

Update Report to GASRP on Invasive Plant Issues in Florida:

This will be an abbreviated report as most of our activities are with recovery from Hurricane Michael. Florida's annual report and NPDES report will be completed and submitted by the end of the Calendar year and I will provide copies to the group at our spring meeting. In general, we continue to deal with floating plant (hyacinth and lettuce) in south Florida with the rising waters in Lake Okeechobee as well as increases in the hydrilla population on the Harris Chain in Central Florida. They have been our two largest expenditures this past year. We also, continue to treat small populations of *Salvinia molesta* and *Azolla pinnata* in a handful of locations around the state. We are still in an eradication mode for *Salvinia*, state-wide, but may have to reevaluate *Azolla* populations in South Florida. We also have issues with exotic *Sceleria* and *luziola* species that we continue to treat wherever they are found. Finally, one good "success" story to report. We successfully treated a population of *Egeria najas* in Central Florida and have not seen any live plants following the treatment. We will continue to monitor to ensure complete eradication has occurred.

We recently completed a management exercise with in-house staff and our cooperators to provide an educational and working document to our partners as our "base of knowledge" on some of the more common plants that we treat in the aquatics program. Attached is the working draft from this effort for your review. We consider this a working document to build from as we collectively move forward in the program. Any questions or feedback you would like to provide would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Phillips, FWC Invasive Plant Management Section