

NEWS RELEASE

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Boat Inspection Station finds Invasive Zebra mussels from Texas during Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting

The boat inspection station in Ashland, Oregon is always on the lookout for invasive species trying to cross the border into Oregon, and on June 30th they found them. Zebra mussels were discovered on a vessel originating in Texas and headed for a boat yard in Auburn, Washington. By coincidence, in nearby Central Point, the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) was convening during its quarterly meeting.

It was a lucky coincidence that OISC member and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Invasive Species Wildlife Integrity Coordinator, Rick Boatner received the call about the contaminated boat during the recent council meeting. The council had planned to visit the station later in the day to observe the inspection process, but quickly rearranged the schedule to see the contaminated boat. Of the roughly 5000 inspections this is the ninth contaminated boat detected this season.

“If even one boat contaminated with zebra mussels was able to launch in Oregon waters it could spell disaster” said Assistant OISC Coordinator, Leslie Bliss-Ketchum “Invasive species like the zebra mussel cause billions of dollars in ecological and economic damage in locations where they are introduced. Through the efforts of programs like the boat inspection station, the Pacific Northwest has been able to keep these invaders from spreading to the region.” Bliss-Ketchum is part of the new coordinator team at the emerging Oregon business, Samara Group LLC, which was recently selected by the OISC council to coordinate efforts between the state agencies, organizations, and scientists who are working hard to protect the state from invasive species.

During the most recent Oregon Invasive Species Council meeting members also visited local invasive species project sites and learned more about other efforts to combat invasive organisms such as monitoring for the emerald ash borer beetle, efforts to control aquatic weeds in SW Oregon, and work being done to respond to invasive gypsy moths in Grants Pass.

About the Oregon Invasive Species Council | www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org

The Oregon Invasive Species Council is a group of representatives from state and public agencies, scientists, educators and members of the public who lead Oregon’s fight against the threat of invasive plants and animals. They collaborate with a wide group of people to spearhead initiatives to increase citizen understanding and involvement in protecting the state against the harms of invasive species. Activities of the council include: the [Annual Oregon Invasive Species Report Card](#), [Top 100 Worst Invasive Species List](#), in addition to support of [popular invasive species educational campaigns that promote a collective knowledge of how to protect Oregon](#), online reporting system for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species, and a variety of information and outreach programs. The council was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001 and receives funding through a variety of state, federal and private donations.