

# Alien Invasive Species

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## *Conservation Biology*

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Special Section:  
Population Biology of  
Invasive Species

# Alien Invasive Species

**Problem:**  
**Net Effect =**  
**Harm > Benefit**

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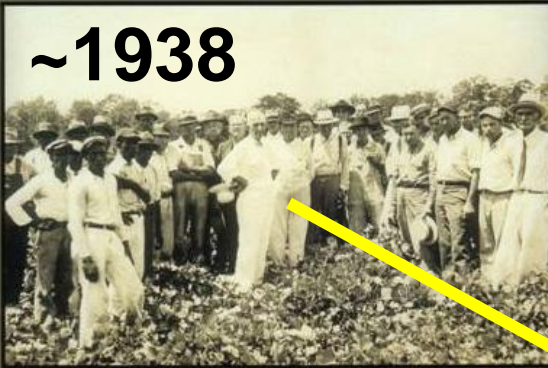


# Lots of Spread and Impacts from Small Beginnings



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~1938

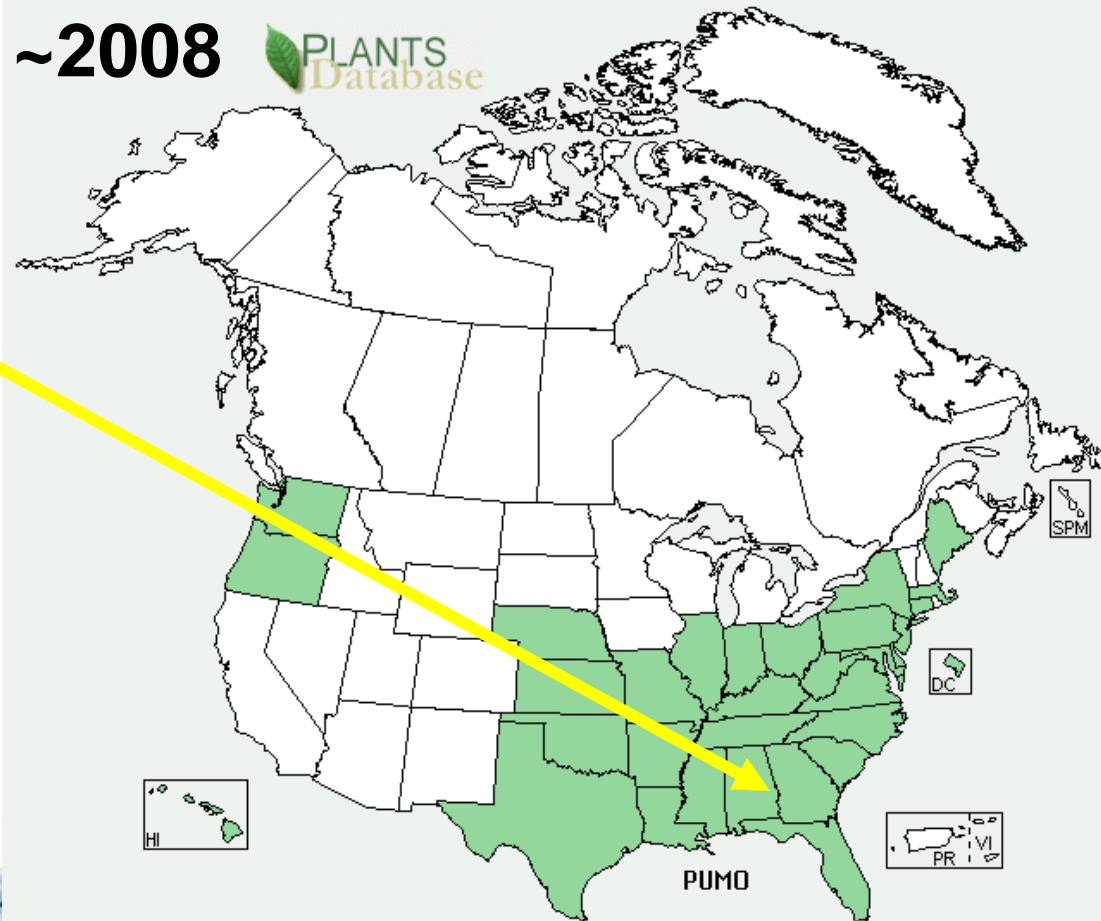


Kudzu  
(*Pueraria lobata*)



