

Mississippi Sound 2004



Alabama-Mississippi
Rapid Assessment Team

Mississippi Assessment Goals

- To provide a "snapshot" inventory of organisms present in Mississippi Sound and adjacent marine waters in order to identify non-native or exotic species.



Assessment Goals (cont.)

- To provide information on the distribution and abundance of invasive species that have already established populations in local waters.
- To gather information useful for developing management strategies and for planning needed research.



Assessment Originators

- Harriet Perry

- Center for Fisheries Research and Development, GCRL, USM



- David Yaeger

- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program



Funding Provided By...

- NOAA Fisheries -
Mississippi Research
Consortium
- Coastal Impact
Assistance Program
- Mobile Bay National
Estuary Program
- Mississippi-Alabama
Sea Grant Consortium



Participating Agencies & Responsibilities

Gulf Coast Research Lab

- Boat drivers
- Field sampling
- Sample sorting
- Animal, plant identifications
- Coordination



Mobile Bay NEP

- Spokesman for media
- Coordination
- Grant facilitation
- Field sampling
- Data processing



MS Department of Marine Resources

- Dale Diaz - Coordinator
- Boat drivers
- Oyster crew
- Seine teams
- Sample processing
- Animal identifications



State Agencies

- MS Dept. of Environmental Equality
- MS Museum of Natural Sciences
- MS Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks





Alabama Constituents

- Alabama Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Weeks Bay NERR
- Auburn Extension Center
- University of Alabama
- University of South Alabama



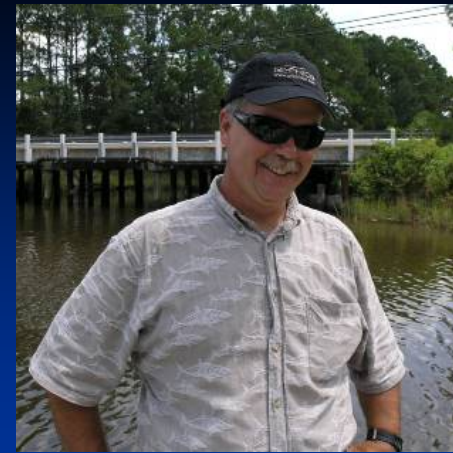
Federal Agencies

- FDA - Gulf of Mexico Program
- US Geological Survey
- NOAA, NMFS Resource Survey Team
- National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore



Other Participants

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Geo-Resources Institute, Mississippi State University



Other Participants

- The Nature Conservancy
- Barataria-Terrebonne NEP
- The Audubon Society
- Mississippi Power Company
- Independent volunteers



Animal Sampling

- Trawls
- Seines
- Scrapings
- Electroshocking
- Cast nets
- Dip nets
- Push nets
- Beach surveys
- Bottom cores



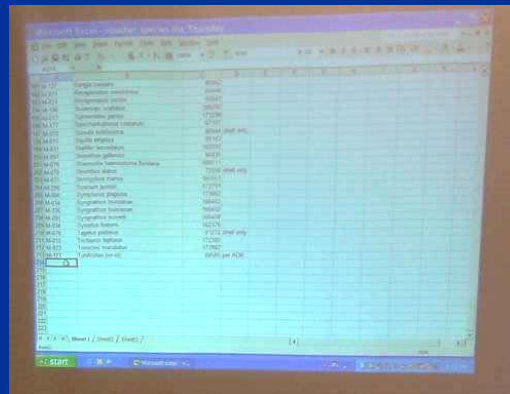
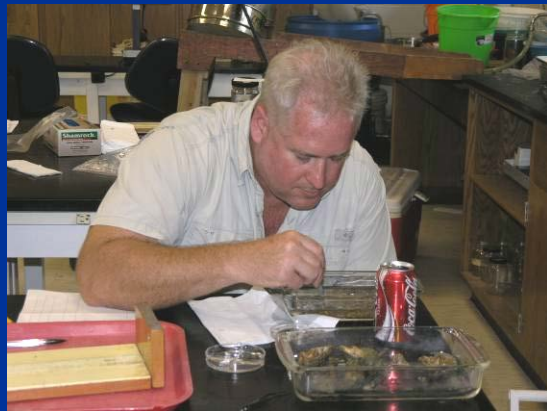
Plant Sampling

- Random quadrant surveys
- Boat ramp surveys
- Sightings



Laboratory Work-Up

- Sorting
- Identification



Results

- 28 agencies, 115 personnel
- ~ 500 samples collected
- Over 400 species identified
- 2 invasive animal species
- 17 invasive plant species



Non-natives- Animals

Asian clam
Corbicula fluminea



Nile tilapia
Oreochromis niloticus

Results - Plants



- Alligator weed - *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- Wild taro - *Colocasia esculenta*
- Purple nutgrass - *Cyperus rotundus*
- Barnyard grass - *Echinochloa crus-galli*
- Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*
- Cogon grass - *Imperata cylindrica*
- Chinese privet - *Ligustrum sinensis*
- Japanese honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*
- Waterspangles - *Salvinia minima*

Results - Plants

- Eurasian water-milfoil - *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Torpedo grass - *Panicum repens*
- Vasey grass - *Paspalum urvillei*
- Common reed - *Phragmites australis*
- Chinese tallow tree - *Triadica sebifera*
(*Sapium sebiferum*)
- Purple vervain - *Verbena bonariensis*
- Common cocklebur - *Xanthium strumarium*
- Gladiolus - *Gladiolus x gandavensis*



- AMRAT united scientists from diverse agencies, disciplines, and experiences in a common cause.....tracking aliens in coastal waters.



Long Days



Laboratory Data Sheet
Alabama-Mississippi Rapid Assessment Team

Station Location GCRL Dumpster Surface/Mid/Bottom _____
Collection Date 8/31/04 Temp. (°C) Hot / /
Gear Hand by bagged Salinity (‰) Salty / /
Latitude 30° 12.764 D.O. (mg/L) Breatheable / /
Longitude 88° 47.932

AMRAT #
M-46723

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Total Number	Total Weight (g)	How Many			

