

**Louisiana Report  
Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel  
Austin, TX  
October 4 & 5, 2011**

**AQUATIC PLANTS**

In July and August giant salvinia weevils were dispersed to Caddo, Saline, and Clear/Smithport Lakes, as well as to many areas of the Terrebonne and Barataria marshes including areas in Lafitte, Des Allemands, and the Barataria Preserve. Flood waters in the Atchafalaya Basin helped to flush large amounts of water hyacinth out, but enabled the Cuban sedge (*Oxycaryum cubense*) to take over like we have not seen before. LDWF spray crews are working to clear some of these areas but the amount of sedge present is overwhelming. We have employed the regular use of aerial vegetation assessments (helicopter and airplane) to locate problem plants and to get accurate estimates of coverage.

**LIONFISH**

The increased number of Lionfish reports has created interest amongst the diving community and LA universities. After contact with the LA Council of Underwater Dive Clubs, they added a lionfish category to their 2011 LCUDC shootout on September 16 & 17. Samples collected were to be shared between 2 LA universities for gut content analysis, age & growth, and genetic data. Only 2 lionfish were brought in, one eaten by a triggerfish and the other cut in half by a cable, so no samples were collected. Flyers have been distributed at dive shops across the LA's coast asking for reports.

**TIGER PRAWN**

Drastic increases in tiger prawns have been reported. Within one two week period, LDWF received reports of 40 specimens, double the reports received in 2010. To date, nearly 100 specimens have been reported. Their distribution has also increased from Lake Pontchartrain to Calcasieu Lake. Tiger prawn posters have been distributed at shrimp docks throughout the coast asking for shrimpers/docks to report any catches.

**ASIAN CARP**

Following the Mississippi River floods, Asian carp populations spread in northern Louisianan. As a result, more recreational boaters and fisherman were coming in contact with Asian carp, practically silver carp. After receiving reports of near hits, LDWF developed and distributed warning posters to boat launches throughout the State alerting the public to the presence of Asian carp.