~2008

PLANTS  
Database



# Alien Invasive Species

## Problem:

Net Effect =  
Harm > Benefit

## Solution:

Risk Analysis-guided  
pre-import decisions

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# Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Aquatic Invasive Species



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# Laurentian Great Lakes: Example of impacts



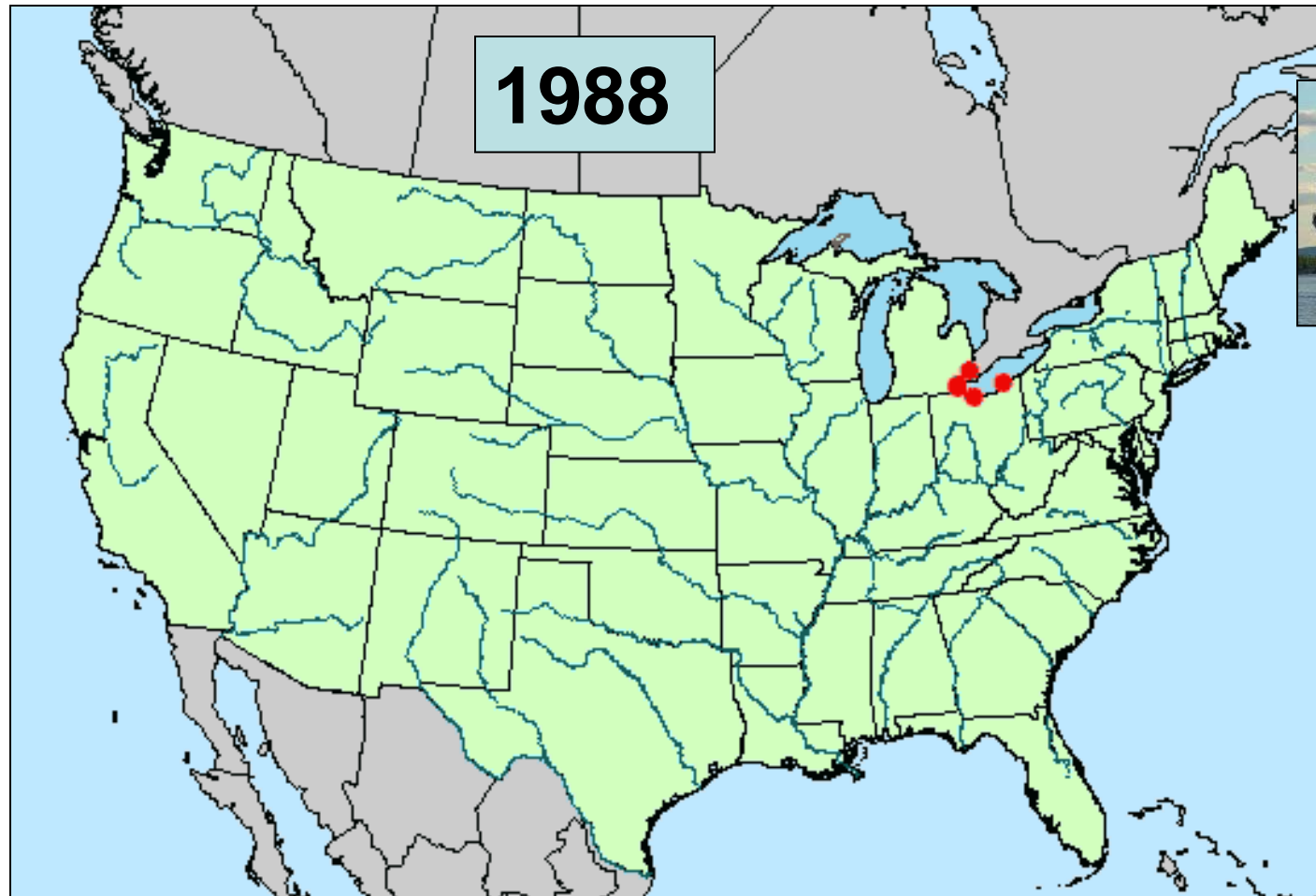
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# Spread of mussels



