

Announcement & Invitation to the:

***Dreissena* Mussel Early Detection Monitoring Methods and Quality Assurance Workshops**

Two workshops addressing critical impediments to the expansion of Western early detection monitoring programs

February 7-10 2012

On the Campus of
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth Texas

The Workshops

In 2010 the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters (QZAP) was developed by the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. One of the highest QZAP priorities identified was the expansion of early-detection monitoring programs in the Western region. Expansion of early detection programs depends critically on 1) early-detection methodologies and 2) the availability of reliable analytical laboratories to complete timely analysis of plankton samples. With support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service two workshops that will advance both of these interdependent requirements are being organized.

To maximize the efficacy and efficiency of these workshops two 2-day workshops will be held consecutively from 7-10 February 2012.

The first workshop will focus on best analytical practices and the analysis of a recently available data set derived from a community-wide methods comparison study involving cross polarized light microscopy, image flow cytometry, and Polymerase Chain Reaction-based detection assays. For more information on this study please visit: www.musselmonitoring.com.

The second workshop will focus on the design of a laboratory certification program currently being considered by Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

Who Should Attend?

- Technical staff and researchers involved in *Dreissena* spp. early detection and monitoring programs.
- Resources managers and decision makers involved in the mitigation of aquatic nuisance species.
- Stakeholders concerned about the spread of *Dreissena* spp. in North America.

Workshop Products

The product of the first technical workshop will include a detailed report providing clear guidance for laboratories involved in analyzing plankton samples for the presence of *Dreissena* mussel larvae. Participants will be given the opportunity to contribute to the development of this report during and following the workshop.

The product of the second workshop will be to establish critical community support for a regulatory laboratory accreditation program and provide a roadmap for the development and implementation of such a program. Both workshops will directly address critical needs required to expand early-detection monitoring programs in the Western Region. The report from this workshop will be delivered to the Laboratory Standards working group within the Western Regional Panel. This group has been chartered to explore the development of a laboratory standards program for early detection of *Dreissena* mussel larvae in plankton samples

Workshop Agenda (Tentative)

Early Detection Best Practices Technical Workshop I (Tentative)

Tue 7 Feb 2012 - Morning

Introductions – Goal setting

Overview of recent advances in cross polarized microscopy detection techniques.

Overview of FlowCam detection techniques.

Overview of recent advances in molecular detection techniques.

Each of these presentations will highlight critical differences among the various techniques and provide an analysis of the perceived advantages and disadvantages.

Lunch

Tue 7 Feb 2012 - Afternoon

General discussion of the results.

Wed 8 Feb 2012 - Morning

Introductions – Goal setting

Breakout groups to work with the data. Each group will prepare an independent analysis of the datasets.

Lunch

Wed 8 Feb - Afternoon

Reconvene plenary group to hear group presentations.

Develop methodological recommendations.

Adjourn

Laying the Groundwork for a Laboratory Quality Assurance and Accreditation Program for the Detection of *Dreissena* Larvae in Plankton Samples – Workshop II (Tentative)

Thur 9 Feb - Morning

Introductions – Goal setting

Expert presentation – Laboratory certification for chemical water contaminants.

Expert presentation – Laboratory certification for biological water contaminants.

Lunch

Thur 9 Feb - Afternoon

Expert presentation – Laboratory certification specific pathogens.

Expert presentation – Operating laboratory certification programs.

Each of these presentations will provide historical and practical overviews of existing certification programs.

Fri 10 Feb - Morning

Introductions – Goal setting, brief synthesis of possible structures for analytical lab certification programs.

Outline various components of accreditation programs (Breakout groups). For example, breakout group discussion topics may include economic models, management structure, independent evaluation, etc.

Lunch

Fri 10 Feb - Afternoon

Reconvene plenary group to consider and discuss breakout group presentations.

Adjourn

Workshop Registration

The dates are finalized but other logistics are not. Hotel suggestions, details for registering for the workshop made available soon at:

www.MusselMonitoring.com