

GULF & SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

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Update on AIS in the freshwaters of Alabama

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Island Apple Snail

Currently, Island Apple Snail (*Pomacea insularum*) abundance in Langan Municipal Lake has rebounded to numbers (2013 post-treatment; 0.325 – 0.638 snails / trap day) similar to 2009 (0.353 snails / trap day). In Threemile Creek, abundance is high among 12-fixed sites at 4.094 snails / trap day. This is likely due to lack of treatment as funding levels have decreased. The population has since expanded into additional areas of the Threemile Creek watershed. These areas include: Spring Creek, One Mile Creek, and an “oxbow” area of Threemile Creek. These additional areas total up to 19 additional acres infested with Island Apple Snails. The first treatment with using chelated copper is planned for the second week of May.

Local contact for additional information, Dave Armstrong, Dave.Armstrong@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Bighead Carp and Silver Carp

Unconfirmed reports of Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) occurring in the Wilson Dam tailwaters (Pickwick Lake) have been reported by anglers. However, ADWFF and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) have not been able to confirm these reports. Although Bighead Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) have been observed during electrofishing below Wilson Dam by ADWFF.

Local contact for additional information, Keith Floyd, Keith.Floyd@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Bighead Carp continue to be collected while gillnetting for Paddlefish in the lower Tombigbee River (below Coffeeville Lock and Dam) and are more abundant in the lower Tombigbee River than once thought. Bighead carp were also caught in Miller's Ferry Reservoir (Alabama River Basin) by commercial paddlefish harvesters in February 2014.

Local contact for additional information, Steve Rider, Steve.Rider@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Blueback Herring

Blueback Herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) were first detected in Lewis Smith Reservoir (Black Warrior basin) in 2009 and the population continues to expand rapidly. This species was likely introduced illegally by anglers fishing for Striped Bass. Blueback Herring have also been reported in the tailrace (Sipsey Fork).

Local contact for additional information, Jay Haffner, Jay.Haffner@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Flathead Catfish

Flathead Catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) abundance continues to increase in the upper Choctawhatchee River. Accordingly, sunfish (*Lepomis* spp.) and Spotted Bullhead (*Ameiurus serracanthus*) numbers have severely decreased. We continue to monitor the fish assemblage change with annual sampling each May.

Local contact for additional information, Steve Rider, Steve.Rider@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Notes

- Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) are now established in Threemile Creek (Mobile County).
- Oriental Weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*) continue to expand in the Coosa River basin.

Aquatic Vegetation

- Cuban Bulrush (*Oxycaryum cubense*) and Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) continue to expand in the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers.
- Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) has been reduced in the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers following a cold winter and high flows.
- No change in the coverage of Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) in the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers.

Local contact for additional information, Jay Haffner, Jay.Haffner@dcnr.alabama.gov.