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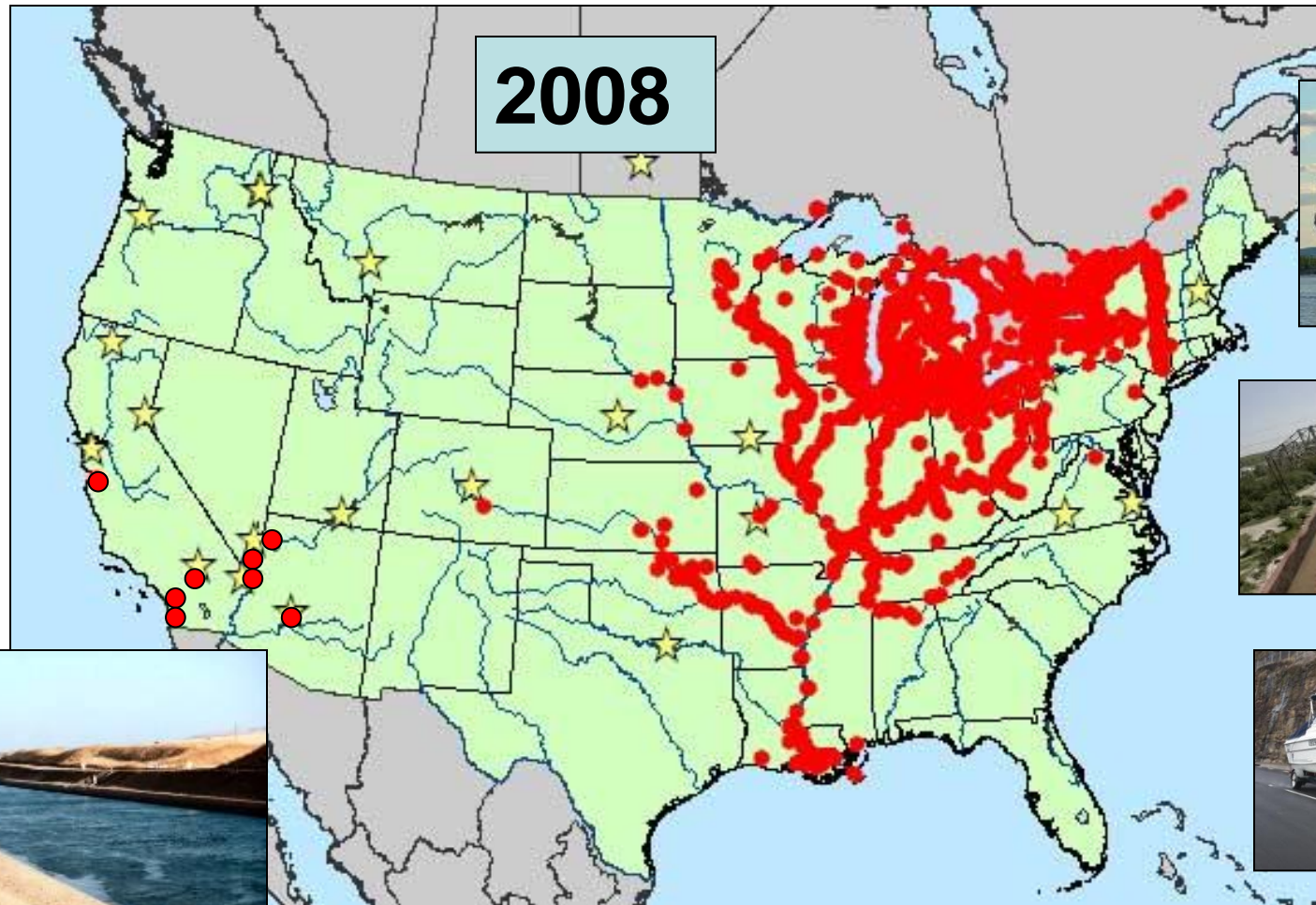
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# Spread of mussels



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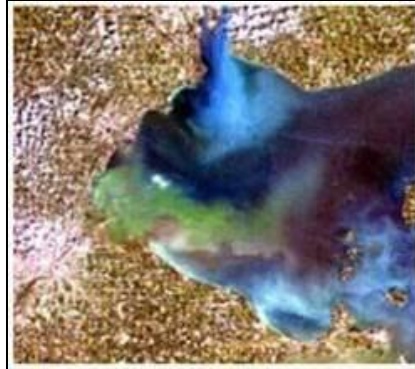
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# Environmental and economic impacts of mussels



