

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources AIS Program Update – GSARP June 2022 Meeting

Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- Two aerial photo surveys totaling 173 miles were conducted for early detection of AIS in difficult-to-access areas and to help monitor treatment efforts.



- A program of integrated pest management and spot herbicide application was used to control populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, Eurasian watermilfoil and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations.
- One report of an invasive silver carp in the Jourdan River was received and reported to the NAS database



- Crews continue control efforts against the Pascagoula River giant applesnail (*Pomacea maculata*) infestation. ArcGIS Quickcapture is used to record field capture data and survey tracks. A total of approximately 51,700 egg masses have been destroyed and more than 4,700 live snails have been removed from the river since this infestation was first detected in 2014. Several trap types have been tested during this reporting period. A modified crawfish trap baited with crawfish bait so far has been the most successful, trapping as many as 20 snails per deployment.



Coordination and Outreach Activities

- A public outreach event as part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week was held at the Mississippi Aquarium. Larger items from the GSARP Travelling Trunk of Invasive Species were incorporated into the display to help communicate invasive species information to visitors.



- A mobile phone invasive species reporting tool has been maintained and promoted on MDMR's website and social media outlets: <https://dmr.ms.gov/invasive-species/>
- The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources continues to serve on the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council (MAISC), the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area (MS-CWMA) and the Pascagoula River Alliance.