

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Purpose:

- Prevent and control the introduction, spread and impact of aquatic invasive species in South Carolina's public waters*
- Improve habitat and minimize the problematic impacts to water use caused by invasive species through management and prevention efforts

* Exception: Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie - Santee Cooper Staff



Staff



Field Biologist: Daniel Hood

Field Technician



Program Manager: Chris Page

VACANT

Aquatic Nuisance Species staff are Members of:

- SC AIS Task Force
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee
- Gulf States and South Atlantic Regional Panel
- SC Exotic Plant Pest Council
- Aquatic Plant Management Council

Aquatic Nuisance Species staff are Members of:

- **South Carolina Invasive Species Advisory Committee**
 - **Newly formed** - established by statutory regulation and is tasked with reviewing requests from state agencies, industry stakeholders, agricultural and environmental representatives and concerned citizens to make recommendations for additions or deletions to the official list of regulated plant pests in this state including both terrestrial and aquatics
 - Clemson University, Department of Plant Industry

Funding Sources

- Approx: \$600,000 per year
- Water Recreational Resource Funds
- Federal AIS Grants
- Local Sponsors
 - SCDNR Programs, Counties, Power Companies, Water Utilities, State Agencies, NGO's, etc.

SC Aquatic Plant Management Plan Development Process

- Develop Draft SC Aquatic Plant Management Plan for APM Council yearly
- Solicit public comments on draft for 30 day period (Jan-Feb)
- Final approval of Annual Plan at March Aquatic Plant Management Council meeting

What We Do!

Prevention

Literature/plans



Boat ramp signs



inspections



Billboards

WARNING! You may be moving more than your gear!

STOP

Aquatic Hitchhikers



Paid for by US Fish & Wildlife Service - Invasive Species Task Force



What We Do!

Management

herbicides



mechanical



biological



drawdowns



Control Efforts Year to Date

SCDNR:

3675 acres of control

\$631,381

Includes: 1819 acres of Phragmites

\$245,541

Santee Cooper:

2983 acres of control

\$1,023,540

Includes: 2121 acres of Crested Floating heart

\$245,541(with add 1000 acres in Oct.)

Island Apple Snails

SCDNR Marine Division Taking Lead

- **Surveying ponds, collecting snails and eggs clutches, and preserving specimens, beginning in Beaufort and continuing up the SC coast to NC border**
- **Contact: Elizabeth Gooding
(goodinge@dnr.sc.gov)**

New AIS Issues In South Carolina

Whirling Disease Found In North Carolina:

Whirling disease is a disease of salmonid fish, the family of fish that includes trout and salmon. The disease is caused by a microscopic parasite known as *Myxobolus cerebralis*.

Whirling Disease

Why is SC Worried?

- Border states share watersheds with NC
- Trout stock shared by states at hatcheries
- No known cure
- Transport by contamination of waders, boots, fishing gear

AVM

Lake Thurmond

- Border states share watersheds with Ga
- Increase in Hydrilla Acreage
- Eagle population elsewhere in the state has increased