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**Non-market costs:**  
extirpation of native  
clams & impacts  
recreation



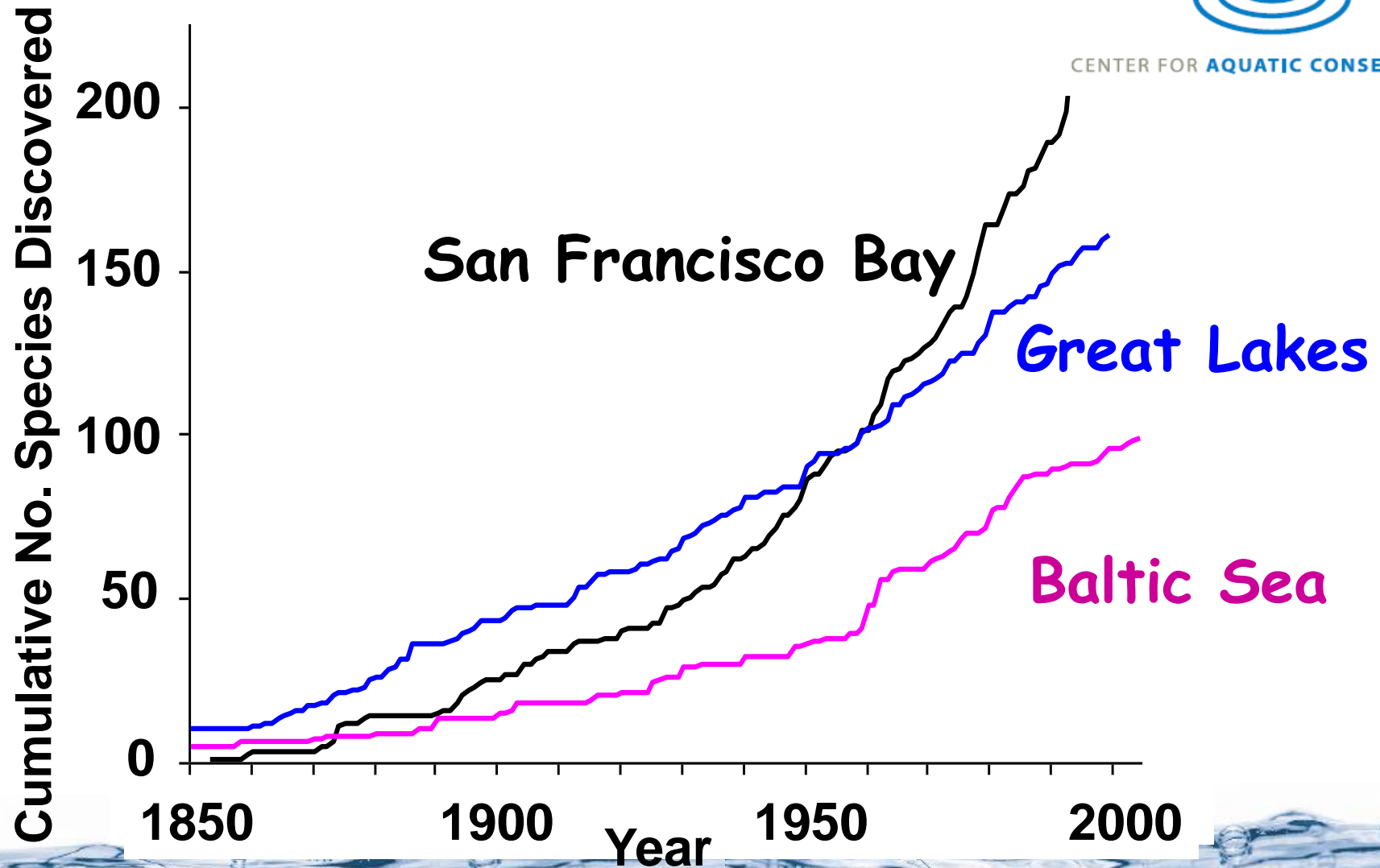
**Market costs:** >\$200  
million annually - clog  
water intake pipes



# Nonindigenous Species Numbers



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(Cohen and Carlton. 1995. *US Fish and Wildlife Service*), Ricciardi 2006, Baltic Marine Biologists. 2005.)



