

**Proliferation of the New Zealand mud snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*;  
Preliminary results of the 2002 Lower Columbia River Aquatic  
Nonindigenous Species Survey**

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The Lower Columbia River Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Survey, an ongoing, two year survey to characterize nonnative species in the lower Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean, will serve as a baseline for evaluating the rate of species introductions to the river, aid the US Coast Guard in evaluating the efficacy of ballast water management, and contribute important new information to ongoing regional aquatic nonindigenous species studies. Preliminary results from our first year of sampling include several previously unreported species and large proliferations of the nonnative New Zealand mud snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*. During the course of our lower Columbia River survey, the first of its kind to focus on documenting aquatic nonindigenous species in the river, we discovered a small number of mud snails near Kalama, WA, over 50 miles farther upstream from previously noted populations in and around Astoria, OR. In addition, the New Zealand mud snail has spread throughout the Columbia River Estuary, where in some locations it is a significant fraction of the substratum. Further research will be necessary to fully document the distribution of mud snails in the lower Columbia River. We hope to continue to contribute to regional nonindigenous species issues as our survey progresses.