

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

AIS Program Update – GSARP October 2022 Meeting

Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- Three aerial photo surveys totaling 280 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 (66 boat missions) on was used to control populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, Eurasian watermilfoil and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations.
- Spot helicopter herbicide application to *Phragmites* was applied to 111 acres on Deer Island. Left picture was taken in April 2022 before treatment. Right picture was taken in September 2022 two months after treatment.



- One report of a non-native *Penaeus monodon* caught at the mouth of the Pascagoula River was received and reported to the NAS database



- Crews continue control efforts against the Pascagoula River giant applesnail (*Pomacea maculata*) infestation. Over 1,600 lbs. of snails and thousands of egg masses were removed from the river.

- Snail-specialist Limpkins native to Florida have been officially spotted for the first time in the Pascagoula River. They appear to be feeding on giant applesnails. Not sure if they moved in from Louisiana or Florida.



Coordination and Outreach Activities

- Articles about water hyacinth and giant applesnails were published in Coastal Markers, the quarterly magazine of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources:
<https://dmr.ms.gov/coastal-markers/>
- 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.