Update on the New Review Process and Selected Projects for 2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 AIS Program Small Grants Program

Overview

- 5/6/14 – All proposals sent to GSARP Review Committee for individual ranking (17 proposals submitted).
- 5/29/14 – Meeting held with GSARP Review Committee to discuss averaged proposal rankings.
- 5/29/14 – Final GSARP ranking sent to FWS for review.
- 5/30/14 – Meeting with FWS to go over final GSARP ranking.
- 6/25/14 – Notifications indicating funding status sent out to all PIs.
- 8/26/14 – Sub awards sent out (11 projects funded).
- Total funding provided - $205,503 ($4,000 - $30,000).

Murray State University

Diet Overlap Between Asian Carp and Gizzard Shad in Kentucky Lake.

- Quantify the amount of diet overlap between invasive Asian carp and gizzard shad in Kentucky Lake using gut analysis and stable isotope analysis (carbon and nitrogen).
- July 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015 (15 months).

SC Department of Natural Resources

Detection of an Invasive Parasite of American Eels Using qPCR.

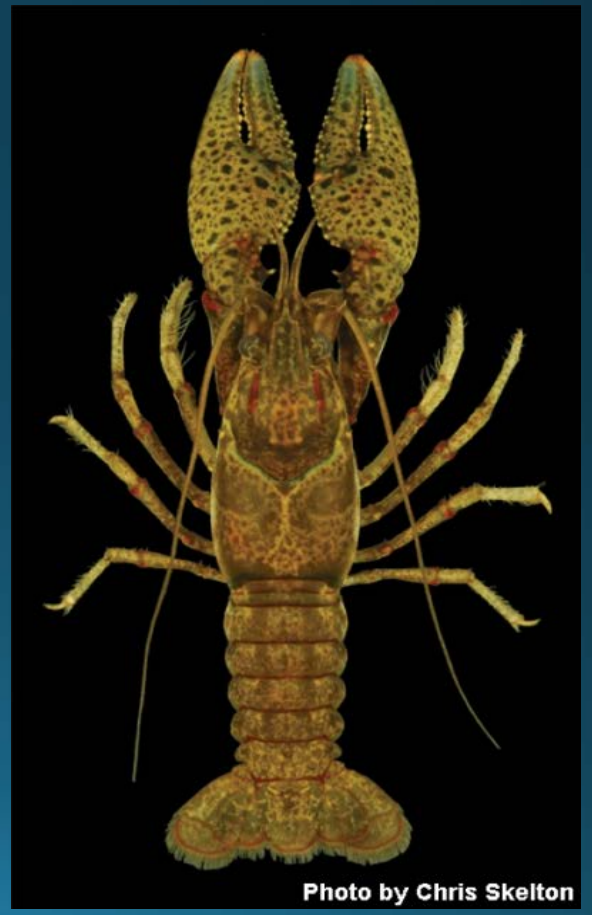
- Use qPCR to detect *A. crassus* in wild-caught intermediate hosts (e.g. small crustaceans), which infect eels when consumed.
- Develop standard curves for the qPCR protocol using parasite larvae cultured in the laboratory.
- Combine data from the first two objectives in order to quantify *A. crassus* in field samples of intermediate hosts.
- August 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015 (6 months).


Adult (courtesy of D. Knott)

Columbus State University

Mapping Introduced Apple Snail (*Pomacea insularum*) and Speckled Crayfish *(Orconectes palmeri creolanus)* distributions in the Chattahoochee-Flint River Basins in Georgia.

