

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

AIS Program Update – April 2020 thru September 2020

Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- Quarterly aerial surveys have been suspended due to COVID-19 protocol.
- A program of integrated pest management and spot herbicide application was used to control populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, beach vitex and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations
- One new sighting of a large Asian tiger shrimp caught in a commercial shrimp trawl and one new sighting of giant applesnail (*Pomacea maculata*) in the Pearl River was reported to the NAS database.



- 542 giant applesnail, (*Pomacea maculata*) egg masses were destroyed and 31 live snails were removed from the Pascagoula River. Gulf Corps (a youth conservation organization) continued to assist MDMR personnel with control. Control mission frequency was reduced during this due to COVID-19 protocol and reduced staff availability. A grand total of 30,368 egg masses have been destroyed and 1,132 live snails have been removed from the river since this infestation was first detected in 2014.

Coordination and Outreach Activities

- Normal outreach activities at events, such as Celebrate the Gulf have been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 protocol.

- The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources continued to serve on the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Council (MAISC) and the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area (MS-CWMA).