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# Pathways of Nonindigenous Species into the US

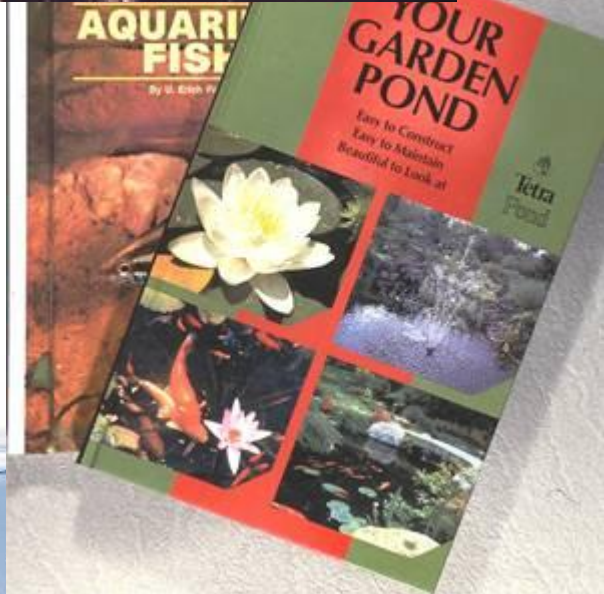


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Transportation-  
Related



Commerce in living  
organisms



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# Shipping: Global Network Linking World's Waterways



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# Risk Management for Ships



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- Current stop-gap approach
  - Ballast water exchange
- Longer-term solution
  - On-board water treatment (IMO, etc)
  - Ship-specific risk management (ship origin)
  - Hull fouling?

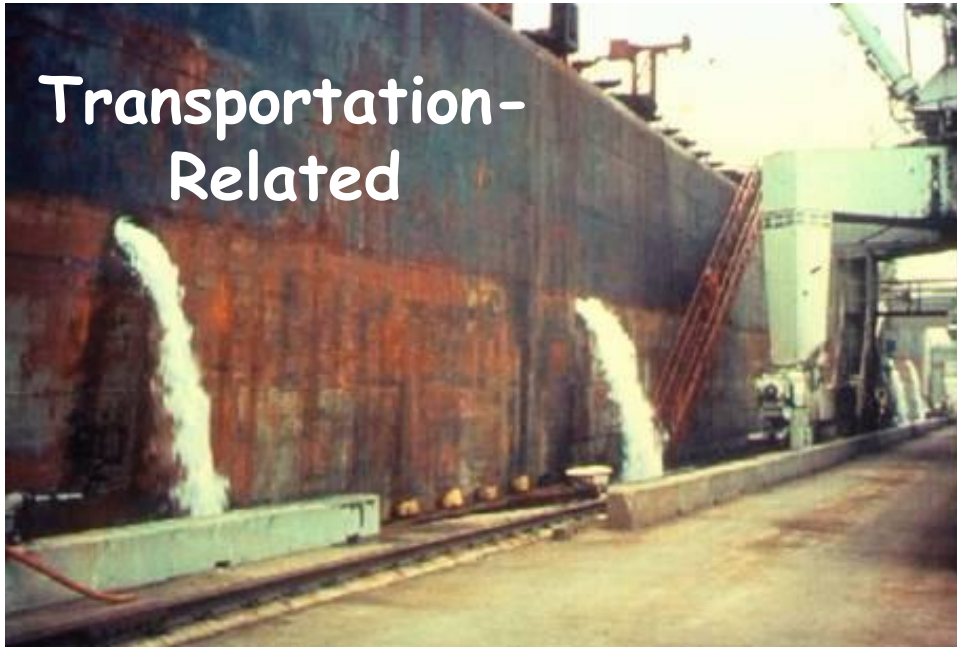


# Pathways of Nonindigenous Species into the US



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# High Risk: Almost Any Import is Legal



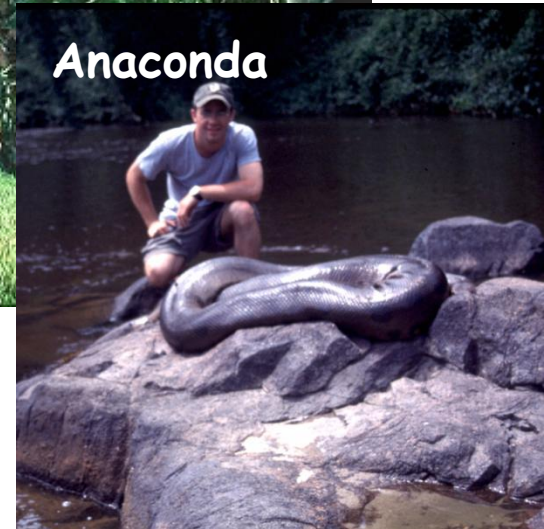
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Hemorrhagic diseases  
of fish



