronged Approach to Golden Mussels – Kyle Ochendusko, Contra Costa Water District

	Lake Berryessa Golden Mussel Prevention Framework and Management Strategy – Drew Gantner, Solano County Valley Water’s Invasive Mussel Prevention Framework and Mitigation Strategies – Atlasi Daneshvar, Santa Clara Valley Water District
2:50 – 3:10 PM	NETWORK BREAK
SESSION: EMERGING THREATS Moderator: Leah Elwell, Conservation Collaborations	
3:10 – 3:50 PM	Emerging Threat: Wild Goldfish Species in the Pacific Northwest – Theresa Thom, US Fish and Wildlife Service Targeted Eradication of the Invasive Pink-tipped Anemone (Anemonia.manjano) from Kāne’ohe Bay, Hawai’i – Jesse Boord, Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources
SESSION: NATIONAL UPDATES Moderator: Josh Leonard, Wyoming Game and Fish Department	
3:50 – 5:00 PM	ANSTF Updates – Susan Pasko, ANS Task Force Overview of NISC Priorities & Federal Engagement on Invasive Species – Stas Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council Updates from USGS NAS Database and the New Aqua DePTH – Wes Daniels, US Geological Survey National Legislative Update – Stephen Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
5:00 PM	ADJOURN

Thursday, September 24

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION
8:30 AM	WELCOME Robert Walters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife & WRP Chair
SESSION: PREVENTION Moderator: Tammy Davis, Alaska Department of Fish and Game	
8:40 – 10:20 AM	Outreach at the Beach: Hand-launched Clean, Drain, Dry Education – McKenzie Koch, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Boat Decontamination Dip Tank and Forest Fire Fighting Equipment Mobile Decontamination System – Garrett Atwood, Clean Wake Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Risk Assessment – Sara Ricklefs, Invasive Species Action Network Cross-Program WID Protocol Audit – Elizabeth Brown, EB Environmental Consulting Call Before You Haul: Mitigating Gaps – Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies
10:20 – 10:40 AM	NETWORK BREAK
DISCUSSION SESSION: ELUSIVE RECIPROCITY – A NEW ERA OF RISK MANAGEMENT Moderators: Robert Walters and Leah Elwell	
10:40 – 12:00 PM	<i>Goal: Gain common understanding of reciprocity elements and identification of actions and next steps in addressing reciprocity</i> Discussion Exploration Areas - Evaluate reciprocity elements - Scaling program reciprocity from county to state to region
12:00 – 1:20 PM	LUNCH – On your own
SESSION: EARLY DETECTION TOOLS Moderator: Debra Deshon, Mussel Dogs	
1:30 – 2:50 PM	Considerations for Reporting Invasive Species Detections from eDNA Metabarcoding Data – John Darling, eDNAtec Using Genetic Tools for the Early Detection and Monitoring of Invasive Species in California – Sarah Stinson and Melinda Baerwald, CA Department of Water Resources

	Dreissenid Mussel Habitat Suitability Modeling in Southcentral Alaska Rivers – Aurelia Umholtz, Alaska Center for Science, U of AK Biobox Implementation for Golden Mussels – Laura Hertz, US Bureau of Reclamation (10 minutes)
2:50 – 3:10 PM	NETWORK BREAK
SESSION: MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR MUSSEL CONTROL AND ERADICATION Moderator: Tom Woolf, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	
3:10 – 4:45 PM	Potash as a Molluscicide - Registrations at the Federal and State Level – Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies Zebra Mussel Eradication Effort at Smishek Lake ND – Ben Holen, North Dakota Game & Fish Discovering and Developing Biological Solutions to Aquatic Invasive Species: Zequanox® and Beyond – Brady Hirshfeld, Invasive Species Corporation Golden Mussel Management in the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Distribution System – Kaitlyn Quincy, SePRO
4:45 PM	PUBLIC COMMENT
5:00 PM	ADJOURN

Friday, September 25

7:15 AM	ASSEMBLE IN HOLIDAY INN LOBBY
7:30 AM	DEPART VIA CHARTER BUS
FIELD TRIP Hosted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA State Lands Commission and CA Division of Boating and Waterways	
7:30 AM	Species focused stops in the Stockton area • Golden mussels in freshwater habitats • Nutria eradication program • Aquatic plant management
12:30 PM	RETURN TO HOTEL