

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 07/03/2025

ISSUE:	Should the Golden Mussel (<i>Limnoperna fortunei</i>) be listed as an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Colorado maintains a list of prohibited species that are considered Aquatic Nuisance Species in Chapter P-08 regulations.</p> <p>“Aquatic nuisance species means exotic or nonnative aquatic wildlife or any plant species that have been determined by the Commission to pose a significant threat to the aquatic resources or water infrastructure of the state....”</p> <p>The golden mussel (<i>Limnoperna fortunei</i>) has recently been detected in the State of California. While this invasive species is well established in other countries, this is the first detection of golden mussels in the United States. Research has shown that the potential ecological impacts associated with golden mussels are greater than zebra and quagga mussels.</p> <p>By adding golden mussels (<i>Limnoperna fortunei</i>) to the Aquatic Nuisance Species list in Chapter P-08, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will have the necessary authority to manage this species as it does other species with high potential for causing impacts to the state’s aquatic resources.</p> <p>A broader taxonomic listing of the genus <i>Limnoperna</i> was explored. In researching this genus, it was determined that the other species are either marine species or have not been identified outside of their native ranges and, as a result, do not pose a significant risk to the state's aquatic resources.</p> <p>Beyond listing the species as an Aquatic Nuisance Species, Chapter P-08 also provides very specific guidelines for the identification of ANS. These guidelines would also require updating to include the identification of golden mussels.</p> <p>Lastly, the rusty crayfish, which is already listed as a prohibited species in Chapter P-08 has gone through a taxonomic reclassification from the genus <i>Orconectes</i> to <i>Faxonius</i>. It is recommended that this reclassification be reflected in Chapter P-08.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Stakeholders Include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Members This proposed regulation change has been discussed with the Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force during the annual meeting of this group. All members present were supportive of this regulation update.● Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination Station Supervisors This proposed regulation change has been discussed with this group during a monthly conference call. All members present were supportive of this regulation update.● Boaters & The General Public A press release was issued when the golden mussel was temporarily designated as an ANS species by Director Davis. Notices regarding this temporary designation have also been posted	

on all watercraft inspection and decontamination stations during this time. No negative feedback has been received from the press release or the posting regarding the temporary designation.

- **General Public**

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

- 1) Amend Chapter P-8, #800-A.1 to read:
 Aquatic nuisance species means exotic or nonnative aquatic wildlife or any plant species that have been determined by the Commission to pose a significant threat to the aquatic resources or water infrastructure of the state, including, but not limited to the following:

Animals:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Crayfish, rusty	Oreonectes Faxonius rusticus
Mussel, quagga	Dreissena bugensis
Mussel, zebra	Dreissena polymorpha
Mussel, golden	Limnoperna fortunei
New Zealand mudsnail	Potamopyrgus antipodarum
Waterflea, fishhook	Cercopagis pengoi
Waterflea, spiny	Bythotrephes longimanus (also known as bythotrephes cederstroemi)

Amend Chapter P-8 #806-D.1

Zebra, ~~and~~ quagga, **and golden** mussel veligers. A multi-phase testing process involving both visual and molecular identification methods on the same sample will be completed in accordance with the State ANS Sampling and Monitoring Manual available from the Division.

Amend Chapter P-8 #806-D.2

Zebra, ~~and~~ quagga, **and golden** mussel adults or New Zealand mudsnails. Concurring identification by two or more mollusk identification experts.

- 2) No change in current regulations

Issue Raised by:	Robert Walters, Invasive Species Program Manager	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):		
CC:		
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Matt Nicholl	
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	NO	
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	YES	
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Aquatic Branch	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	YES	

COLORADO FISH HEALTH BOARD

6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216

June 16, 2025

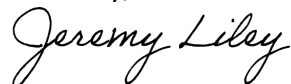
Mr. Jeff Davis, Director
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216

Dear Director Davis,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff requested that the Fish Health Board (FHB) review and approve the issue paper titled "Should the Golden Mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) be listed as an Aquatic Nuisance Species" (ANS)". As required by C.R.S. 33-5.5-102 the FHB reviewed and voted on the request by CPW staff. After limited discussions the FHB recommends approval by the Director of CPW staffs request to list the Golden Mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) as an ANS and amend the relevant CPW regulations as outlined in the Issue Paper..

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Liley, Chair
Colorado Fish Health Board
jeremy@lileyfisheries.com
970-381-2490

Cc: Nehring, Walters, Breidenbach