Australian  
saltwater  
crocodile



Anaconda



Infestation of hydrilla

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# Species-specific Risk Assessments



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1. Recent scientific advances allow 80-90% accuracy in risk assessment.
2. Importation can be banned only for harmful species, increasing net benefit of trade in benign species.
3. Screening provides environmental *and* economic benefits (Keller, Lodge & Finnoff 2007 PNAS).
4. Workshop (April 2008, U Notre Dame) provided guidance to CBD on best practices for pre-import screening (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-09>)

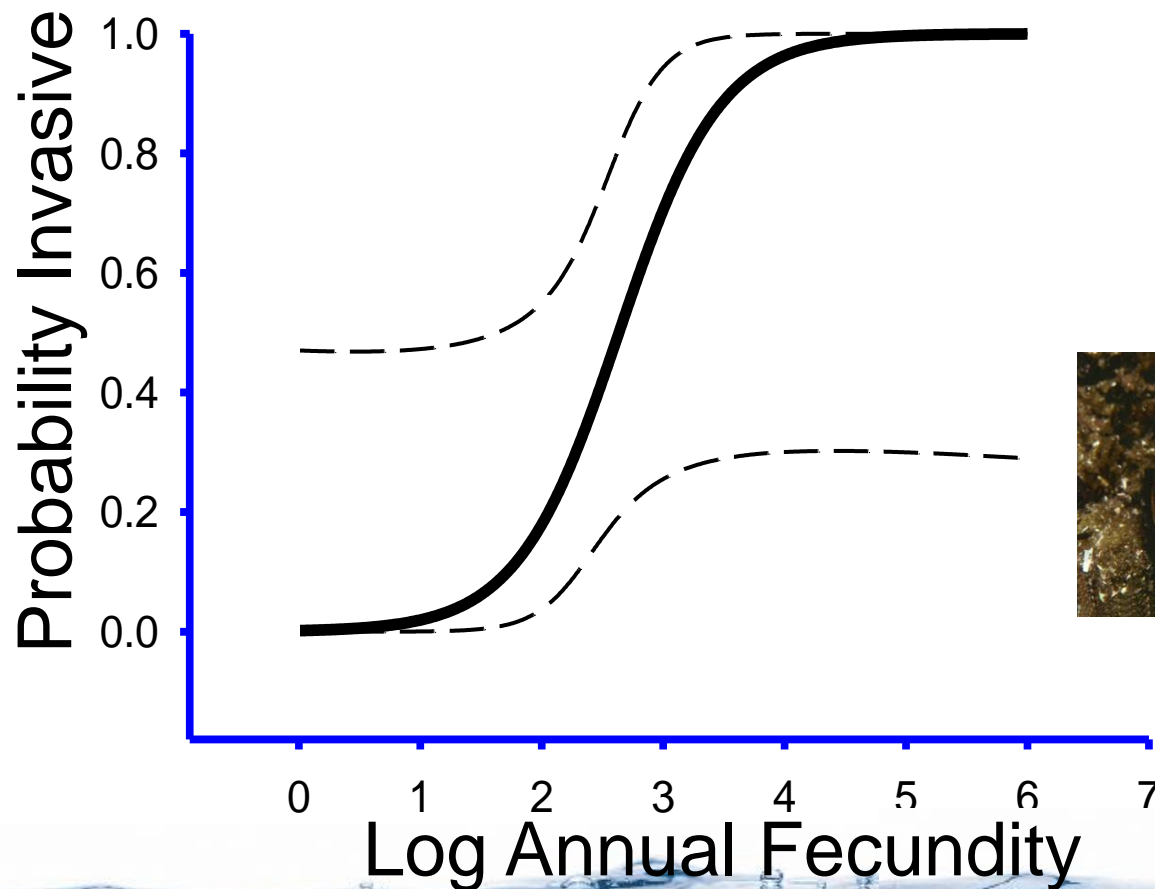




# Part of a Solution: Species Risk Assessments



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*(Keller, Drake & Lodge 2006)*