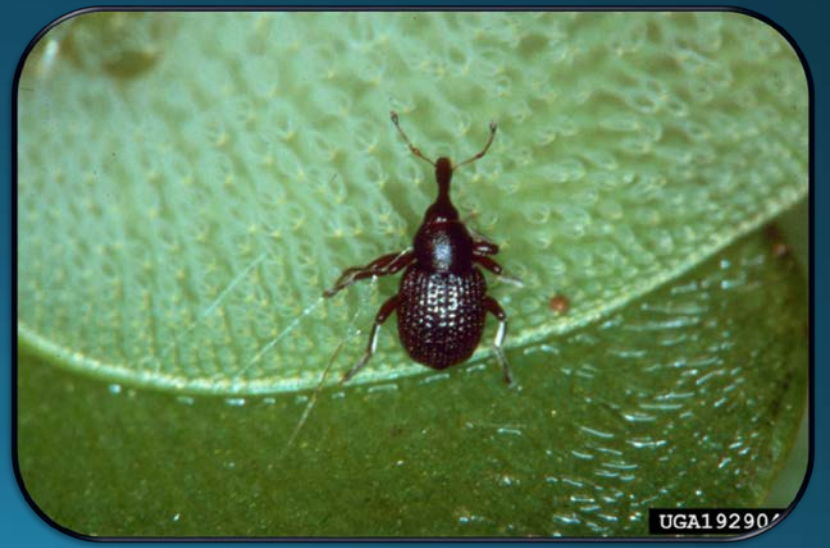
- Gain a better understanding of the spread of nonnative apple snails (*Pomacea insularum*) and crayfish (*Orconectes palmeri creolanus*) using rapid bioassessments.
- August 31, 2014 – August 31, 2015 (13 months)



Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas

Giant Salvinia Weevil Rearing at Caddo Lake.

- Optimize the rearing of salvinia weevils in a newly constructed high production salvinia weevil greenhouse.
- Monitor weevil population growth at release sites throughout the year to assess their ability to overwinter.
- Develop new methods for evaluating the effectiveness of weevil releases.
- July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 (12 months).



Tennessee Tech University

Effects of *Didymosphenia Geminata* Invasion on Riverine Food Webs in the Upper Tennessee River Basin.

- Assess if and how didymo alters food availability to stream benthic macroinvertebrates and fishes.
- July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 (9 months).

North Carolina State University

Facilitating Responsible Hydrilla Control: Evaluating the Chronic Toxicity of the Aquatic Herbicides on the Rare Panhandle Pebblesnail (*Somatogyrus virginicus*).

- Evaluate the potential toxic effects of two aquatic herbicides (Fluridone, Endothall) used in the control of the aquatic weed hydrilla on panhandle pebblesnail eggs and juveniles in laboratory tests.
- October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015 (12 months)

Austin State University

Field Trials of Giant Salvinia Extracts as an Endocide to Control Giant Salvinia.

- Test efficacy of different giant salvinia extracts, formulas and dosages to control giant salvinia in a 1,040 m^2 ditch under natural conditions.
- July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 (12 months)


