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From: Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>
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To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June 2020 AIS News



Aquatic Invasive Species **NEWSLETTER**

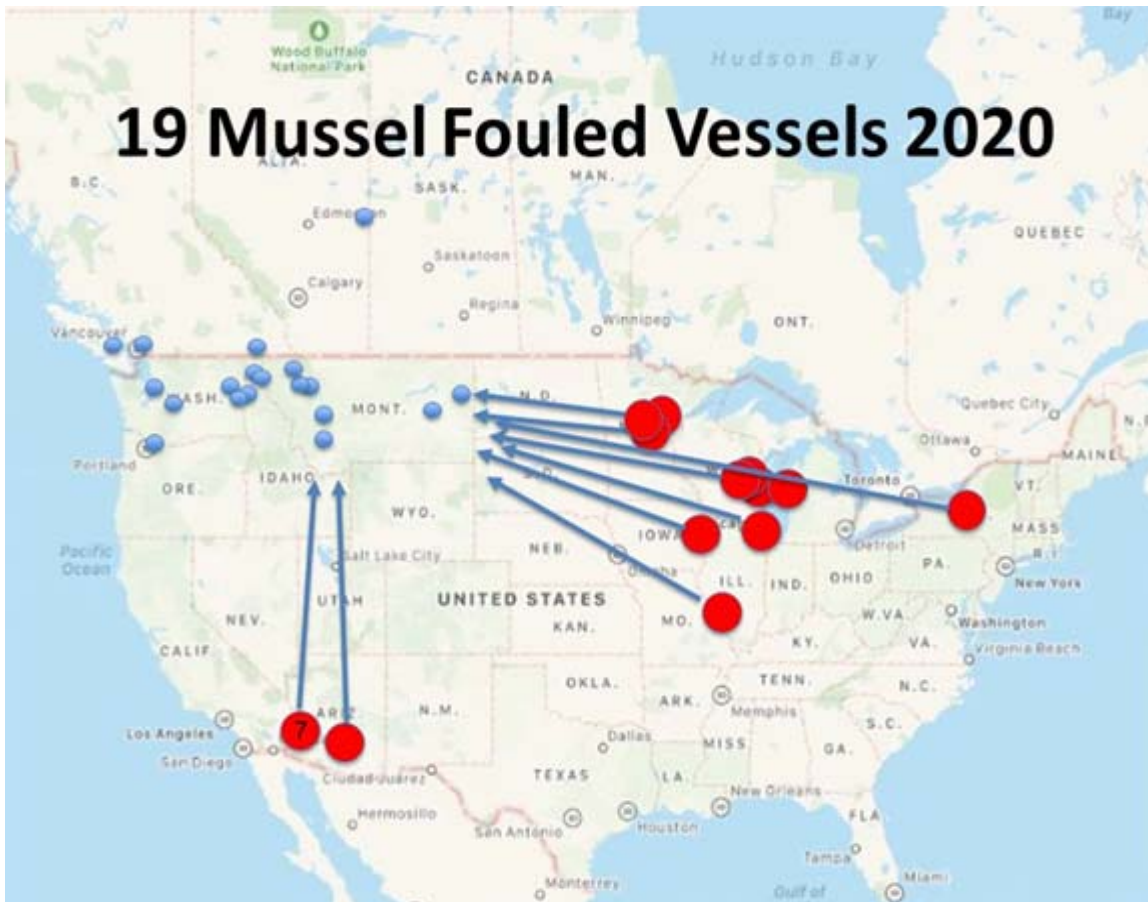
Inspection Stations Busier Than Ever

As of June 30, more than 44,000 watercraft have been inspected. Watercraft inspection stations are busier than ever, with early season numbers higher than previous years. Out of state boat traffic is also higher, presenting an elevated risk of AIS transported into the state.

Inspectors have intercepted 19 mussel fouled vessels at the Anaconda, Dillon, Flowing Wells, Hardin and Nashua watercraft inspection stations.

Watercraft inspection data is available on the [AIS Dashboard](#) and will be updated weekly.

[Read the newsletter.](#)



AIS Monitoring Update

The AIS monitoring team has begun collecting AIS early detection samples for the 2020 season.

- To date, 389 of 435 collected samples from Montana have been analyzed for mussel veligers.
- For Tiber reservoir 19 samples have been analyzed so far this season with no dreissenid veliger detections.
- Faucet snails were identified in two new locations in northwestern Montana in Smith and Lost Coon Lakes. Faucet snails are known to occur in the Flathead Basin as well as several other locations in the state.
- FWP is working with the Custer Gallatin National Forest to eradicate curlyleaf pondweed (CLPW) in three newly acquired ponds on Slip and Slide Creek near Gardiner. Because the dams are at risk of failure, the Forest Service plans to drain the ponds and they are taking precautions to reduce the spread of the weeds downstream. This is the only known population of CLPW within the Yellowstone River Drainage in Montana.



Report Snapping Turtle in Western Montana

FWP is asking the public to report sightings of snapping turtles in western Montana, especially the Clark Fork, Bitterroot and Blackfoot watershed. In Montana snapping turtles are native to locations east of the Continental Divide but are not native west of the Divide. Snapping turtles likely ended up in western waterways through illegal release of aquarium pets.

Snapping turtles can cause significant harm to native populations of frogs, snakes, ducks, fish, and turtles outside of their native range.

[Read more and report sightings here.](#)



Big Sky Watershed Corps Share AIS Message

Big Sky Watershed Corps member Brant Dupree has been visiting marinas and retail boating and fishing stores in western Montana to share information about Montana's aquatic invasive species prevention program. The visits focus on AIS prevention, education, and the distribution of outreach materials to their staff and customers, with the overall goal of increasing partnerships and knowledge about the AIS program in Montana.

For the past two years, **UC³** has hosted an AmeriCorps member to implement an AIS Industry Outreach Project. Over the course of the season, the AmeriCorps member (co-hosted this year with the **Missoula County Weed District**) will meet with over 120 industry partners.





Big Sky Watershed Corps members Abby Schmeichel and Emily McGurit were able to share the **Flathead Lake Aquatic Research Education program (FLARE)** with teachers and classrooms before Covid-19 impacted in-person meetings. The lessons have been adapted for teachers to use with students who had internet access and those who don't.

They also educated students, teachers and community members at the Flathead County Science Fair and Dayton Family Science Night.

[Learn more about AIS outreach.](#)

>> [Download AIS Newsletter as a PDF document](#)



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