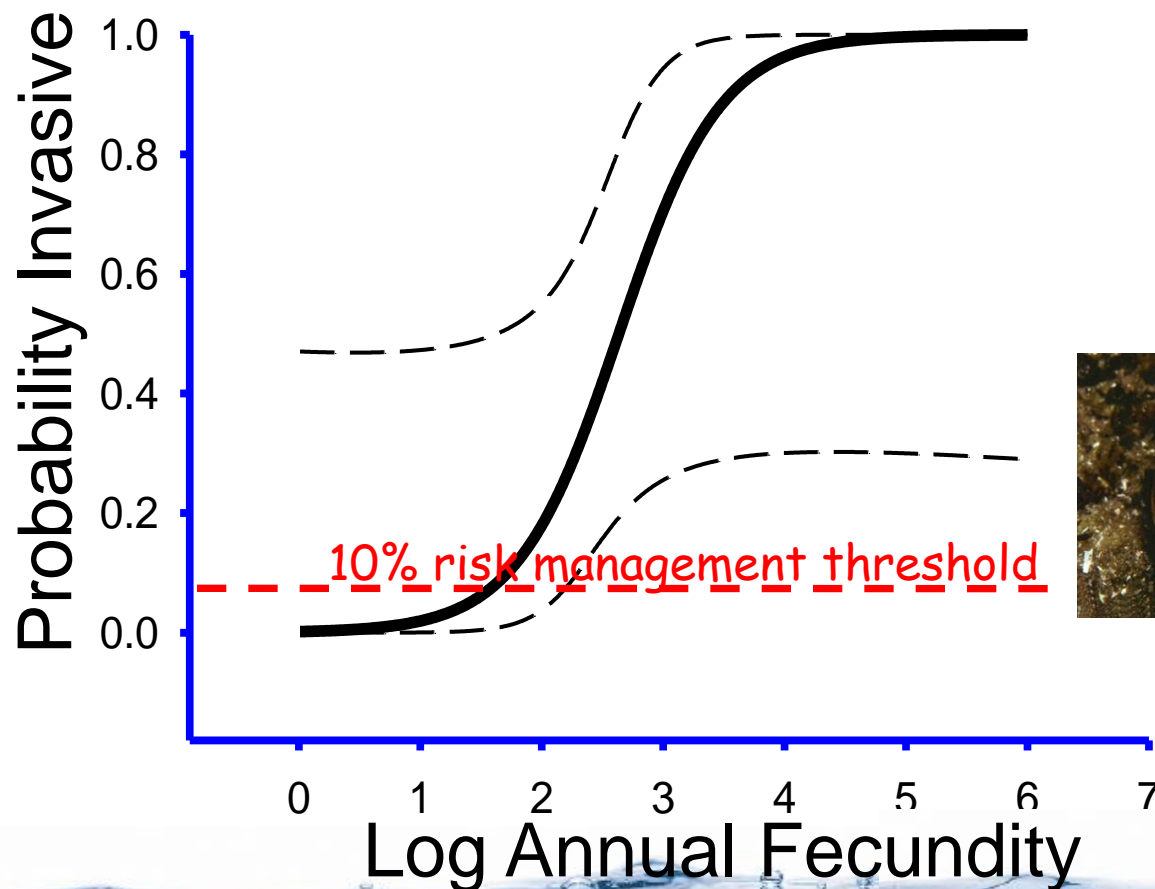




# Part of a Solution: Species Risk Assessments



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*(Keller, Drake & Lodge 2006)*



# Risk Management for Commerce in Living Organisms



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- **World Trade Organization**, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, OIE, etc
- **U.S. Lacey Act**, Injurious Wildlife risk assessment protocols (or replacement legislation)
- **USDA Plant Protection Act**, noxious weeds and plant pests risk assessment protocols, Q37
- **States** within US and consortia of states under similar threat
- **City** ordinances, e.g., Chicago

# Conclusions



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- **Two types of pathways**
  - transportation-related
  - commerce in living organisms
- **For ships--on-board water treatment, but a regulatory standard is required (IMO or national legislation)**
- **For commerce in living organisms--species-by-species risk assessment technologies are available, but a regulatory framework is required**
- **New policies would foster green industries**