Photo by James Ballard

Valdosta State University

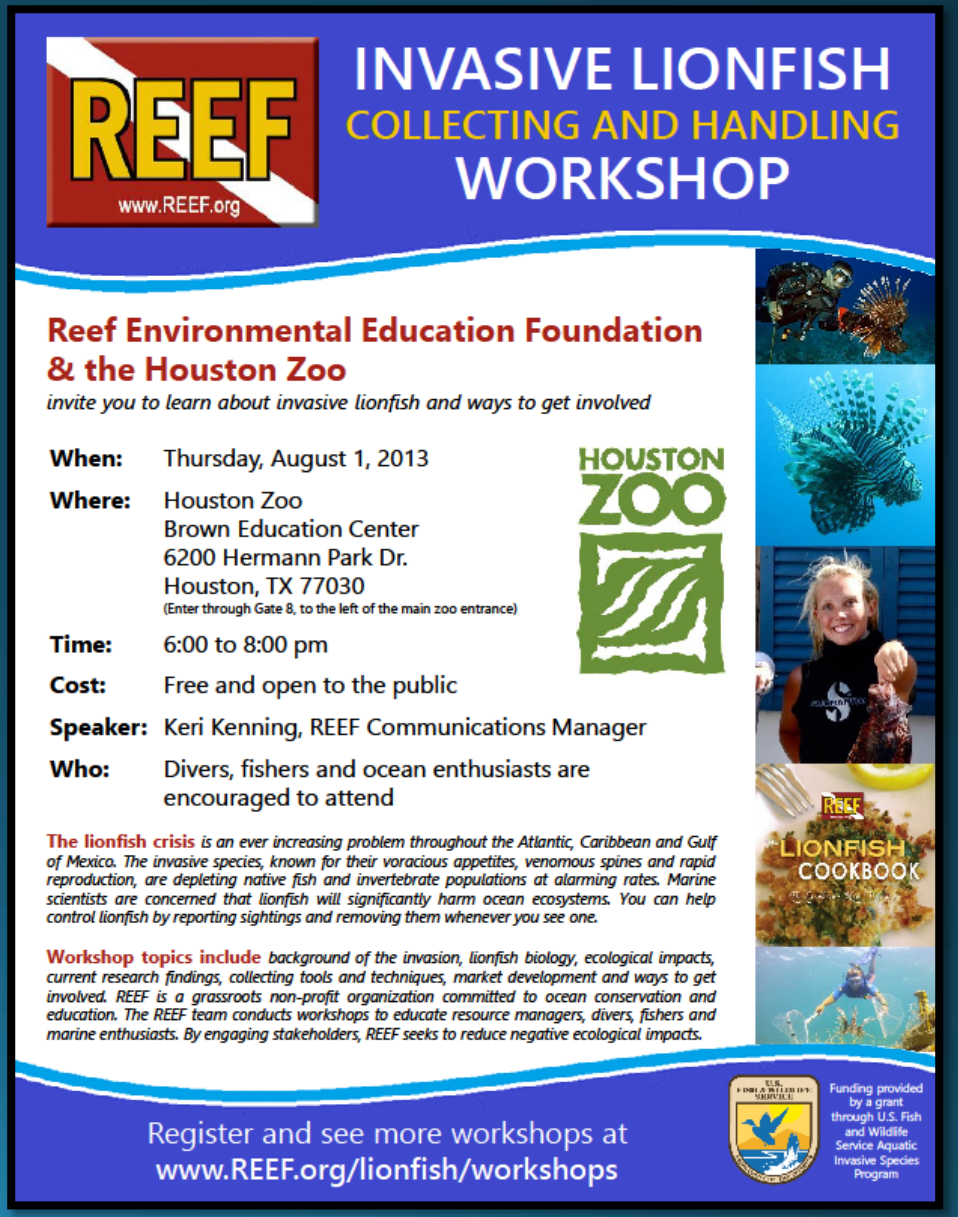
The Impacts and Interactions of Dominant Invasive Species in Lake Seminole, Georgia.

- Document the distributions of three invasive species (*Hydrilla*, *Pomacea* and *Corbicula*) currently in Lake Seminole, Georgia as well as relate their distributions to limnological parameters and sediment transport.
- September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015 (12 months).

Reef Environmental Education Foundation

Lionfish Control Programs for The Southeast United States.

- Conduct a series of fourteen lionfish collecting and handling workshops throughout the southeastern United States with locations in the South Atlantic Bight, coastal Florida and Gulf of Mexico.
- August 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015 (17 months)



University of Miami

Evaluation of Lionfish Traps as a Potential Mitigation Method for Management.

- Determine the feasibility and effectiveness of a recently developed lionfish trap for use in capturing these invasive lionfish.
- Oct. 1, 2014 – Nov. 30, 2014 (2 months)

University of Georgia

Assessing Sensitivity of Native Amphibians to *Hydrilla* & Stigonematales Invasions.

- Determine common tadpole sensitivity to grazing on *hydrilla* colonized with Stig-UC.
- Estimate tadpole survival rates in managed U.S. FWS ponds with and without Stig-UC present.
- September 01, 2014 – December 31, 2015 (16 months).

Preparations For Next Year

- Revise the RFP to request more details on methodologies, expected outcomes, etc.
- Work with FWS to expedite the process as much as possible in order to make the funding available before the peak sampling season.
- Assess the proposal review and ranking process and make changes if necessary.
- Revise the "Required Information to Establish a GSMFC Sub Award" information request form to streamline sub award development.

Questions?

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