



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).



by Naseka, A.M.

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).



Source : cizr.ucr.edu

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 m² 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)



REEF
www.REEF.org

INVASIVE LIONFISH COLLECTING AND HANDLING WORKSHOP

**Reef Environmental Education Foundation
& the Houston Zoo**
invite you to learn about invasive lionfish and ways to get involved

When: Thursday, August 1, 2013

Where: Houston Zoo
Brown Education Center
6200 Hermann Park Dr.
Houston, TX 77030
(Enter through Gate 8, to the left of the main zoo entrance)

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Cost: Free and open to the public

Speaker: Keri Kenning, REEF Communications Manager

Who: Divers, fishers and ocean enthusiasts are encouraged to attend



The lionfish crisis is an ever increasing problem throughout the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. The invasive species, known for their voracious appetites, venomous spines and rapid reproduction, are depleting native fish and invertebrate populations at alarming rates. Marine scientists are concerned that lionfish will significantly harm ocean ecosystems. You can help control lionfish by reporting sightings and removing them whenever you see one.

Workshop topics include background of the invasion, lionfish biology, ecological impacts, current research findings, collecting tools and techniques, market development and ways to get involved. REEF is a grassroots non-profit organization committed to ocean conservation and education. The REEF team conducts workshops to educate resource managers, divers, fishers and marine enthusiasts. By engaging stakeholders, REEF seeks to reduce negative ecological impacts.



Register and see more workshops at
www.REEF.org/lionfish/workshops



Funding provided
by a grant
through U.S. Fish
and Wildlife
Service Aquatic
Invasive Species
Program

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)



Photo by Don DeMaria

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?



James Ballard
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
jballard@gsmfc.org