

**GULF & SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL  
ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES  
Winter Conference Call  
February 14, 2019**

On February 14, 2019, Facilitator **James Ballard** began the conference call at 1:00 p.m. The following participants were on the call:

**Members**

Kristen Alexander, SEAGRANT, University, MS  
James Ballard, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Wesley Daniel, USGS, Gainesville, FL  
Corrin Flora, NC DEQ, Raleigh, NC  
Lisa Gonzalez, HARC, The Woodlands, TX  
Leslie Hartman, TPWD, Palacios, TX  
Tom Jackson, NOAA, Miami, FL  
Chuck Jacoby, Indian River Lagoon NEP, Palatka, FL  
Peter Kingsley-Smith, SC DNR, Charleston, SC  
David Knott, At-Large Member, Charleston, SC  
Jon Lane, USACE, Jacksonville, FL  
Monica McGarrity, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Robert McMahon, UT Arlington, Arlington, TX  
Matt Neilson, USGS, Gainesville, FL  
Michael Pursley, MS DMR, Biloxi, MS  
Matt Phillips, FWC, Tallahassee, FL  
Bobby Reed, LDWF, Lake Charles, LA  
Anna Toline, NPS, Charleston, SC  
Cindy Williams, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

**Discussion about the Spring GSARP Meeting Agenda**

After discussion, it was decided that the GSARP meeting would be held Wednesday, March 20, 2019 and Thursday, March 21, 2019. A field trip will be planned for Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> after the meeting is over. Members can choose to participate in the field trip, or depart after the meeting is over. A Cuban Tree Frog event will be planned for the field trip. Suggestions for possible meeting presentations included: Cuban Tree Frogs; the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; CRISPR and Gene Drive; Invasives in the Everglades; Apple snails in Florida and the latest research; Tegu lizards; USGS updates.

**Action Items from the Fall GSARP Meeting**

**1. Panel Membership**

**Ballard** will work on getting the federal seats filled. **Kingsley-Smith** will enquire about **Chris Page**'s status on the panel. The Environmental User Group seat is available, due to Lad Akins no longer being with REEF. However, Akins has expressed that he still wishes to remain on the panel. **Pam Fuller** has retired from USGS, and will possibly become an At-Large Member. **Bobby Reed** informed the panel that

he will be retiring on April 1, 2019. Robert Bourgeois will take **Reed**'s seat as the Louisiana representative on the panel. A University seat is available. **Ballard** has not had any luck filling the Tribal seat. The SEAGRANT seat will now be Kristina Stewart. **Ballard** asked the members to email him their suggestions for new members. This topic will be discussed at the next panel meeting.

## **2. GSARP's Website Redesign**

The GSMFC IT Administrator, Joe Ferrer, is working on a better, customizable website platform. **Ballard** stated that the Great Lakes panel is also working on a risk assessment screen, and have acquired funds to hire an IT tech to work on theirs. In the future, a national clearinghouse can be created.

**Ballard** said that he has not received any database research reports, and asked the members to email them to him. He will add the approved ANS management plans from the Task Force.

For the links to states, **Ballard** asked what landing page the members would like. He asked them to let him know. He will have links to each state.

**Ballard** asked the members to send their lists, etc. to him for top 10 priority species. He also asked the members to look at the "About Us" section on the website, and to send him any information, articles, etc.

**Cindy Williams** asked members for the small grants program reports.

The new website will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **GSARP Distinguished Achievement Award**

**Ballard** asked the members if they wanted to continue the award on a yearly basis. After discussion, it was decided that the award would not be given on a regular basis, but instead as an "as-needed" basis. **Ballard** will send an email to the members for requests for nominations.

**Tom Jackson** suggested presenting the award to someone who is not on the panel. The members were not opposed to the idea, and the topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

## **Discussion about the use of non-native shrimp as bait in the GSARP region**

**Ballard** said that Robert Adami from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Corpus Christi contacted him about non-native shrimp being more prevalent as bait in Texas. Bait shops are carrying them, and there is a concern of a virus that these shrimp can carry that could impact native shrimp. The shrimp are frozen, not live, but the virus is still present in them.

**McGarrity** stated that the shrimp were possibly cultured in Mexico.

**Hartman** stated that Texas bait dealers received a letter stating that they cannot sell non-native shrimp as bait. She will email the letter to **Ballard**.

This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

After no other business, **Ballard** ended the conference call at 2:15 p.m.