



Update on the Selected Projects for 2015

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

# Overview

- 4/2/15 – All proposals sent to Review Committee for individual ranking (41 proposals submitted = ~\$1 million).
- 5/1/15 – Meeting held with GSARP Review Committee to discuss averaged proposal rankings.
- 5/1/15 – Final GSARP ranking sent to FWS for review.
- 5/15-20/15 – Notifications indicating funding status sent to all PIs.
- 8/11/15 – Sub awards sent out (8 projects funded).
- Total funding provided - \$185,181.70 (\$11,000 - \$30,000).

# North Carolina State University

## Integrated Methodologies for Controlling Invasive Lionfish.

- Determine if lionfish aggregating devices are an effective large-scale lionfish removal tool.
- Develop a lionfish control decision making framework for MPA managers.
- June 22, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016 (15 months).



Photo by Don DeMaria

# University of Georgia

Developing an Integrated, Adaptive *Hydrilla* Management Plan to Reduce Risk of Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy in J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir (GA/SC).

- Initiate treatments to inform a management plan for environmentally sound, economically feasible, and effective *Hydrilla* control to reduce risk of Vacuolar Myelinopathy in J. Strom Thurmond Lake.
- May 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016 (17 months)





# Auburn University

Development of Targeted Control Strategies for *Pomacea maculata* in Mobile Bay, Alabama.

- Determine the effectiveness and practicality of targeted topical treatment of *Pomacea maculata* egg masses with selected biorational products to control hatchling recruitment.
- June 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016 (15 months).



# SC Department of Natural Resources

Field Optimization of a Recently Developed qPCR Tool for Detection of an Invasive Parasite of American Eels.

- Provide field validation of a lab-based method to detect and quantify an invasive parasite of the American eel.
- Adjust the current protocol based on the field validations for potential inhibition and begin the process of validating the method for broader use as a management tool.
- Sept. 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016 (7 months).



Adult (courtesy of D. Knott)

# University of Florida

*Phragmites australis* Invasion in the Southeast: Comparing Uninvaded Florida to Adjacent Invaded Locations.

- Compare competitive relationships between invasive *Phragmites* haplotypes and native species in uninvaded (Florida) and invaded (Georgia) locations in controlled greenhouse conditions to estimate spread rate and effective revegetation plans for invasion-prone areas in Florida.
- July 1, 2015 – November 30, 2016 (17 months)





# Tennessee Tech & Mansfield University

Monitoring for *Didymosphenia geminata*: An Environmental DNA Approach.

- Establish a reference point for the presence of Didymo in the upper Tennessee River basin using eDNA as the detection method.
- July 1, 2015 – October 31, 2017 (28 months).



Source : [cizr.ucr.edu](http://cizr.ucr.edu)



# University of Florida

Lower lethal Temperature for “Other” Lionfish Species in the Aquarium Trade: Implications for Introduction and Establishment Beyond *Pterois volitans* and *P. miles*.

- Determine the laboratory lower lethal temperature of at least 7 species of lionfish of the genera *Pterois* and *Dendrochirus*.
- July 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016  
(15 months)



Photo by Randall, J.E. (Debar\_u3.jpg)

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Monitoring and Detection of Asian Carp Expansion in the Tennessee River System.

- Identify the spatial distribution and movement of silver carp in the Tennessee River system and subsequently develop a plan to prevent and/or slow the further upstream and downstream movement of silver carp.
- May 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016  
(15 months)



Photo by Naseka, A.M.

# Preparations For Next Year

- Review the RFP for the 2016 funding opportunity and make any necessary changes.
- 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.

# Questions?



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